

Seminari Theoloji Malaysia
Semester I, 2016
New Testament Survey/Introduction I: Gospels
Class Meetings: Thursday, 2.30-4.30pm
Instructor: Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong
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Course Description

This course is the first installment of the 2-part course on New Testament Survey/Introduction. It is intended to help you begin to weave yourself through the maze of NT 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, the New Testament, and the question of introductory problems of the Gospels (authorship, date, audience, structure, and purpose). The content and theological themes of each of the Gospels will be explored. A survey of the life and teachings of Jesus 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 a overall outline, the broad account of the occasion, content, and major themes of the Gospels.
- 3) begin to explore the different areas, disciplines and aspects of NT studies and learn how to do basic research and writing in NT studies.
- 4) apply the relevance of the Gospels and the teaching of Jesus in contemporary Christian living as well as the life of the church.

Course Requirements

- 1) Read the Gospels in an idiomatic English translation of your choice.
- 2) Graded requirements:
 - a. Term Paper (50%): Write a research paper with proper footnotes and bibliography related to a defined topic, theme or area of critical NT studies related to the Gospels. The length of the paper is stipulated in the Academic Handbook. Various topics will be suggested during the class. Please feel free to run by your idea with me before proceeding with your paper. This paper is due on Thursday, **APRIL 28, 2016, 4.30pm**. Any extension beyond the due date will automatically result in 1/3 grade penalty.
 - b. Class presentation (20%): Do a class presentation on topics that will be circulated at the beginning of class. More details will be provided in the class. (20% of the grade)
 - c. Examination (30%): Sustain a final take home exam during the Examination Week. Further details will be given in the class.

Required Textbook: Choose one of the following:

- 1) David Wenham & Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Vol 1: Introducing the Gospels and Acts*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
- 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*, 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic
Jan 7	Public holiday – no class
Jan 21	Introduction to the Course Inter-testamental/Second Temple Period: Events that Shaped the NT World
Jan 28	Inter-testamental/Second Temple Period: Events that Shaped the NT World
Feb 4	Introduction to the Gospels
Feb 11	Chinese New Year – no class
Feb 18	Introduction to the Gospels
Feb 25	Gospel of Matthew
Mar 3	Gospel of Mark
Mar 10	Gospel of Luke
Mar 17	Gospel of John
Mar 24	Reading Week – no class
Mar 31	Life & Teaching of Jesus
Apr 7	Life & Teaching of Jesus
Apr 14	Life & Teaching of Jesus
Apr 21	Class presentation
Apr 28	Class presentation
May 5	Public Holiday – no class

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*. Downer Grove: InterVarsityPress, 1999.

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*. 2nd 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*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005 (includes multimedia, interactive CD-ROM, companion reader).

_____. *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Gundry, Robert. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the NT: An Interpretation*, 3rd 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.

Köstenberger, Andreas J., & Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *Understanding the Times: New Testament Studies in the 21st Century: Essays in Honor of D. A. Carson on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.

McKnight, Scot & Grant R. Osborne, eds. *The Face of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

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*. 2nd edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 2013.

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