

**LAMM Australia/Seminari Theoloji Malaysia**

**3-4 & 10-11 June 2016**

**Course: Introduction to the New Testament**

Instructor: Rev Dr LIM Kar Yong

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**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the survey, content, and message of the New Testament. It is intended to help you begin to weave yourself through the maze of New Testament studies. You will be introduced to the practice of the scholarly and critical study of the background of the Inter-testamental and Second Temple period, Gospels, Pauline Epistles, Catholic Epistles, and Revelation. Questions concerning authorship, date, audience, structure, and purpose of selected NT letters will be covered in greater depth compared to others. The content and theological themes of some of these books will be explored. A survey of the life of Jesus and Paul will also be given special attention in this course.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) provide the historical background to the period of the New Testament
- 2) give an overall outline, the broad account of the occasion, content, and major themes of some of the books in the New Testament.
- 3) begin to explore the different areas, disciplines, and aspects of New Testament studies and learn how to do basic research and writing in New Testament studies.
- 4) apply the relevance of the teachings found in the New Testament in contemporary Christian living as well as the life of the church.

**Course Requirements**

1) Read the entire New Testament in an idiomatic English translation of your choice (e.g., NIV, NRSV, ESV, NET, NASB, etc)

2) Graded requirements:

a. Paper (70% of the grade)

Write a research paper with proper footnotes and bibliography related to a defined topic, theme or area of critical NT studies related to the NT Letters or Revelation. The length of the paper should be approximately 2,500 words excluding footnotes and bibliography. Various topics will be suggested during the class. Please feel free to run by your idea with me before proceeding with your paper.

b. Creative Lesson Plan (30%)

Create a creative lesson plan for a Christian education project based on either the major theme, message, or teaching of a book of the New Testament. The

lesson plan should include your understanding of a book of the New Testament in the form of a teaching lesson, drama, Sunday school material, bible study, movie clip, music, or any other creative form which demonstrates a clear indication of your understanding of how the major theme, message, or teaching of the book you have chosen functioned in the times of the New Testament and how this is relevant to your current audience. You will be evaluated based on your creativity, clarity, and the effectiveness of conveying the theme or message of the book you have selected to your contemporary audience. You are also advised to indicate your audience in your creative project. Some examples will be given in the lecture.

Please note that the final date for submission of all assignments is **November 15, 2016**. NO EXTENSION IS ALLOWED. Any delay in the submission of the paper will automatically attract a grade penalty. You may submit your papers electronically to the instructor (email: [karyong@stm2.edu.my](mailto:karyong@stm2.edu.my)).

Please also note the severity of the crime of plagiarism as clearly highlighted in the academic regulations.

**Required Textbook: Please choose one of the following:**

- 1) Donald A. Hagner, *The New Testament: A Historical and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
- 2) Andreas J. Kostenberger, L. Scott Kellum & Charles L Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.
- 3) Robert Gundry. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

**Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
June 3-4	Introduction to the Course; Intertestamental Period and the New Testament, Gospels, Life of Jesus
June 10-11	Acts, Introduction to Pauline Studies; Life of Paul, Pauline Letters, Catholic Letters, Revelation

## Select Bibliography

### ***New Testament Survey/Introduction/Studies***

- Achtemeier Paul J., Joel B. Green and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testaments: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Barnett, Paul. *Jesus & the Rise of Christianity: A History of New Testament Times*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Blomberg, Craig. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nashville: B&H, 2009.
- Blomberg, Craig. *From Pentecost to Patmos: An Introduction to Acts through Revelation*. Nashville: B&H, 2006.
- Boring, M. Eugene. *An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012.
- Carson, D. A. & Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2004.
- Elwell, Walter and Robert Yarbrough. *Encountering the NT: A Historical and Theological Survey*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005. (includes multimedia, interactive CD-ROM, companion reader).
- Elwell, Walter and Robert Yarbrough. *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Gundry, Robert. *Survey of the New Testament*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. Revised ed. Downers Grove, IVP, 1990.
- Hagner, Donald A. *The New Testament: A Historical and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Howard Marshall, Stephen Travis & Ian Paul. *Exploring the New Testament Vol 2: The Letters and Revelation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids/London: Baker/SPCK, 2011.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the NT: An Interpretation*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum & Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.
- Wenham, David & Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Vol 1: Introducing the*

*Gospels and Acts*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.

### **Dictionaries**

Evans, Craig A. and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 2000.

Green, Joel B., Jeannie K. Brown & Nicholas Perrin, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 2013.

Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin & Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 1993.

Martin, Ralph and Peter Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 1997.

### **New Testament Background/History**

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Hubbard, Moyer. *Christianity in the Greco-Roman World: A Narrative Introduction*. Grand Rapids: baker, 2010.

Jeffers, James. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era: Exploring the Background of Early Christianity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 1999.

Malina, Bruce. *The New Testament World*, 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001.

Witherington III, Ben. *New Testament History: A Narrative Account*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.