



Online Course Syllabus

NTS501 L1

New Testament Introduction I

Spring 2022

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Steven Sanders

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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.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Summarize the contents of the New Testament gospels and Acts.
2. Be familiar with the method and tools required to research New Testament introductory issues.
3. Be familiar with the current state of research for at least one New Testament book.
4. Apply the contents of the New Testament gospels and Acts to his or her life.

Required Textbooks

McKnight, Scot, and Nijay K. Gupta. *The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019. (ISBN:978-0801098796)

Wright, N.T., and Michael T. Bird. *The New Testament in its World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2019. (ISBN:978-0310499305)

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Quizzes (30%): Students will take quizzes based on the assigned reading for each class session through Canvas. The two lowest grades will be dropped. The quizzes are open book and should be completed at the same time as the reading.
2. Discussion Boards (20%): Students will participate in weekly discussion boards on Canvas. Students will be required to post their 250 to 350 word answer to the given question by Sunday night. They will write a 100 word respond to another person's post by the following Wednesday night. The lowest discussion grade will be dropped.
3. Exams (20%): Students will take two exams through Canvas. Each exam will count for 10% of the final grade in the class. The midterm exam will cover Mark and Matthew. The final exam will cover Luke-Acts and John. Unlike the weekly quizzes, both exams will be closed book and closed notes. A list of covered topics will be available prior to each exam.
4. Research Paper (30%): Students will write a 10-12 page paper summarizing the current research in one book or area related to the class. Students must first choose to read one of the following chapters in McKnight

and Gupta: 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, or 17. Students will then schedule a Zoom call with the professor to discuss his or her topic. The Zoom call must be completed on or before February 18 and will also fulfill the identity verification requirement mentioned below. The paper will require at least three technical sources in addition to McKnight and Gupta. 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 May 13.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

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

			Grade Definitions (optional)
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.

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. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at 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. 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 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

Week	Open Date	Topic	Reading
1	Jan 18	Syllabus; What are the Gospels?	
2	Jan 24	Intertestamental History	Wright, 86-107
3	Jan 31	Mark 1:1-6:6a	Mark 1:1-6:6a Wright, 554-577
4	Feb 7	Mark 6:6b-10:52	Mark 6:6b-10:52 Wright, 680-699
5	Feb 14	Mark 11:1-16:8	Mark 11:1-16:8 Wright, 172-187
6	Feb 21	Matthew 1:1-11:1	Matthew 1:1-11:1 Wright, 578-603
7	Feb 28	Matthew 11:2-20:34	Matthew 11:2-20:34 Wright, 188-215
8	Mar 7	Matthew 21:1-28:20	Matthew 21:1-28:20 Wright, 216-241
9	Mar 21	Luke 1:1-9:50	Luke 1:1-9:50 Wright, 604-647
10	Mar 28	Luke 9:51-24:53	Luke 9:51-24:53 Wright, 242-261
11	Apr 4	Acts 1:1-12:25	Acts 1:1-12:25 Wright, 264-295
12	Apr 11	Acts 13:1-28:31	Acts 13:1-28:31 Wright, 296-315
13	Apr 18	John 1:1-12:50	John 1:1-12:50 Wright, 648-679
14	Apr 25	John 13:1-21:25	John 13:1-21:25 Wright, 316-333
15	May 2	Biblical Theology of the Gospels	
16	May 9-13	No class; Final Exam; Final Paper due	