Credit Hours: 3
Classroom: Caldwell 11
Days and Times: M,W,F 11:10-12:00 AM

Contact Information
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Course Description
This course presents a general introduction to the books of the New Testament. It focuses on the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and selected Pauline writings. It gives special attention to the historical background and to the theological themes present in these works. Students are required to attend discussion sessions and write a reflection paper.

Required Texts

Course Goals
The goals of the course are (1) to familiarize students with the writings of the New Testament, specifically the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and selected Pauline writings; (2) to introduce students to the background of these works (3) and to enable students to participate actively in discussions on New Testament theology and related themes.

Goals for Student Learning
At the conclusion of this course, students should be familiar with the following:
(1) the historical background of each Gospel, the Acts of the Apostles some of the Pauline writings;
(2) the distinctive theological themes present in each of these writings
(3) the general content of the New Testament
(4) critical thinking about exegetical issues related to the study of the New testament
Course Requirements and Important Dates

(1) Active participation in class and in the discussion sessions.
(2) Completion of the required readings
(3) An essay which is due on **Monday, April 20th**. A paper submitted after the due date equals F for the paper.
(4) Midterm: **Friday, February 27th**. The midterm examination counts for 1/5 of the final grade. The midterm examination will require students to answer a number of essay questions based on class matter, the handouts that will be provided, the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, and the textbook. To prepare for the examination students should (a) re-read these gospels; (b) study the handouts discussed in class; re-read the introduction to the NAB. Students will be required to write a series of clear and coherent essays based on the study questions mentioned on the related handouts.
(5) Final examination: **Saturday May 9th from 1.30 to 2.30 PM**. The final examination counts for 1/5 of the final grade. The final examination will consist of a number of essay questions drawn from our study of the Gospel of John, the Acts of the Apostles and some Pauline writings (= letters to the Romans and Corinthians). To prepare for the examination students should (a) re-read these biblical texts; (b) study the handouts discussed in class. Students will be asked to write a series of clear and coherent essays based on the study questions mentioned on the related handouts.

Expectations and policies

**Class policies:**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend (a) all classes and discussion sessions; (b) participate actively. For these efforts they are rewarded with 2/5 of the final grade. There are no unexcused absences. Students are to remain in the classroom throughout the entire class period.

**Punctuality:**

Students are asked to come to class on time. Punctuality is a sign of courtesy and respect for others.

**Cell Phones:** Please shut off all cell phones and text messaging devices before attending class.

**Laptops:** Laptops are allowed in class but should be used **only** to take class notes.

**Academic honesty:**

Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication. The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm)): “The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate”.

Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm) and [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm).

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: [http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu](http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu).
Calculation of the grade
The final grade will be computed on the basis of:
- the paper (1/5)
- the quality of class participation (1/5)
- participation in discussion sessions (1/5)
- the midterm (1/5)
- the final exam (1/5)

Course Schedule

Session 1: January 12th-January 22nd (4 classes + 1 discussion session)
Content. (1) General introduction to the course: overview of the course and the syllabus; (2) General Introduction of the New Testament and the Gospels in particular. Classes deal with terminology, the books of the New Testament and their classification, the question why Christians read the Bible, the canon of the New Testament, the question what a gospel is, literary forms and literary genres, exegetical methods.
Reading. (1) The introduction of the NAB: (a) The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (pp. 11-18); (b) How to read your Bible (pp. 20-28)
Discussion 1: Friday January 22nd
Goals of the 1st session. After attending these classes students should
- understand the general structure of the New Testament
- understand certain exegetical terminology: Gospel vs. gospel, New Testament, Bible, literary forms and literary genres
- be able to look up biblical passages
- have a general notion of the growth and development of the canon of the New Testament
- be aware of the existence of different exegetical methods
- have an understanding of the growth of the Gospels

Session 2: January 26th –January 30th (3 classes): The Gospel of Mark
Content. (1) Mark: the first Gospel; (2) Authorship, audience, date and place of origin; (3) Structure of the text; (4) Central themes in the Gospel: Who is Jesus? The revelation of Jesus identity; the Passion narrative; the Resurrection.
Reading. The Gospel of Mark
Goals of the 2nd session: After attending these classes students should
- be aware of problems related to the authorship, audience, date and place of origin of the Gospel
- understand the central theological themes present in the gospel

Session 3: February 2nd –February 13th (4 classes + 1 discussion session): The Gospel of Matthew
Content. (1) Authorship, date and place of origin of the Gospel of Matthew; (2) Sources and style; (3) Structure of the text; (4) Central themes in the Gospel: Jesus the climax of Israel’s history, Christological titles, Jesus in Galilee and the call of the disciples, Jesus the teacher and miracle worker; disciples and master, Jesus and his opponents, the sermon on the mount, the bread section, the church section, Jesus in Jerusalem, suffering, death, and resurrection.
Reading. The Gospel of Matthew
Discussion 2: Friday, February 13th
Goals of the 3rd session: After attending these classes students should
- be aware of problems related to the authorship, audience, date and place of origin of the Gospel
- understand the central theological themes present in the gospel


Reading. The Gospel of Luke

Discussion 3: Friday February 20th

Goals of the 4th session: After attending these classes students should
- be aware of problems related to the authorship, audience, date and place of origin of the gospel
- understand the central theological themes present in the Gospel

Wednesday February 25th: General summary of the material treated in the classes. Possibility to ask additional questions related to the material.

Friday February 27: Midterm.

Session 5: March 9th- March 20th (4 classes + 1 discussion session): the Gospel of John

Content. (1) Authorship, audience, date and place of origin of the gospel of John; (2) The problem of sources; (3) Style; (4) Structure of the text; (5) Theological themes: the incarnation of the Word, discipleship, the role of John.

Reading. The Gospel of John

Discussion 4: Friday March 20th

Goals of the 5th session: After attending these classes students should
- be aware of problems related to the authorship, audience, date and place of origin of the Gospel
- understand the central theological themes present in the Gospel

Session 6: March 23rd – April 6th (6 classes + 1 discussion session): the Acts of the Apostles

Content. (1) Authorship, audience, date and place of origin of the Acts of the Apostles; (2) The problem of sources; (3) Style; (4) Structure of the text; (5) Theological themes: the call of Paul, the council at Jerusalem, the community of the disciples.

Reading. The Acts of the Apostles

Discussion 5: Friday April 3rd

Goals of the 6th session: After attending these classes students should
- be aware of problems related to the authorship, audience, date and place of origin of the Acts of the Apostles
- understand the central theological themes present in the Acts of the Apostles

Session 7: April 8th – April 27th (6 classes + 1 discussion session): Pauline writings

Content. (1) General overview of the Pauline writings: chronology, canonicity, authenticity; (2) Letters as a dominant genre of the New Testament; (4) Theological themes: righteousness, judgment, sin, the Law (letter to the Romans), Paul’s attitude towards (man and) women (Corinthians)

Reading. (1) The letters to the Romans; (2) 1 Corinthians

Discussion 6: Friday April 24th

Goals of the 7th session: After attending these classes students should
- understand the chronology, canonicity and authenticity of the Pauline writings
- be able to describe the genre ‘letters’
- discuss some important themes present in these letters of Paul
April 29th: general summary of course material in preparation for the final exam. Last possibility to ask additional questions about the materials discussed in class.

May 1st: Discussion session