



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## NTS 715 L1

### Topics in New Testament Studies

#### Fall 2020

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Thursday, 7:30-10:00 pm

**Room Number:** E211

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Steven Sanders

**Instructor Email:** ssanders@criswell.edu

#### Course Description and Prerequisites

A study of selected topics related to the language, history, background, hermeneutics, or theology of the New Testament. The topic this semester is marginalized people in 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish society in relation to the study of New Testament. (Prerequisites: NTS 101, NTS 201.)

#### Course Objectives

This course will:

1. Provide students with a framework for better understanding the New Testament within its original historical context of 1<sup>st</sup> century Hellenism and Judaism.
2. Explore primary and secondary literature for the purposes of research within New Testament studies.
3. Encourage students to evaluate their own experiences in light of the New Testament.

#### Required Textbooks

1. Glancy, Jennifer A. *Slavery in Early Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006. (ISBN: 978-0800637897)
2. Witherington III, Ben. *Women in the Ministry of Jesus: A Study of Jesus' Attitudes to Women and their Roles as Reflected in His Earthly Life*. Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series. Cambridge: University Press, 1984. (ISBN: 978-0521347815)

#### Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Reading (30%): Students are required to read the two textbooks listed above. Students must also read 200 additional pages which they can choose from a supplementary bibliography provided on Canvas. If a student wishes to read something not listed on the supplementary bibliography that is related to his or her research paper, then he or she may request that it be approved by the professor. Witherington is due September 10. Glancy is due October 22. The other reading is due December 11. Students will report on Canvas the amount that they have read by those dates.
2. Research Paper (50%): Students will write a 20-22 page research paper. Students must inform the professor of their topics by September 3. Papers must interact with at least six scholarly sources. A student may turn

his or her paper in at any time during the semester for evaluation and grading. He or she will be able to resubmit the paper if desired. Final submissions are due by December 11.

3. Response Papers (20%): Students will write four 1-2 page single spaced response papers on various topics covered in the course. The topics are women in the New Testament (due September 17), slavery in the New Testament (due October 29), Jew/Gentile relations in the New Testament (due December 3), and one other topic discussed this semester (single people, children, disabilities, homosexuality; due December 11). Requirements for each of these response papers will be posted on Canvas.

## **Course/Classroom Policies and Information**

### **Class Attendance**

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

### **COVID-19 Plan**

If any class session cannot be held in person on campus because of COVID-19 or any other reason, class will be held virtually at the regularly scheduled time through Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting room will both be sent via email and posted on Canvas by noon on the day of the class. Assignments should not be affected, but the supplementary reading bibliography may be expanded to provide students additional online options at the discretion of the professor.

### **Grading Scale**

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

### **Incomplete Grades**

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An “I” may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar’s Office. The “I” must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, or the “I” will become an “F.”

## **Academic Honesty**

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

## **Institutional Assessment**

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college’s academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student’s course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student’s work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

## **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students’ institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## Resources and Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu). Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoringcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@criswell.edu) or by calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Topics	Assignments
Aug 20	Syllabus Preparing for the Day of the Lord	
Aug 27	Women in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century Women in Jesus' Ministry	

Sep 3	Women in Jesus' Teaching Women in Paul's Ministry	
Sep 10	Women in Paul's Teaching Women in church history	Witherington reading due
Sep 17	Singleness in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century and NT Marriage in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century and NT	Women response paper due
Sep 24	Children in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century Children in the NT	
Oct 1	Disease and disability in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century Sick and disabled people in the NT	
Oct 8	Roman slavery Slaves in Jesus' teaching and ministry	
Oct 15	Philemon Other Pauline teaching on slavery	
Oct 22	McKnight's 4 fields New Perspectives in NT Scholarship	Glancy reading due
Oct 29	Samaritans in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century and NT Jews and Gentiles in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century	Slavery response paper due
Nov 5	Homosexuality in the NT Different methodologies of NT studies	
Nov 12	Gentiles in the Gospels Jews and Gentiles in Acts	
Nov 19	Jews and Gentiles in Paul Widows in Acts	
Dec 3	Preparing for the Day of the Lord Takeaways	Jew/Gentile response paper due
Dec 7-11	Final exam week; No Class	Other reading due; Other response paper due; Research paper due



## Topics in New Testament Studies

In the event that Criswell College has to close the campus to on-campus classes in during the FA-20 semester, this addendum specifies how your instructor intends to adjust the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

The course requirements, assignments, calendar, and attendance requirements from the syllabus for this course are replicated below. Notes and changes to the information in syllabus are highlighted. Information that is no longer relevant is indicated with a strike through the font and *replacement or new information is placed in italics.*

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### Remote Class Sessions: Identity and Participation Verification

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