

Syllabus for New Testament Survey I (NTE 501)

Gospels, Acts, & Catholic Epistles

Front Range Bible Institute

Professor Aaron Otten (Fall 2017)

Course Description

The first of two courses which together survey the entire New Testament, devoting special attention to the major lessons of each book. This first course covers the Gospels, Acts, and General Epistles (leaving the Pauline epistles and Revelation to the second course). Because of the general importance of Acts to a study of the New Testament, the book of Acts has been added to the curriculum of both classes.

This course examines the historical, cultural, and geographical settings generally for the New Testament. Examines the major themes, purpose, and structure of each New Testament book, while evaluating the major criticisms associated with each book. Emphasizes both the understanding of the text and the applications to Christian living.

Course Objectives

- I. To survey the Gospels, Acts, and Catholic Epistles in a broad, expositional manner.
- II. To gain a working understanding of the New Testament and to facilitate a better grasp of the big picture of the Bible. To grasp the basic geography and general chronology of the New Testament era, and get a survey of the different cultures and people groups included in the NT.
- III. To state the theme and major emphasis of each Bible book and also to show its relationship to other parts of the Scripture.
- IV. To fit the unfolding drama of God's revealed plan and purpose into its historical human setting.
- V. To offer solutions to certain selected key problems in passages.
- VI. To promote a worldview that is derived from godly wisdom and Biblical insight. To apply that worldview in matters of practical living, piety, and one's spiritual growth.
- VII. To grow in love for God and Christ-likeness by applying the magnificent spiritual lessons about God and His covenant purposes to our own personal, practical walk with Him. To be encouraged in your existence, purpose, and future as a Christian.
- VIII. To develop life long learners, leading the students to apprehend Biblical truth for themselves.

Course Material.

- A. A NASB or ESV Bible. Preferably a Study Bible.
- B. Bachelor and Certificate Level only: *Talk Through The Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More Out of the Bible.* By Bruce Wilkinson and Ken Boa. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- C. Master's Students only. *An Introduction to the New Testament, Three Volume Collection.* By D. Edmond Hiebert. Gabriel Publishing, 2003. Make sure you get the three volume collection and not the 3 separate volumes.
- D. Copy of professor's notes, supplied on the first day of class.

Course Requirements

A. Attendance:

Each student should be faithful in attendance. The student is completely responsible for making up any work missed and for securing any material missed in absence. If the student misses more than 2 classes, then their final grade will be lowered a full letter grade. You can not miss more than 3 classes without teacher consent.

B. Final Grade Percentage.

The grading system for this class, implemented with the final grade average, is as follows:

Grade A: 100% - 92.0%

Grade B: 91.9% - 84.0%

Grade C: 83.9% - 76.0%

Grade D: 75.9% - 68.0%

Grade F: 67.9% - 0%

C. Assignments:

1. **Bible Reading:** Each of the Bible books covered in this class is to be read twice (Matthew through Acts, and Hebrews through Jude). The Master Level students will also *scan* the book. Hence the Master Level student will go through the Bible reading 3 times (1 scan + 2 read). Your reading will be reported on the quizzes.

Scanning. Scanning is reading quickly, with the aim of only spending 10-30 seconds per chapter. Getting familiar with order of the story, the chapter location for the big and hot topics, and noticing the amount of scripture is spent on a single subject or story.

Readings. Reading for comprehension. Being able to recount the story, know the big facts associated with the subject matter, and being able to think about the story. You should be developing questions from this level of reading. If you are not developing a list of questions from this stage of reading, then you are not reading deeply enough. Questions are great indicators of comprehension and examination of the story.

2. **Scripture Memory** - Each student is to write out the memorized verses with no helps. You are required to use either the NASB or ESV translations. The memory verse will be tested on the quizzes.

Quiz 1 memory verse (Matthew 28:19-20)

Quiz 2 memory verse (Mark 10:43-45)

Quiz 3 memory verse (John 10:27-29)

Quiz 4 memory verse (Hebrews 9:14)

Quiz 5 memory verse (1 Peter 4:12-13)

3. Supplemental Reading:

- a. Bachelor and Certificate level only:

- 1) *Talk Through The Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More Out of the Bible.* By Bruce Wilkinson and Ken Boa. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005. Reading will be reported on the quizzes.

- b. Masters level reading: (This resource only)

- 1) *An Introduction to the New Testament, Three Volume Collection.* By D. Edmond Hiebert. Required reading, Volume 1: pages 19-276; Volume 3: pages 15-228. Reading will be reported on the 4th quiz.

4. **Preparatory Papers (Masters level only):** The student will write a one-page essay-type paper on the topic provided (see below for topics and more instruction). These are due before the class starts, on the day when the book is discussed.
5. **Synopsis Papers.**
 - a. Synopsis papers are due after the book is presented in class, as specified by the syllabus. The books that the student will summarize are as follows: **Matthew, John, Hebrews, 1 Peter.** (Master level students will also complete a synopsis paper for **2 Peter**) The grade will reflect a quantity of material in filling the page. Make the synopsis useful and concise. Don't worry about complete sentences. Be particular in following the provided format (font size and type, spacing, underlines) as discussed in class.
 - b. For each assigned book of the New Testament, turn in a one-page paper that addresses the following:
 - Thesis Statement. A short and meaningful summary of the entire book or section of scripture. It is suggested that you complete this after doing the rest of the assignment. Please make a statement in your own words (don't simply copy a smarter theologian). Your understanding of this book can be surmised by your effort in this thesis statement.
 - Section titles and summary statements. See example and reference second class presentation.
 - Themes, purposes, and application of the theologies addressed. Include any themes of interest that were not highlighted in the main thesis statement. More freedom is allowed in this section. Please, don't simply reiterate the main thesis already stated.
 - Key verse(s)/passage(s). Location and quick summary. Don't write the verse out, but simply summarize.

Course Grading

Bachelor and Certificate Level:

A. Bible Reading	25%
B. Supplemental Reading, <i>TTTB</i>	15%
C. Bible Memorization	15%
D. Quiz Material	20%
E. Synopsis Papers	25%

Masters Level:

A. Bible Reading	15%
B. Supplemental Reading, <i>EH</i>	15%
C. Bible Memorization	10%
D. Quiz Material	25%
E. Synopsis Papers	25%
F. Preparatory Essays	10%

Course Schedule

	Material Covered in Class	Due at Beginning of Class
Class 1	Introduction to class: Discuss syllabus and class notes Discuss course requirements. Introduction to Bible. Overview of Bible, Intertestamental Period, Cultures and types of people of Second Temple Judaism.	n/a
Class 2	Introduction to class: Discuss synopsis papers Introduction to the Gospels Matthew Herod the Great Builder	Keep reading.
Class 3	Matthew	READ: Matthew READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i>
Class 4	QUIZ #1 Mark The Synoptic Problem	READ: Mark READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> *DUE: Mark Prep Paper
Class 5	Luke	READ: Luke READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> DUE: Matthew Synopsis Page
Class 6	QUIZ #2 John Extra: "My King is"(mp3)	READ: John READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> *DUE: John Prep Paper
Class 7	Acts	READ: Acts READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> DUE: John Synopsis Page *DUE: Acts Prep Paper
Class 8	QUIZ #3 Hebrews	READ: Hebrews READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> *DUE: Hebrews Prep Paper

Class 9	James & 1 Peter	READ: James & 1 Peter READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> DUE: Hebrews Synopsis Page *DUE: 1 Peter Prep Paper
Class 10	QUIZ #4 2 Peter & Jude (* Master level will report <i>EH</i> reading on the quiz)	READ: 2 Peter & Jude READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> *DUE: Jude Prep Papers
Class 11	QUIZ #5 1, 2, & 3 John	READ: 1, 2, & 3 John READ: <i>TTTB</i> *READ: <i>EH</i> DUE: 1 Peter Synopsis Page *DUE: 2 Peter Synopsis Page *DUE: 1 John Prep Paper

“*” = Signifies material due for Masters Level.

“*TTTB*” = *Talk Through The Bible*. The portion of the book that corresponds to the material studied in class.

“*EH*” = *An Introduction to the New Testament*. By D. Edmond Hiebert. The portion of the book that corresponds to the material studied in class.

Dates (Fall 2017):

Class 1	Tuesday, September 5	Class 7	Tuesday, October 17
Class 2	Tuesday, September 12	Class 8	Tuesday, October 24
Class 3	Tuesday, September 19	Class 9	Tuesday, October 31
Class 4	Tuesday, September 26	Class 10	Tuesday, November 7
Class 5	Tuesday, October 3	Class 11	Tuesday, November 14
Class 6	Tuesday, October 10		

Preparatory Papers

Answer the following questions in an essay format, on 1 page, single-spaced, typed, regular sized paper, and 12 point font. Each question should be discussed in approximately 500-700 words. Turn in each paper the same class the book is discussed in class; prior to the class presentation on book. Read, examine, ponder, synthesize, and explain how you see it.

A. Gospels:

1. **Mark:** What is the cost of following Jesus? Explore the direct statements and the allusions throughout the book of Mark.
2. **John:** (1st half of paper) Explore the doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints in John 8 and 10. (2nd half of paper) Examine, describe, and personally reflect on the Christian “fruit” from John 15.
3. **Acts:** Trace the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the book of Acts. How does His work change or stay the same?

B. General Epistles:

4. **Hebrews:** Jesus is greater than what OT authorities? Give one reason for each how Jesus is greater and better than these OT authorities.
5. **1 Peter:** Organize and systematize 3:13-4:19. How does Peter exhort and encourage the reader to handle persecution and suffering.
6. **Jude:** How do we content for our faith, specifically from Jude? What did Jude think was important for us to know and do about the existence of false teachers? (note, Jude will be presented in class before 1 John is presented).
7. **1 John:** (1st half of paper) What does John say about those in the light? (2nd half of paper) What does John say about those in the darkness?

Bibliography

[not necessarily recommended, but books that I can comment on]

Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament, Second Edition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Personal comments: Highly theological book. Recommended for anyone that will be studying the NT in a technical manner. It is less of a presentation of the ideas of Carson and Moo, and more of an evaluation of the different theological issues surrounding the NT introduction material. It demands a high vocabulary, especially one familiar with seminary level theological words. Also the authors are quoting many other theologians that are not commonly known. I found myself skimming over some paragraphs because the material was getting tedious and the topic address was no longer of interest. Highly informational as a preparatory book when technically studying a specific NT book. This book may be best for someone that has finished seminary and is looking to add to their knowledge of the NT.

Chrispin, Gerard. *The Bible Panorama, Enjoying the whole Bible with a chapter-by-chapter guide*. Leominster, UK: Day One Publications, 1982.

Personal comments: Really nice cover and looks really good on your shelf. But not much nice to say about this book other than if you need help with alliterations, this book can help. Read the Bible and not this book, which simply presents a cliff notes view of the chapters. The introductions to each book are too simple. This book is not recommended for anybody.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament, 4th edition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Personal comment: Lots of colorful pictures and maps, actually it is a bit overwhelming with the pictures. Reminds me of a high school history book. Not much on charts or organizing themes of the Bible. Not much technical data, and needs more on presentation. Probably a good resource for a Christian high school, but less for a seminary level. I would not recommend buying this book.

Hiebert, D. Edmond. *An Introduction to the New Testament, Three Volume Collection*. Waynesboro, Georgia: Gabriel Publishing, 2003.

Personal comments: An excellent introduction to the New Testament. It presents the historical information about the book appropriately, along with a critical examination of the ideas of other theologians. Only problem is that the material is not presented in an eye-catching way. No informational charts. No pictures. The internal aspects of the NT books were more theological and less pragmatic. Maybe a bit intimidating in the length of the reading. The outlines of the NT books were the only tedious aspects of the chapters. Highly recommend this book for college and seminary level.

Wilkinson, Bruce and Ken Boa. *Talk Through The Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More Out of the Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005.

Personal comments: This book covers the whole Bible, and not simply the NT. It has an excellent approach and presents the conservative position very well (as expected coming out of Dallas Theological). The summaries of the books may be a bit too simplified (on a high school level and not a masters level), but it gives an excellent overview of the introduction material. Very good charts of book information. Good maps of the areas of interest. The topics covered for each book were very informative, especially the key verses. I would recommend this book for an easy read of the NT introduction material.