

# NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY & LITERATURE

Dr. Ted Hildebrandt  
BCM 103  
Tel: Ext. 4412  
Office hours: Usually in 8:00-10:00 MWF  
Usually in 8:00-12:00 TR

ted.hildebrandt@gordon.edu  
Office: MacD 111  
Spring, 2020

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will introduce the student to the New Testament by examining each book as to its content, major questions and themes. An introduction will be given summarizing the historical and cultural developments that took place between the testaments. This will provide a necessary background for understanding the cultural milieu of the various audiences reflected in the New Testament. The life of Christ as portrayed by the various gospel writers will be developed in detail. The spread of the gospel via the ministries of the apostles will be examined, with emphasis on the work of Peter and Paul in the book of Acts and selected epistles. The course will conclude by developing the themes and structure of the book of Revelation.

## **2. OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) You will know what happened between the testaments and understand how those cultural developments impacted the New Testament.
- 2) You will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the chapter content of a large portion of the NT (Matthew, and perhaps Acts and Revelation).
- 3) You will understand the nexus between the book of Acts and the epistles of Paul.
- 4) You will gain a factual knowledge of the major events of Christ's life and the core elements of his teachings.
- 5) You will be able to communicate an appreciation for the NT and its relevance to spiritual formation, development of a personal values system and worldview. Did Jesus come to promote a worldview?
- 6) You will delight in exploring the life of Christ and the relevance of His teachings to the existential issues which are faced by all humankind.
- 7) You will be able to describe the flow of thought and major themes of most of the NT.
- 8) You will be able to rehearse a detailed knowledge of the life and message of Jesus Christ.
- 9) You will be able to quote many key passages of the NT by memory.
- 10) You will understand the development and struggles of the early church.

### 3. TENTATIVE CALENDAR:

Week 1:	Background: Babylonian, Persian, Greek, the synagogue, Samaritans
Week 2:	Background: Hasmoneans, Romans, sects
Week 3:	Matthew
Week 4:	Matthew
Week 5:	Mark, Luke
Week 6	Synoptics; Background and Synoptic Exam
Week 7:	John
Week 8:	Acts
Week 9:	Acts
Week 10:	Romans
Week 11:	Corinthians; Exam: Acts, Romans, Cor
Week 12:	Pauline Epistles
Week 13:	Non-Pauline Epistles
Week 14:	Hebrews
Week 15:	Revelation; Exam: Epistles, Revelation

### 4. Tentative Evaluation Percentages: generally I begin my curve with the following and then curve from there.

100-92 [A/A-]

91-80 [B+-B-]

79-70 [C+-C-]

69-65 [D]

65-0 [F]

Quizzes	30% [Generally quizzes every Friday]
3 Exams	70%

### 5. Extra Credit may be received (up to 5 points) by:

**Extra credit projects** may be earned: (up to 5%) email or talk with me to set this up. [Due by May 1]. The filling of all requests for such extra credit will cease on Monday April 27. If you want to do EC please contact me either by email or at the end of a class so we can set this up.

- 1) This semester we will be working on finishing the **time stamping the** [biblicalearning.org](http://biblicalearning.org) lectures on NT books. What this amounts to is transcribing those lectures (3 lectures = 5% [usually takes 5-7 hours]). There are also full lectures on Apocrypha and Cultural

Background to the NT by David de Silva. (5%). I'm also trying to add closed captioning to the video lectures which is another EC option if you are familiar with Adobe Premiere Pro. Talk to me as I'll need to set it up online for you. These will need to be word perfect and sign at the end affirming that

Once the transcription process is completed we can work on putting section **titles and timings** (10-18 per lecture) for the various lectures online (talk to the prof. about which ones need doing).

If you are into **graphic design** and would like to do something along the lines of crafting a parable visually, etc. (reformatting our website to make it look more visually and useable) please talk to me early in the semester.

If you're a **Computer Sci.** person moving DASV over from Gordon's faculty web site to [biblicalearning.org](http://biblicalearning.org). There is also VR projects for graphic design and videographers on sites in Israel to work on..

Another path would be to develop **your own fill-in-the-blank questions** for Matthew and/or Mark. Or if you are a programmer in Javascript to help modify the present quizzer to include fill-ins. Talk to me if you'd like to pursue this option.

If you speak a foreign language fluently (**Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, Japanese**) you could work on translation projects translating the class PowerPoints or some of the transcriptions.

**If you get in trouble grade-wise in this course use extra to bail yourself out.** If you're willing to work you can get the grade.

**Extra credit is due by mid-night Friday May 1—plan ahead – late work on this will not be accepted. Hard deadline. No EC requests will be accepted after Monday April 27. No honors requests will be accepted after April 14.**

- 6. Honors option:** If a student receives over a 94 on the first exam and has maintained a 90 or better quiz average, s/he may request the honors option. The student will work on a project with the prof. related to the OT Web site, fitted to their interests, skills and possible options. Often 6 lectures are outlined and time stamped. This project will

replace the final exam hereby easing your finals week preparations. Your final exam score will be an average of your first and second exam. Talk to me if you'd like to do this option after you've taken the first exam. We also may be developing a series of fill-in-the-blank question sets for Matt. – Acts. As another option. This option must be requested no later than one week following the second exam.

**Required texts:**

All your reading materials will be available on Blackboard and/or my web site. The fee for the use of these materials is \$20 which saves you at least \$50 from having to purchase textbooks etc. These articles are available in print and audio formats and a DASV translation/audio of the entire NT is also available. *Get Lost in Jerusalem* online will be used at various times in the course and will be available in various computer labs on campus as well as online.

**All students taking the course are required to purchase these online course materials for \$20 cash.** Please pay for them during the first week or so. If payment is received after Friday January 31 the price goes up to \$40 and no quizzes or exams will be accepted or make-ups allowed after Friday Jan. 31 is passed if payment has not been received. In short, get your \$20 in before Jan. 31 as I don't want to have to chase you down especially when I'm trying to save each of you well over \$50 per student [compare how much it is for textbooks in your other classes].

I do not make anything personally from this as the funds are used to develop the more supplemental materials for the NT course.

**Basically everything you need is on the web site. Blackboard will only be used for the gradebook.**

The web site is: [http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted\\_hildebrandt/index.cfm](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/index.cfm) then go to BCM 103 NT Lit and everything will be developing there over the semester. It probably would be good to bookmark it. The other way to get there is to simply **Google "Ted Hildebrandt" and look for Gordon College** usually at the top of the search list of links. The weekly assignments are listed there. The online "syllabus" takes precedence over this printed syllabus as we make our way the course this semester. In short, the printed syllabus which is found both on Blackboard and on the web site may become obsolete so keep your eyes on the web site version of it on a weekly basis.

**Gordon workload statement:** For each semester hour of credit, students should expect to spend a minimum of 2-3 hours per week outside of class in engaged academic time. This time includes reading, writing, studying, completing assignments, lab work, or group projects, among other activities.

**Cheating Policy:** Cheating in any form will result in an automatic failure of that quiz or exam or possibly the entire course. This is a Bible class, cheating is taken very seriously as a violation of the whole course and the integrity this course is trying to teach.

**Gordon’s Academic Dishonesty Statement (Plagiarism Policy):**  
 “Academic dishonesty is regarded as a major violation of both the academic and spiritual principles of this community and may result in a failing grade or suspension. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, (see Plagiarism in Student Handbook), cheating (whether in or out of the classroom), and abuse or misuse of library materials when such abuse or misuse can be related to course requirements.”

**Students with Disabilities: Course Accommodation**

Gordon College is committed to assisting students with documented disabilities (*See Academic Catalog Appendix C for documentation guidelines*). A student with a disability who may need academic accommodations should follow this procedure:

1. Meet with a staff person from the Academic Support Center (Jenks 412, X4746) to:
  - a) make sure documentation of your disability is on file in the ASC,
  - b) discuss the accommodations for which you are eligible,
  - c) discuss the procedures for obtaining the accommodations, and
  - d) obtain a **Faculty Notification Form**.
2. Deliver a Faculty Notification Form to each course professor *within the first full week of the semester*; at that time make an appointment to discuss your needs with each professor.

Failure to register in time with your professor may compromise our ability to provide the accommodations. Questions or disputes about accommodations should be immediately referred to the Academic

Support Center. See **Grievance Procedures** available from the ASC.

- A. **Quizzes:** The quizzes focus on the actual content of the Bible reading, memory verses and supplemental reading (exams will be over the lectures—Use the **NT Lit Bible Quizzer** as much of the quiz will be pulled from the questions found in that quizzer). All quizzes should be taken on time. The same questions can also be

found on quizlet.com. Many students like that format better.

**Missed quizzes** will be assessed as to whether they are excused or unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in an automatic deduction of 20% for that quiz. Both excused and unexcused absences must be made up within one week from when the quiz was originally given. If a student gets to class late after the quiz has begun, the quiz must be made up within the next week as either excused or unexcused. You are not allowed to use electronic devices of any sort for the quizzes. Open head closed phone, pod, pad, tablet, or laptop etc.

- C. **EXAMS: All exams must be taken on time.** They will be over the lecture material. Exams are not like quizzes. The exams will be built off the questions in the interactive video/quiz combos. I am also trying to load these questions on “Quizlet.com” which will offer an alternative way of learning them.

For exams **no electronic devices** will be permitted in the room so leave your **cell phones**, ipads, iphones whatever at home for the time of the exam.

## 5. Integrity and Classroom Etiquette

This is a large class and because of abuses in the past I am declaring this a digitally free zone (no computers, pads, or phones). If you must have use of these devices for academic purposes the front two rows will be reserved for those special exceptions.

This is a class in biblical studies. Integrity is at the heart of what is being learned. Thus any cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic failure of the whole course. If you are unclear what falls into the category of plagiarism check in the Student Handbook pp 8f. Gaming, surfing, texting, email reading/sending, tweeting, IM, YouTube, Facebook, etc. in the classroom are rude and unacceptable. Be wise. Here are a few comments on classroom etiquette. Class times are learning times for discussion, taking notes and interacting. The following activities are inappropriate inside the classroom context: talking to others outside of the class discussion flow, whispering, sleeping, hand-holding, touching and massaging another, un-civil comments or behaviors not conducive to the learning environment. Basically anything that is disruptive to the classroom instructional environment is not kosher. Students engaged in these activities will be asked to leave the classroom and must talk to the professor in person before being readmitted.

## 6. RESOURCES BIBLIOGRAPHY:

### General Introductions:

Achtemeier, Paul, Joel Green, and Marianne Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Blaiklock, E. M. *Cities of the New Testament*. London: Pickering and Inglis, 1965.

Brown, Raymond. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

DeSilva, David. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation* (InterVarsity Press, 2004).

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Guthrie, D. *New Testament Introduction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1971.

Pfeiffer, C.F. *Between the Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1972.

Powell, Mark A. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* (Baker Book House, 2009).

Stein, Robert. *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Yamauchi, E. *Archaeology of the New Testament Cities in Western Asia Minor*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980.

**NTS TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SHEET (vid. Online schedule)**

NOTE: Depending how the semester goes, oral instructions given in class may over-ride this projected written schedule. The syllabus and updated assignment schedule will also be posted online.

[http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted\\_hildebrandt/index.cfm](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/index.cfm)

or just Google: "Ted Hildebrandt" look for the Gordon College site and then bookmark it.

**Final Exam**

Class lectures/discussions since the last exam and the memory verses and perhaps Picture Scripture since the last exam (Friday **May 8 12:00-2:00**). The final exam schedule is set in stone and not flexible by the registrar and is set in stone make your flight plans accordingly.



FAMILY TREE FROM MATTATHIAS TO HEROD AGRIPPA  
 (cp. Gromacki p. 16 and Scroggie p. 29)



