NBST 515: NEW TESTAMENT ORIENTATION 1
Fall 2013
Carter Building 164

Instructor:
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Please note that this syllabus may change at the instructor’s discretion.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A general introduction to the New Testament Gospels, General Epistles, and Revelation, emphasizing matters of text, canon, authorship, date, authorial purpose, and theme development. Also a special introduction, involving current issues of criticism and interpretation, such as the synoptic problem. The general principles of interpretation (hermeneutics) will be introduced as well as the special principles concerning parables, symbols, and types, and prophecy.

RATIONALE
Any in-depth study of the New Testament needs to be based upon a general knowledge of the whole. Students often possess many bits of piecemeal information which needs structure, unity and completion. This course will help “tie these together” somewhat while supplementing the student’s knowledge.

In addition, a thorough, systematic understanding of the New Testament is absolutely essential for Christian leadership as well as for all the various ministries performed in today’s church. The goal, at all times, is to come to understand the text in its context. This means that each student must learn the basic ideology of both the Semitic and Hellenistic world views. Such an understanding will allow for the proper impact that the Old Testament had on the New Testament message. This will create a proper balance for understanding Paul’s remarkable ability to function in both worlds.

I. PREREQUISITES
None.
II. **REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES**


III. **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

A. A Study Bible, such as the *NIV Study Bible* or *NASB Study Bible* is recommended but not required.

B. Computer

C. Internet access (broadband recommended)

D. Microsoft Word or compatible programming (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)

IV. **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Identify the historical, sociological, religious, and literary contexts of the Gospels, the General Epistles, and Revelation. (Exams; Book Critiques)

B. Explain the basic introductory issues concerning the Gospels, the General Epistles, and Revelation. (Exams; Book Critiques)

C. Evaluate some major critical and hermeneutical issues confronting interpretation of the Gospels. (Book Critiques)

D. Analyze the major theme/purpose, general contents and the specific features of the Gospels, the General Epistles, and Revelation. (Exams; Book Critiques)

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A variety of activities comprise the basic requirements for this class. Some of these activities will be graded and those combined grades will constitute the student’s score for the class. A student **MUST** complete all the assignments listed below in order to pass this course.
A. Textbook and Bible readings

The student is required to read the portion from the textbooks and/or the New Testament text as assigned in the schedule for this course. The readings for a particular day of class must be completed before the class meeting. Additional reading may be assigned as needed.

B. Book Critiques (250 points each, 500 total points)

Each student will be required to write a critical book review of *Why Four Gospels?* and *Seven Events that Shaped the New Testament World*. Instructions for the proper submission and form of these reviews will be posted in the appropriate area on Blackboard. These critiques should include a summary and analysis of the book and should be between 5 to 10 pages long. These papers should be double-spaced, use a 10 or 12 point Times New Roman font, and contain one inch margins. The book reviews will account for 250 points each or 500 points of your final grade. The first critique (of *Why Four Gospels?*) is due September 24, and the second review (of *Seven Events*) is due November 5. Papers submitted after the stated due date will receive a penalty consisting of a loss of 12 points per day. (LO A, B, C, D)

C. Exams (500 points total)

Two exams will be given during the course of the semester. Each exam will be worth at least 250 points and will test you over the materials previously covered in class lecture materials and reading assignments. Details will be given in class regarding the exam contents and form. Exam dates will be given in advance. NO make-ups will be allowed. (LO A, B, D)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

| Book Critique 1       | 250 |
| Book Critique 2       | 250 |
| 2 Exams              | 500 |

**Total** 1000
B. Scale

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VII. POLICIES

A. Attendance Policies

Your participation in this class is indispensable. Attendance will be taken daily, and a student runs the risk of seriously affecting his or her final grade with excessive absences. According to Liberty’s policy, excessive absences for this class will be defined as missing more than 2 classes unexcused. Since the class is based on a 1000 point score, each unexcused absence over 2 will result in 75 points off the final grade. An absence may be excused if a student can properly document the reason for the absence, and if that reason includes one of the following: participation in an authorized Liberty University event or ministry, documented illness, a family or other emergency, or any other event discussed in advance with and approved by the instructor. Such documentation should be given to the instructor within a week of the recorded absence. An absence will be considered unexcused if the student fails to present proper documentation. Tardy students should report to the instructor at the end of class to remove the absence from the attendance records. Drop/adds will be processed according to Liberty University policy, and students are referred to the policies of the university regarding behavior in the classroom.
B. Other Policies

1. Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is strictly prohibited. Students are referred to the Graduate Catalog and the seminary web site for policies regarding academic honesty and integrity. Some specific policies for this class include the following: Students should not recycle papers from other classes without obtaining explicit permission from the instructor. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The penalty for plagiarism is a failing grade on the assignment and an F for the class. Plagiarism in this class is the presentation of another person’s works or ideas as your own, whether you mean to or not. Copying or paraphrasing passages from another’s work without acknowledging that you’ve done so is plagiarism. Copying another person’s work without proper attestation or citations is plagiarism. Quoting a source without quotation marks (even if you give a citation) is plagiarism. Simply put, plagiarism will cost you because you will fail this class. Your papers and other assignments may be submitted to Safe Assign or a related source to check for plagiarism.

2. Drop/Add Policy

Consult the Graduate Catalog for drop/add policies.

3. Dress Code (applies to classes meeting on campus)

Students are expected to maintain a neat, professional appearance while in class. Consult your department for additional guidelines.

4. Classroom Policies (applies to classes meeting on campus)

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner consistent with the respect due to the topic addressed. With that in mind, this course will require that all cell phones be turned off or set to vibrate prior to the beginning of the class. Also, while computers may be used for note taking, please be aware that choosing to use your computer for other purposes during class may cause problems for your classmates. Be respectful of the needs of others in this area or your computer use may be curtailed or even banned.
VIII. CALENDAR

Tentative Course Outline (God willing!)

August 20—Syllabus discussion—Reading: The Syllabus
August 22—The Nature and Scope of Scripture—Köstenberger, pp. 1-57
August 27— An Introduction to 2nd Tempel Judaism: OT Background and Institutions—Scott, pp. 17-72; Scott, pp. 373-374
August 29—An Overview of the History of 2nd Temple Israel—Köstenberger, pp. 58-79, Scott, pp. 73-103
September 3—Literature and Thought of 2nd Temple Judaism—Köstenberger, pp. 79-99, Scott, pp. 107-120, 357-363
September 5—2nd Temple Judaism Attempts to Reconstruct OT Institutions—Scott, pp. 121-164
September 10— The Role of Scribes and other Sects, Parties and Divisions—Scott, pp. 165-232, 368-372
September 12—Common Life in First Century Israel—Scott, pp. 233-261
September 17—Religious Thought of 2nd Temple Judaism—Scott, pp. 265-295
September 24— Book Critique 1 Due Introduction to the Study of Jesus’ Life—Köstenberger, pp. 102-135
September 26—Introduction to the Study of Jesus’ Life, Part 2—Köstenberber, pp. 102-135
October 1—Chronology of Jesus’ Life/The Synoptic Problem—Köstenberger, pp. 136-177
October 3-4—Fall Break
October 8—Chronology of Jesus’ Life/The Synoptic Problem, Part 2—Köstenberger, pp. 136-177
October 10— First Exam
October 15—The Gospel of Matthew—Köstenberger, pp. 178-226
October 17—The Gospel of Mark—Köstenberger, pp. 227-254
October 24—The Gospel of John—Köstenberger, pp. 289-327
October 29—The Letter to the Hebrews—Köstenberger, pp. 667-700
October 31—The Letter of James—Köstenberger, pp. 701-726
November 5— Book Critique 2 Due 1 Peter—Köstenberger, pp. 727-749
November 7—2 Peter and Jude—Köstenberger, pp. 749-764
November 12—2 Peter and Jude—Köstenberger, pp. 764-780
November 14—John’s Letters—1, 2, 3 John—Köstenberger, pp. 781-808
November 19—Revelation—Köstenberger, pp. 809-872
November 21—Revelation, Part 2—Köstenberger, pp. 809-872
November 25-29—Thanksgiving Break
December 3—TBA
Final Exam (Exam 2)—To Be Announced

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY
See the textbooks for initial recommendations. Instructor will provide further suggestions or post them on Blackboard.

X. STUDENTS WITH A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY
Students with disabilities may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in DH 2016 to make arrangements for academic accommodations. For all disability testing accommodation requests (i.e. quieter environment, extended time, oral testing, etc.) the Tutoring/Testing Center is the officially designated place for all tests administered outside of the regular classroom.