

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
School of Ministry
BS 130 Introduction to the New Testament

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| Instructor | Rev. Tony Chung |
| Location | <i>Arlington Campus</i> John Leland Center for Theological Studies 1306 N. Highland St. Arlington, VA 22201 |
| Schedule | Fall 2023, Monday Evenings, 6:00 – 8:50 |
| Credit | p.m. 3 Credit Hours |
| Instructor's Contact | Cell: (240) 310-9308 Email: trchung@leland.edu |
| Office Hours | By appointment |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course, *Introduction to the New Testament*, offers an in-depth introductory engagement with the history, theology, and literature of the New Testament. This course will involve an evaluation of New Testament Scholarship, as well as engagement with challenges of interpretation for today.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course will enable the student to read, understand, and accurately study the New Testament with the following emphases:

1. An overview of the books of the New Testament and their significance for the church today.
2. An understanding of the literary divisions of the New Testament.
3. An understanding of the nature and origin of the New Testament.
4. An evaluation of textual criticism concerning the New Testament.

5. An observation of the Palestinian, Jewish, and Greek influence upon the New Testament text.
6. An appreciation of the political and social world of New Testament times.
7. A model for studying and teaching selected books of the New Testament.

At the conclusion of this course, students will demonstrate the following competencies:

1. To demonstrate a knowledge of the New Testament Scriptures and their relevancies for today
2. To articulate an understanding of the literary framework of the New Testament.
3. To summarize the historical purpose of the Gospels.
4. To summarize the message of the Book of Acts.
5. To summarize the nature and influence of the Pauline Corpus.
6. To correctly handle the apocalyptic texts of the New Testament.
7. To articulate the importance of the relationship between the Old and New Testaments of the Scriptures.

COURSE FORMAT AND PROCEDURES

The course will be taught in fifteen weekly sessions of three hours. Lectures will review assigned readings as well as introduce additional material throughout the course. Group discussion and special review assignments will be an important aspect of learning within class time. There will also be a reflection paper assigned at the conclusion of the semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class Participation** (15% of final grade)
Students are expected to attend all sessions as designated for this course. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and assignments. To the extent possible, students are to notify the instructor as soon as possible if he or she is unable to attend a class or expects to miss an assignment deadline.
2. **Reading Assignments** (15% of final grade; by honor system)
Students will be asked to complete individual reading assignments of the New Testament books and the required text before the designated class (see class schedule).
3. **Review Assignments** (30% of final grade)
Each student will submit four (1 to 2 page) written reviews of class discussions and readings (see class schedule). The review will consist of a summary of what the student has learned since the last review assignment and an explanation of why what was learned is important.

4. **Reflection Paper** (40% of final grade)

Each student will submit a 7 to 10 page paper summarizing a selected section of the New Testament and describing how this section can be practically applied to the life of the church. (This paper can include pertinent information from the written review assignments.)

GRADING SCALE

This class uses the grading system outlined in the [Leland Center Catalog](#).

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SCHOOL POLICIES

Students are expected to abide by the code of ethics as outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Powell, Mark Allan. [Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey](#), 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018).

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS (subject to change)

| Date | Topic | Assignment |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Aug. 28 (2023) | <i>Introduction & Syllabus Overview Historical and Cultural Background of the NT</i> | Powell, Chapters 1-2 |
| Sept. 4 | <i>Labor Day: No Class</i> | |
| Sept. 11 | <i>NT Text and Canon</i> | Powell, Chapter 3 |
| Sept. 18 | <i>Jesus and the Kingdom</i> | Powell, Chapters 4-5 Review Assignment #1 |
| Sept. 25 | <i>The Gospels of Mark & Matthew</i> | Powell, Chapters 6-7 |

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| Oct. 2 | <i>The Gospel of Luke</i> | Powell, Chapter 8 |
| Oct. 9 | <i>Acts: The Early Church</i> | Powell, Chapter 10 Review Assignment #2 |
| Oct. 16 | <i>Paul – His Life and Letters 1&2 Thessalonians</i> | Powell, Chapter 11-12, 20-21 |
| Oct. 23 | <i>1&2 Corinthians</i> | Powell, Chapter 14-15 |
| Oct. 30 | <i>Galatians</i> | Powell, Chapter 16 |
| Nov. 6 | <i>Romans</i> | Powell, Chapter 13 Review Assignment #3 |
| Nov. 13 | <i>Prison Epistles – Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon</i> | Powell, Chapters 17-19, 23 |
| Nov. 20 | <i>The Pastoral Epistles – 1&2 Timothy & Titus Hebrews</i> | Powell, Chapters 22, 24 |
| Nov. 27 | <i>The General Epistles – James, 1&2 Peter, 1,2&3 John, Jude</i> | Powell, Chapters 25-29 |
| Dec. 4 | <i>The Gospel of John</i> | Powell, Chapter 9 Review Assignment #4 |
| Dec. 11 | <i>The Revelation</i> | Powell, Chapter 30 |
| Dec. 18 | <i>Exam Week: No Class</i> | REFLECTION PAPER Due by Friday, 12/22 11:59pm |