

**COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO
HYBRID COURSES AT UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**COURSE 311: New Testament I
Spring 2013**

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

This syllabus has been designed to provide for student planning. It includes information on the course instructor, books required, and meeting dates. It will be replaced by a full syllabus prior to the course start date

This course will begin on-campus 21-22, 2014 and continue/conclude online through May 18th.

Instructor:

Rev. Britt Leslie Th.M.
prof.bleslie@gmail.com

Greeting:

Welcome to New Testament I. I am excited about the opportunity to explore the New Testament with you. I was once a pastor too and working another job at the same time. I know how busy things can get. I have done my best to keep the readings and assignments reasonable and still cover all that needs to be covered. If any of you think that you may have a problem completing an assignment for a given week let me know right away and we can work something out.

I find that students and teachers can learn a great deal from each other and I am sure that will be true here. I am eager to hear about your individual ministry contexts and looking forward to discovering together ways to apply New Testament insights to those various contexts. It is my goal that this course will be helpful to you as a pastor.

I. Course Description and Goals:

This course presents a panoramic view of the content, main characteristics, and message of the books of the New Testament in light of their historical, political, socioeconomic, cultural, and religious environment, as well as their importance as literary expressions of the faith and history of the early church. The practice of *exegesis* is again emphasized, with special focus on *Luke, Acts, Romans, I Corinthians, and Galatians*.

Course Goals:

1. Review of the nature, scope, and purpose of the New Testament
2. Review of the origin and formation of the New Testament canon
3. Description of the historical and social background out of which the New Testament emerged
4. Development and practice of an exegetical methodology that is appropriate and helpful to the study of the New Testament
5. Articulation of an introductory explanation of the origin, formation, development, and expansion of the Christian faith during the first century

6. Examination of some of the ways in which the early church interpreted the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and how this interpretation informed how its members lived out their faith in various social circumstances
7. Reflection on the meaning and significance of the message of the New Testament for the faith and mission of the church in its contemporary context

II. Textbooks

(Students are responsible for obtaining their own books):

Required: (we **will** use these books throughout the course)

- 1) Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN: 9780801046407 \$15
- 2) A Gospel synopsis: (Pick one of these. This is a tool which allows you to compare the differences and similarities between gospels in a side by side layout. Note: a. and b. are more useful for *pastors* and *teachers* and include *John*. C. does not include *John* but includes non-canonical gospels such as Thomas and seems more helpful to someone in *academics* rather than pastoral ministry.)
 - a. Aland, Kurt. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. New York: American Bible Society, 2010. ISBN 1585169420. (uses the Revised Standard Version) \$32
 - b. OR: White, Gregory. *The NET Bible Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. Biblical Studies Press, 2009. ISBN 0737501537 (Uses the New English Translation) \$20
 - c. OR: Jr, Burton H. Throckmorton. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels, NRSV Edition*. 5th ed. Thomas Nelson, 1992. ISBN 0840774842. (Uses the New Revised Standard Version) \$22
- 3) Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2009. ISBN 080102868X. \$27
- 4) Rhoads, David M. *The Challenge of Diversity: The Witness of Paul and the Gospels*. Minneapolis, Minn: Fortress Press, 1996. ISBN 0800629825 \$20
- 5) An Annotated/Study Bible: (*Highly recommended* to own at some point in your ministry. You may already own one from COS 111. You **must choose one of these** even if you already have another study bible)¹
 - a. Attridge, Harold W., and Society of Biblical Literature. *HarperCollins Study Bible - Student Edition: Fully Revised & Updated*. Rev Upd. HarperOne, 2006. ISBN 006078685X (hardcover) \$29; ISBN 0060786841 (paperback) \$24
 - b. Coogan, Michael D., Marc Z. Brettler, Carol A. Newsom, and PHEME PERKINS. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version, College Edition*. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press, USA, 2010. ISBN 0195289552 (hardcover) \$30; ISBN 0195289609 (paperback) \$22
 - c. Harrelson, Walter J. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrypha*. Abingdon Press, 2003. ISBN 0687278325 (hardcover) \$31; ISBN 0687647339 (paperback) \$26

¹ A note about study bibles: Not all SBs are created equal. Many such as the *Life Application Bible* have contributors that are **not** biblical scholars. Others such as the *Scofield Reference Bible*, proceed from a very specific ideology and will present information to confirm that ideology.

Recommended: (You won't have assigned readings from these, but they but they will prove very helpful in completing exegetical assignments in this and future courses, as well as research for studies and sermon preparation!)

- 1) Bible Dictionary: (Again, *highly recommended* to own at some point in your ministry.) See the Bibliography of Recommended Resources section for more options.
 - a. Powell, Mark Allan. *The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011. ISBN 0061469068. \$32
 - b. OR the “poor seminary student’s” version: Powell, Mark Allan. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary - Condensed Edition*. Abridged. HarperOne, 2009. ISBN 0061469076. \$14
- 2) One Volume Commentary: (Again, *highly recommended* to own at some point in your ministry.) See the Bibliography of Recommended Resources section for more options.
 - a. Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter’s Bible One-Volume Commentary*. Abingdon Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0687334117 \$49

Supplementary: (You won't have assigned readings from these but they might be good for a pastor to own.)

- 1) DeSilva, David Arthur. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. InterVarsity Press, 2004. \$30
- 2) Malina, Bruce J. *Windows on the World of Jesus: Time Travel to Ancient Judea*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993. ISBN 978-0664254575 \$20
- 3) Carter, Warren. *The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide*. Abingdon Press, 2006. ISBN 9780687343942. \$17

III. Course Schedule:

A. On Campus Weekend: March 21-22

- ☞ The On-Campus Weekend will begin at 2:30 on Friday and end by 2:30pm on Saturday. Friday class is 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm, with a dinner break at 5:00 pm; Saturday resumes at 8:30 am, with chapel at 11:15 am, lunch at noon, and class concludes at 2:30.
- ☞ **The reading assignments under “On Campus Topics” should be completed before you come to the on campus weekend.** I know it is a lot of reading (104 pages) before "school" officially starts but if we can have the readings under our belt then the face to face class time will be much more productive.
- ☞ The deSilva handout is available for download in the module 1 window on the course site in both PDF (Adobe Acrobat) and DOC (word processor like MS Word) formats.
- ☞ Thanks and feel free to contact me by e-mail (or the Moodle Quickmail system) with any questions.
- ☞ To help you plan, in the reading assignments listed below, page amounts are listed in parenthesis () and total pages for the week are in brackets [].

Module 1: On Campus Topics: [104pp. total]

- New Testament World (Fri., 2:30-5:00 session)
 - **Reading:** Powell Chapter 1 (33pp.)
- New Testament Writings (Fri., 6:00-8:30 session)
 - **Reading:** Powell Chapter 2 (17pp.)
- Exegesis (Sat., 8:30-11:00 session)
 - **Reading:** Gorman Chapters 1-3 (60pp.)
- Learning to use our resources (Sat., 1:00-2:30)

B. Online Environment: 4/7-5/18

- ☞ This course *continues* with work online. Typical work online includes watching or listening to lectures, engaging in discussion forums, and completing written assignments. All online engagement will be complete by 5/18/2013

Module 2: 3/24-30

Topics: Jesus, Luke

Read: Powell Chapter 3 (19pp.) and Chapter 7 (23pp.); Rhoads Chapter 5 (19pp.); deSilva handout, Luke and Ministry Formation (6pp.); Gorman Ch. 4, 69-82 (14pp.); handouts by DeSilva, Exegetical Skill – Examining Literary Context and Exegetical Skill – Redaction Criticism. (7 book pages) [88pp. total]

Assignment:

- Vital Statistics sheet, Luke. DUE: Wednesday, midnight.
- Paper: Literary Context and Synoptic Comparison (See Below) . DUE: Friday, midnight.
- Participate in discussion forum/s

Module 3: 3/31-4/6**Topic:** Acts**Read:** Powell Chapter 9 (25pp.); deSilva handout, Acts and Ministry Formation (6pp.); Gorman Ch. 6, 101-126 (26pp.); DeSilva handout, Exegetical Skill – Word Studies and Lexical Analysis. (about 11 book pages) [68pp. total]**Assignment:**

- Vital Statistics sheet, Acts. DUE: Wednesday, midnight.
- Participate in discussion forum/s

Module 4: 4/7-13**Topic:** Paul and Letters**Read:** Powell Chapters 10 (17pp.) and 11; (25pp.) Powell handouts (5) [47pp. total]**Assignment:**

- Play with the following Bible websites and/or Bible software programs:
 - Websites:
 - [Great Treasures](#)
 - [The Bible Tool](#)
 - [The NET Bible](#)
 - Free Software
 - [The Word](#) (I like this one because you can load it on a portable flash drive and run it from any computer with a Windows operating system)
 - [E-Sword](#)
 - **Discuss** your impressions in the discussion forum and **respond** to one other person.
- Participate in the other discussion forum/s for the week

Module 5: 4/14-20**Topics:** Romans**Read:** Powell Chapter 12 (19pp.); deSilva handout (10pp.) [29pp. total]**Assignment:**

- Vital Statistics sheet. DUE: Wednesday, midnight.
- Participate in discussion forum/s
- Paper: **Lexical Study** (See Below) . DUE: Friday, midnight.

Module 6: 4/21-27**Topics:** 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians**Read:** Powell Chapter 13 (21pp.); Powell Chapter 14 (14); deSilva handout, The Corinthian Letters and Ministry Formation (8pp.); [43pp. total]**Assignment:**

- Vital Statistics sheet 1st Corinthians. DUE: Wednesday, midnight.
- Vital Statistics sheet 2nd Corinthians. DUE: Wednesday, midnight.
- Participate in discussion forum/s

Module 7: 4/28-5/4**Topic:** Galatians**Read:** Powell Chapter 15 (17pp.); Rhoads Chapter 2 (22pp.); deSilva handout, Galatians and Ministry Formation (6); DeSilva handout, Exegetical Skill - Discerning the Situation Behind a Text. (about 4 book pages) [49pp. total]**Assignment:**

- Vital Statistics sheet, Galatians. DUE: Wednesday, midnight.
- Paper: **Historical and cultural background/rhetorical exigence** (See Below). DUE: Friday, midnight.
- Participate in discussion forum/s

IV. Explanation of assignments and due dates:

- Assignments are due *Midnight* at the night of the due date. So if something is due Saturday at midnight then you have all day Saturday until midnight between Saturday night and Sunday AM.
- Electronic submission of written work:
 - Assignments should be submitted in MS Word (*.doc or *.docx) format or Rich Text format (*.RTF). Most word processor programs (even for the Mac and I-Pad) have the capability to save documents in those formats. This is usually accomplished by choosing the “save as” feature on the program and then selecting the “rich text” or “word” file type.
 - Adobe Acrobat format (*.PDF) is also acceptable. Some programs have the ability to save files in this format. Also there are some third party programs and websites which will convert many file types into this format.
 - All assignments will be returned to you in Adobe Acrobat (*.PDF) format since this is the most efficient way I have found to comment on the contents of written work. So you will need something like the Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download) to read the comments on the graded and returned assignments.
- General information on the papers:
 - Papers will be submitted electronically
 - Use of sources, citation and bibliography:
 - Papers will follow SBL standards for reference citation and bibliography
 - This may be footnoting with a bibliography
 - This may be author/page citation with a bibliography
 - Quotations should be placed in quotation marks and quotations over four lines should be single spaced and indented one half inch from the left margin of the main text. See various examples and style sheets in the course main module.
 - Resources for these citation styles are in the course main module.
 - Note that most of your work will be from your own observations of the biblical text and the exegetical tools you will use to understand that text.
 - You won’t be using a lot of secondary resources but when you do, those resources should be given their due. See the Academic Honor Policy below.
 - Quoting verbatim or nearly verbatim from a print, electronic, or internet source *must* be indicated as a quotation and the source cited. Also, when using

information or an idea from a particular source it *must* be cited. Failure to do so shall result in one or more consequences listed in the Academic Honor Policy below.

- Each paper will report the findings of an exegetical method. (1, 2, and 3 below. This is the “what” of your paper.)
 - Each paper will conclude with a paragraph or two about how the information discovered will affect preaching and teaching. (This is the “so what” of your paper.)
1. Literary context and synoptic comparison (4-5 pages double spaced)
 - a. **DUE:** 3/28 midnight
 - b. Passage: Luke 9:28-36
 - c. See handout (posted in course main module) for more information.
 2. Lexical Study (4-5 pages double spaced)
 - a. **DUE:** 4/18 midnight
 - b. Passage: Romans 3:21-26
 - c. See handout (posted in course main module) for more information.
 3. Historical and cultural background/rhetorical exigence (4-5 pages double spaced)
 - a. **DUE:** 5/2 midnight
 - b. Passage: Galatians (the whole book)
 - c. See handout (posted in course main module) for more information.
 4. Vital Statistics Sheet (no more than one page single spaced)
 - a. **DUE: every Wednesday** by midnight.
 - b. Taken primarily from the readings from Powell and Rhoads and from the online and posted material
 - c. Will contain information on the particular book of the bible for that week.
 - d. Will address the following:
 - i. Authorship
 - ii. Date
 - iii. Place (where was it written and where was it received)
 - iv. Audience
 - v. Exigence (why was it written)
 - vi. Summary of the message
 - e. Basically you are answering: WHO (author) said WHAT (content, major themes) to WHOM (audience)? WHEN (date) did they say it? WHERE was it said (place of writing)? WHERE was it heard (audience location)? WHY (exigence) did the author say it?
 - f. The purpose of these “stat. sheets” is so that *you will have a ready reference* each time you prepare to preach or teach from one of these biblical books.
 - g. With that in mind:
 - i. Don’t worry about form. The sheet can be in outline form with bullet points etc. and organized in a way helpful to you in later ministry, just as long as it contains the info listed above.
 - ii. Citations should be a simple author and page number in parenthesis method, such as (Powell, 200) or (Harrelson, 1953), placed beside a bit of info so later you will be able to find it.
 5. Participation in the required discussion forum/s for each week:
 - a. This is akin to showing up for class in an online environment.

- b. Posts should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the readings and other posted material.
- c. Posts should follow the guidelines stated for each discussion forum.
- d. Replies should reflect genuine engagement with the post to which you are replying in relation to the readings and other posted material.
- e. Posts and replies do not need to be lengthy (actually concise is better) but should reflect familiarity with the readings and other posted material.
- f. The minimum for these will usually be one post and one reply.
- g. All initial posts will be **due by Thursday midnight** so students will have time to reply.

Grading:

Assignment	% Value
Literary context and synoptic comparison	20
Grammar and Word Study	20
Historical and cultural background/rhetorical exigence	20
Vital Statistics Sheets (6 total)	3% each for a combined total of 18
Participation in discussion forums*	22
Total	100

*Note: participation in discussion forums in an online environment is akin to class attendance in a face to face setting. I have assigned a 20% value to assess the quality of student interaction which should reflect familiarity with the course content and reading material and thoughtful response to the comments of others as described in 5 above. However simply not participating at all may result in a greater than 20% reduction in the student's final grade.

Grades will be turned in to the COS/United office no later than 30 days after the course ends.

V. ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student. Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism. A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor policy, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

VI. Bibliography of recommended resources

A. Study Bibles

Harrelson, Walter J. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrypha*. Abingdon Press, 2003. (Most recommended of the three)

Attridge, Harold W., and Society Of Biblical Literature. *HarperCollins Study Bible - Student Edition: Fully Revised & Updated*. Rev Upd. HarperOne, 2006

Coogan, Michael D., Marc Z. Brettler, Carol A. Newsom, and PHEME PERKINS. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press, USA, 2010.

Renovare, Richard J. Foster, Dallas Willard, Walter Brueggemann, Eugene H. Peterson, Bruce Demarest, et al. *The Life with God Bible NRSV*. HarperOne, 2009.

[NOTE: This is a more “devotional” oriented annotated bible written by sound biblical scholars. You may want to supplement your primary study bible with this.]

B. Bible Dictionaries

1. One Volume

Freedman, David Noel, Astrid B. Beck, and Allen C. Myers, eds. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

Powell, Mark Allan. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary - Revised & Updated*. HarperOne, 2011.

Powell, Mark Allan. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary - Condensed Edition*. Abridged. HarperOne, 2009.

2. Multi Volume

Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vol. Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1992.

Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob. *The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vol. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.

C. Biblical world

deSilva, David A. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Malina, Bruce J. *Windows on the World of Jesus: Time Travel to Ancient Judea*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

D. One Volume Commentaries

1. General

Barton, John, and John Muddiman, eds. *The Oxford Bible Commentary*. 1st ed. Oxford University Press, USA, 2001.

Brown, Raymond E., Roland Murphy, and Joseph A. Fitzmyer. *New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Continuum, 2003.

Dunn, James D. G., ed. *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003.

Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary*. Abingdon Press, 2010.

Mays, James L. *HarperCollins Bible Commentary - Revised Edition*. Rev Sub. HarperOne, 2000.

2. Written with social location in mind

Blount, Brian K., Cain Hope Felder, Clarice J. Martin, and Emerson B. Powery, eds. *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Fortress Press, 2007.

Newsom, Carol A., and Sharon H. Ringe. *The Women's Bible Commentary - expanded*. Expanded. Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

Patte, Daniel. *Global Bible Commentary*. First ed. Abingdon Press, 2004. [NOTE: highly recommended]

E. Multi Volume Commentaries or Commentary Series

- Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
- Anchor Bible Commentaries
- Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament
- Black's New Testament Commentaries

- Feminist Companion
- Hermeneia (requires biblical languages)
- Interpretation
- New Cambridge Bible Commentary
- Sacra Pagina
- New International Commentary on the New Testament
- New Interpreter's Bible (a recent edition)
- New Testament Readings
- Westminster Bible Companion
- Word Biblical Commentary