



On-Campus Course Syllabus

NTS 315 L1

Topics in New Testament Studies

Fall 2022

Class Information

Day and Time: Mondays, 4:45-7:15 p.m.

Room Number: E207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Steven Sanders

Instructor Email: ssanders@criswell.edu

Instructor Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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 1st 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 1st 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. Cohick, Lynn H. *Women in the World of the Earliest Christians: Illuminating Ancient Ways of Life*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.
2. Glancy, Jennifer A. *Slavery as a Moral Problem: In the Early Church and Today*. Facets. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011. (ISBN: 978-0800696702)

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Reading (30%): Students are required to read the two textbooks listed above. Students must also read 100 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. Cohick is due September 26. Glancy is due October 31. The other reading is due December 9. Students will report on Canvas the amount that they have read by those dates.

2. Research Paper (40%): Students will write a 10-12 page research paper related to one of the topics discussed in class. Students must inform the professor of their topics by September 3. Papers must interact with at least four 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 9.
3. Response Papers (15%): Students will write three 1-2 page single spaced response papers on various topics covered in the course. The topics are women and children in the New Testament (due October 3), slavery in the New Testament (due November 7), and Jew/Gentile/Samaritan relations in the New Testament (due December 9). Requirements for each of these response papers will be posted on Canvas.
4. Positive Contribution (15%): These are controversial topics. It is healthy to have different opinions and understanding in these areas. However, Christians should promote unity and peace rather than division. Students will be expected to show up to class and contribute positively to the class in their own ways. Disagreements are acceptable, but they must be handled respectfully. This “assignment” will consist of three grades given for classroom participation. One grade will be given for classes held Aug 15 – Sept 26. One grade will be given for classes held Oct 3 – Oct 31. One grade will be given for classes held Nov 7 – Dec 5. If the student receives anything other than 100 for his or her grade, then the professor will notify him or her via email of the reasoning for the grade.

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.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure’s impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student’s Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses’ objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or

course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

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.

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. The Student Services Office also works with local

counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

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.

Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Topics	Assignments
Aug 15	Syllabus 1 st century Jewish and Hellenistic culture	
Aug 22	Women in the 1 st century Women in Jesus’ Ministry	
Aug 29	Women in Jesus’ Teaching Women in Paul’s Ministry	
Sept 12	Women in Paul’s Letters 1 Women in Paul’s Letters 2	
Sept 19	Children in the 1 st century Children in the NT	
Sept 26	Marriage and Singleness in the NT Takeaways – Women and Children	Cohick reading due
Oct 3	Roman Slavery in the 1 st century Slaves in Jesus’ ministry and teaching	Women response paper due
Oct 10	STUDENT DEVELOPMENT WEEK – NO CLASS	
Oct 17	Philemon Other Pauline passages on slavery	
Oct 24	Sexuality in the 1 st century Sexuality passages in the NT	
Oct 31	McKnight’s 4 Fields Takeaways - Slavery	Glancy reading due
Nov 7	New Perspectives in NT Scholarship	Slavery response paper due

	Jews and Gentiles in the 1 st century	
Nov 14	Gentiles in the Gospels Jews and Gentiles in Acts	
Nov 28	Jews and Gentiles in Paul's Letters Samaritans in the 1 st century and NT	
Dec 5	Disabled People in the 1 st c and NT Takeaways – Gentiles and Samaritans	
Dec 6-9	FINAL EXAM WEEK – NO CLASS	Other reading due; Gentiles response paper due; Research paper due