

# Syllabus for NTE 501 New Testament Survey I

## Front Range Bible Institute

### Instructor Peter Wise (Fall 2019)

#### I. Course Description

The first of two courses which together survey the entire New Testament, with a focus on understanding the major contents of each book. Examines literary structure, historical backgrounds, geographical settings, and parallel passages to enhance comprehension and application to contemporary issues and concerns.

#### II. Course Objectives

- A. To present the outline and flow of each NT book.
- B. To discuss the author, date, recipients, occasion, theme and major emphases of each Bible book.
- C. To see each NT book in relation to other parts of Scripture, especially the Old Testament.
- D. To provide analysis of key passages.
- E. To understand the Biblical theology of each book individually and in relationship to other books of Scripture.

#### III. Required Course Materials

- A. *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*, Thomas Nelson, 2006
- B. *Pocket Bible Handbook*: Nelson's Pocket Reference Series (or you may substitute *Talk Thru' the Bible*)
- C. One survey book of your choice, from the following list of recommended survey books.
  - Alexander, T. Desmond, and Brian S. Rosner, eds. ***New Dictionary of Biblical Theology***. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. Excellent Biblical theology of each book. Additionally, it has a topical section of Biblical theology. Less of a typical survey book; has more about theological themes in the various books. (I prefer the readability of the font on the logos.com digital version.)
  - Benware, Paul, N. ***Survey of the New Testament***. Chicago, IL, Moody Publishers, 2003. Short but solid summaries.
  - Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas K. Stuart. ***How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour***. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. A very readable and helpful small volume.
  - Geisler, Norman L. ***A Popular Survey of the New Testament***. Baker Books, 2007. Easy-to-read book, while having all the necessary components of a survey textbook, has an emphasis on apologetics and discussions of important content (difficult passages and Christian responses to unbelievers' arguments).
  - Hays, J. Daniel, and J. Scott Duvall, eds. ***The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook***. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011. My favorite Bible handbook—solid conservative scholarship (both

authors are teachers at Ouachita Baptist University), helpful insights, colorful maps/photographs, and printed on high-quality paper.

- Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament: Search and Discover*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1981. Helpful charts throughout.
  - Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. *Talk Thru the Bible*. Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983. Standard textbook for survey classes; about 5-6 pages reading for every book of the Bible.
- D. *Ordination Practicum*, by Richard Mayhue (The Master's Seminary). Pages from this book will be given out to students in class.

## IV. Course Requirements

### A. Attendance

Each student should be faithful in attendance. If a student must miss a class, he must watch the lecture. The student is completely responsible for making up any work missed and for securing any material missed in absence.

### B. Assignments

1. **Bible Reading (~500 pages):** Each of the books, Genesis to 2 Kings, is to be read through quickly. Scanning: Aim for 10-30 seconds per chapter! **(10%)**
2. **Class Reading (40%)**
  - a. All of the relevant survey book readings from the book of your choice (from the instructor's list of recommended survey books)
  - b. Read the section from the *Pocket Bible Handbook* (or you may substitute *Talk Thru' the Bible*, for a fuller treatment)
  - c. Masters level only: Journal articles emailed each week.
  - d. Students will be asked to report the approximate percentage of reading done at the end of the semester.
3. **Reading responses from MacArthur's Commentary on the Old Testament. (30%)**
  - a. Each NT book will have short-answer reading responses from The MacArthur Bible Commentary. They are due each week. Grade reduction for excessive late work.
4. **Weekly Outline Quizzes. (20%)**

Memorize the theme and outline of each book (from *Ordination Practicum*). Be able to tell where you would find the key chapters of each book.

## V. Course Schedule

| Class | Date     | Topic(s)   |
|-------|----------|--|
| 1     | 9-11-19  | Discussion of the class goals and requirements<br>Survey of relevant NT survey books<br>Overview of the Intertestamental Period, the Roman Empire, cultures and types of people in the NT period |
| 2     | 9-18-19  | Introduction to the Gospels<br>Introduction to Matthew   |
| 3     | 9-25-19  | Matthew  |
| 4     | 10-2-19  | Mark   |
| 5     | 10-9-19  | Luke   |
| 6     | 10-16-19 | John   |
| 7     | 10-23-19 | Acts   |
| 8     | 10-30-19 | Hebrews  |
| 9     | 11-6-19  | James & 1 Peter  |
| 10    | 11-13-19 | 2 Peter & Jude   |
| 11    | 11-20-19 | 1, 2, 3 John   |