



# Online Course Syllabus

## NTS 501

### New Testament Introduction I

#### Spring 2021

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** David Hutchison, PhD  
**Instructor Email:** DHutchison@Criswell.edu  
**Instructor Phone:** 281-975-7855  
**Instructor Office Hours:** n/a

#### Course Description and Prerequisites

An advanced study of the books of Matthew through Acts, emphasizing problems of interpretation and the contribution of these books to biblical theology and godly Christian living. There are no prerequisites for this course.

#### Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will:

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the literary make-up of the New Testament Scriptures as assessed by weekly quizzes, assignments, and exams.
2. Expand his or her familiarity with the subject matter and background of the New Testament as attested by a mid-term and final exam.
3. Display an ability to accurately convey the truths of Scripture in a concise and logical fashion as demonstrated by a research paper.
4. Introduce the student to current New Testament scholarship while affording an opportunity to engage that scholarship via a Critical Review assignment.

#### Required Textbooks

Burge, Gary M., Lynn H. Cohick, and Gene L. Green. *The New Testament in Antiquity: A Survey of the New Testament within its Cultural Contexts*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2009. ISBN: 0310244951. (Syllabus abbreviation: BCG)

Charlesworth, James H., ed. *Jesus Research, New Methodologies and Perceptions: The Second Princeton-Prague Symposium on Jesus Research*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. ISBN: 0802867285. (Syllabus abbreviation: Charlesworth)

#### Recommended Reading

Articles from *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels and/or The Dictionary of New Testament Background*.

Carson, D.A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 0310238595.

Croteau, David A. *Urban Legends of the New Testament: 40 Common Misconceptions*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015.

Patzia, Arthur G. and Anthony J. Petrotta. *Pocket Dictionary of Biblical Studies*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998. ISBN: 0830814671.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

Reading: 10%

Weekly Assignments/Discussion Board: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Exams: 35%

Research Paper: 15%

Bonus: Up to 3%

### **Reading (10%)**

New Testament: You must read Matthew through Acts two times during the course, or you may read the material once and listen to the material once. The first reading must be completed by the end of the assigned week. The second reading must be completed by the last day of the course. (6%)

Course Texts: You must read the assigned material at least one time by the end of the assigned week. (4%)

### **Weekly Assignments/Discussion Board (20%)**

Weekly assignments will include a variety of reports, summaries, or discussions. Submissions will be due to the course discussion board by Saturday of each week. Responses to other students will be completed on Monday-Wednesday of the following week.

These assignments may include reports on a chapter from *Urban Legends of the New Testament* (selected chapters will be provided), the evaluation of commentaries, a description of New Testament resources, or summaries of assigned readings from Charlesworth. (Only one type of assignment will be required per week.) Templates and samples will be provided.

### **Quizzes (20%)**

Weekly quizzes will cover items from the reading, lectures, and handouts. Study guides will be provided. No tools or resources may be used on quizzes.

## **Exams (35%)**

Two major exams will cover items from the reading, lectures, and handouts. Study guides will be provided. No tools or resources may be used on exams.

## **Research Paper (15%)**

You will prepare one academic research paper addressing one specific issue related to Matthew-Acts. A thesis statement in the introduction should indicate the purpose of the paper and you should prove the thesis throughout the paper. The paper must be 8-15 pages and you must use 15+ sources, including books, commentaries, and articles. Additional instructions will be provided.

The paper will be submitted in two stages according to due dates in the Course Schedule below.

1. Paper topic and preliminary bibliography
2. Final paper

You may earn one extra week to complete the paper by working at least 20 hours on the paper by the original due date.

## **Bonus**

A variety of bonus assignments may enhance the final grade by up to three percent.

Reading: 1% extra on the final grade by reading Matthew-Acts a third time.

Reading: 1% extra on the final grade per 100 pages read from the following:

David Alan Black and David S. Dockery, eds., *Interpreting the New Testament: Essays on Methods and Issues*

Craig L. Blomberg, *The Historical Reliability of the New Testament*

Darrell L. Bock and Buist M. Fanning, eds., *Interpreting the New Testament Text: Introduction to the Art and Science of Exegesis*

Gary M. Burge, *A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion*

David A. Croteau, *Urban Legends of the New Testament: 40 Common Misconceptions*

Bruce W. Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*

I. Howard Marshall, *A Concise New Testament Theology or New Testament Theology*

Scot McKnight and Grant R. Osborne, eds., *The Face of New Testament Studies*

Leon Morris, *New Testament Theology*

Reading: 1% extra on the final grade per 50 pages read from *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* or *The Dictionary of New Testament Background*.

Other texts may be permitted with professor approval.

## Course/Classroom Policies and Information

### Textbook Plus

This course utilizes a textbook published by Zondervan. Zondervan has made a number of resources for these textbooks available for the student free of charge at their website: [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The student is expected to go to the site and enroll in the Textbook Plus program for free. From here, the student will be able to access the assigned videos, as well as many study materials for this course.

### Weekly Schedule

*Unless otherwise specified, all items are due by Saturday night at 11:59 pm.*

1. Read assigned material.
2. Watch lesson videos on Textbook Plus.
3. Respond to homework posts from the previous week (Monday-Wednesday).
4. Complete and post weekly assignment to the discussion board.
5. Complete the weekly quiz.
6. Complete the exam (Thursday-Saturday during exam weeks only).

### Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. Such participation may include the following: completing quizzes or exams; emailing faculty or class members as part of an assignment; discussion board posting or response; turning in an assignment; or other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. When unavoidable situations result in non-participation, 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 participation affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether participation affects course grades.

### Grading Scale

It is my desire for every student to learn the material well and earn a very strong grade. There is no pre-set number of A's, B's, etc., and I do not desire for any student to fail the course. I do not believe that a professor "gives grades." Rather, students earn grades. Accordingly, you will receive the grade that you earn for the course.

I welcome questions regarding the grading of an assignment or exam if you do so in a Christ-like manner.

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.

## **Identity Verification**

Students enrolled in Distance Education courses are required to present a photo ID to verify their participation in each course at the beginning of the term. Confirmation will occur through live-streamed meetings, video assignments, scheduled video conference calls, and/or another online video medium the instructor assigns.

## **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 Support**

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.

## Distance Education

Students participating in courses through Distance Education, with or without live interaction, must complete the academic requirements for those courses with the integrity and commitment necessary to participate in and benefit from all of the exercises provided by the instructor for learning the subject matter of the course. Therefore, credit for Distance Education courses is the same as credit for courses taken on campus.

## Course Outline/Calendar

The week will run from Monday-Saturday.

Date	Topics	Reading
January 19-23	Backgrounds of the New Testament: Historical and Socio-Economic	BCG 15-52 Charlesworth: 1-16, 82-137
January 25-30	Backgrounds of the New Testament: People and Text	BCG: 53-106 Charlesworth: 261- 282
February 1	Research Paper Topic and Bibliography Due	
February 1-6	Introduction to the Life of Christ	BCG: 107-164 Charlesworth: 483- 499
February 8-13	Mark	BCG: 179-194 Charlesworth: 551- 576 Mark
February 11-13	Exam 1: Backgrounds, Introduction to the Life of Christ, Mark	

February 15-20	Matthew	BCG: 165-178 Charlesworth: 577-599 Matthew
February 22-27	Luke	BCG: 195-212 Charlesworth: 600-623 Luke
March 1	Research Paper Due (Regular Date)	
March 1-6	John	BCG: 213-228 Charlesworth: 624-633 John
March 8	Research Paper Due (If Extra Time Earned)	
March 8-13	Acts	BCG: 229-248 Charlesworth: 634-662 Acts
March 11-13	Exam 2: Matthew, Luke, John, Acts	
March 13	Reading Reports Due	