

Asbury College

New Testament Survey

Student Guide

ACHIEVE

Degree Completion Program



knowledge elements
educational products

(KEEP)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the New Testament including events in the life of Christ, the development of the early church, the work of the followers of Christ, and the influence on organizations and people in the first century.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will:

1. Know the form and function of the major divisions of the New Testament literature.
2. Identify the major content areas of each book or letter including audience, purpose, theme and distinctive features.
3. Understand the major developments in the life of Christ on earth and gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is.
4. Have an understanding of the cultural, historical and political conditions in New Testament times, and know how these impact the understanding of the teaching of the New Testament Scriptures.
5. Be able to make personal application to the major truths taught in the New Testament.
6. Face the personal issues involved with becoming a disciple of Christ and know where to find the teachings that will enable him/her to walk closely with God.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Text:

Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey* with Interactive CD-ROM. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2005. ISBN 0-8010-2806-X.

Course Pack (2008). *New Testament Survey*. Franklin, TN: knowledge elements, inc. Reference Number BT28A-01.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Students in this accelerated course will be evaluated by the College's standard grading system. Refer to the Student Handbook or the College Catalog for further details. The criteria for determining that grade will be as follows:

1. (30%) Completion of assigned written exercises and reading (see Student Assignments pages for exact assignments).
2. (10%) Participation in class discussion and group activities. The criteria will be the quality and quantity of the contribution to the group.
3. (50%) Final Paper—Refer to the next page for instructions on how the Final Paper is to be prepared. The Final Paper will be due one week after the final class period delivered to the College, sent by e-mail, or postmarked on that date. Turning in the Final Paper late will result in a penalty on the grade for the Final Paper.
4. (10%) Quality of comments, insight and extent of learning as reflected in the student's journal. The student is required to write in the journal at the close of each class session and may add to it at other times such as after reading an assignment or completing an exercise. The journal is to be handed in with the Final Paper.

Attendance: Any class missed must be made up. The student is obligated to contact the instructor to make suitable arrangements in case of any absence or tardiness. Unexcused absences and absences not made up will adversely affect the student's grade.

Late Work Or Work Not Handed In: Any written exercise or the Final Paper handed in after 6 p.m. on the due date will result in a reduction of the grade for that item. Any item not turned in will result in an "F" for that item and a reduction in grade for the course.

FINAL PAPER

Each student must complete a Final Paper. Students may use any material in developing the Final Paper, but every word (unless expressly quoted with appropriate credits given) must be that of the student submitting the paper. Any use of material written by another person without credit given will be considered plagiarism which will result in at least an "F" for the Final Paper.

Students are encouraged to begin notes on how they will respond to the Final Paper as they progress through the course including making notations in their class notes or in their journals. The journal is intended to be a major help in producing the Final Paper. As a result, it is very important that the journal writing be taken seriously. In addition, the journal itself constitutes a part of the student's grade for the course.

The Final Paper should be submitted in typewritten, double-spaced form on one side only of 8½" x 11" white paper. A cover sheet should clearly indicate the student's name, course title, instructor's name and the date submitted. The Final Paper will be due one week after the final class period.

The Final Paper should be a consideration of the guidelines, principles and concepts students have learned in this course as well as an application of those principles. Respond to the following topics thoroughly:

1. Study the parable of the soils (Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-25; and Luke 8:5-18, including other verses in context), noting how the soils in the parable of the sower are displayed in the differing attitudes toward Jesus of His family, religious leaders, the crowds and His disciples. Included should be a note of personal application. Write a one- or two-page paper on your findings.
2. Write a two-page paper on either one of the Prison Epistles or one of the Pastoral Epistles and a two-page paper on one of the General Epistles stating what would be missing if these two letters were left out of our Bibles. Include the occasion, conditions of the church, the purpose and key characteristics of the letters. State one important lesson learned or biblical principle from each letter (book), and relate how this particular lesson or principle impacts your life.
3. Prepare a one- or two-page paper summarizing how Christ and His followers influenced organizations and people of their day, and how knowledge of these New Testament principles/truths can impact your organization and those with whom you work.

COURSE OVERVIEW

We will begin our study of the New Testament with a focus upon each Gospel's unique perspective on Jesus and upon harmonizing the separate accounts of Jesus' life into a chronologically meaningful sequence. Following a study of the book of Acts, which contains materials related to the expansion and missionary activities of the church, we will look at the Pauline Epistles. Most of them can be set into a specific time fitting into the events of the book of Acts. The epistles that follow these are called the General Epistles and are identified by the name of their author. The concluding book of the New Testament is the book of Revelation.

A major thrust in this study will be to understand the outworking of God's purposes. You are encouraged to make application of the normative principles found in the New Testament.

The textbook chosen for this course is *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey* written by Walter Elwell and Robert Yarbrough. It comes with a CD designed to be an aid to your study. If you have access to a computer that can play this CD, you should become acquainted with it. The CD contains video clips of the authors and biblical lands, photos of the New Testament world, maps, interactive review questions and visual organizers.

You will also be encouraged to read in the text of the New Testament. Please take advantage of these assignments. Too often students read about the Bible and never have opportunity to read the Bible itself. If you do not have a good study Bible, this would be a good time to buy one. I would recommend one that uses a more modern translation of the Bible such as the New International Version. This should be a matter of your own personal preference. The old standard study Bible is the Thompson Chain Reference. One of the more popular newer additions to this Bible study tool is the Life Application Study Bible. Whatever you get is only as good as it is used.

Allow the texts to speak to you. You may want to spend times in prayer in connection with these readings. It is my prayer that this study will lead you closer to God and that you will come away from it with a greater sense of His purpose for your life.

LOGISTICS CHART

Hour	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
1	Introduction to the Course Why Study the New Testament? Background to the New Testament	Review Previous Week's Material; Answer Questions The Gospel of John	Review Previous Week's Material; Answer Questions The Book of Acts The Early Jerusalem Church	Review Previous Week's Material; Answer Questions Romans I and II Corinthians	Review Previous Week's Material; Answer Questions Hebrews
2	(continued) The Synoptic Problem	The Man from Galilee	(continued) Expansion in the Eastern Mediterranean	(continued) Galatians	(continued) James
3	Break The Gospel of Matthew The Sermon on the Mount	Break The Passion Narrative The Teaching Ministry of Jesus	Break Missionary Outreach	Break Colossians and Philemon Ephesians and Philippians	Break I and II Peter I, II, III John and Jude
4	(continued) The Gospel of Mark The Gospel of Luke Journal Entry	Modern Approaches to the Gospels The World of the Early Church Journal Entry	Arrest and Trials Paul, the Apostle Journal Entry	(continued) I and II Thessalonians I, II Timothy and Titus Journal Entry	Revelation Journal Entry Course Evaluation

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Week One

1. Read Elwell and Yarbrough, Chapters 1-6 (pp. 19-106), giving written responses to study questions 1, 4 and 5 on page 35; 1, 5, 6 and 9 on page 67; 1 and 2 on page 75; 1 on page 85; 1 and 6 on page 95; and 1 and 5 on page 106.
2. Read Matthew 5-7; Mark 8:27-9:38; Luke 1:1-4; 15:11-32 and be prepared to enter into class discussion related to the issues found therein.

Week Two

1. Read Elwell and Yarbrough, Chapters 7-11 (pp. 107-179) and Chapter 13 (pp. 193-207), giving written responses to study questions 1 and 5 on page 115; 1, 2 and 7 on page 134; 3 and 5 on page 151; 2, 5 and 6 on page 166; 2 on page 178; and 5, 7 and 8 on page 206.
2. Read John 1:1-18 and 10:1-18 and be prepared to enter into class discussion related to the issues found therein.

Week Three

1. Read Elwell and Yarbrough, Chapters 14-17 (pp. 209-271), giving written responses to study questions 2, 4 and 5 on page 220; 3, 4 and 5 on page 235; 2, 3 and 5 on page 250; and 1, 6 and 9 on page 270.
2. Read Acts 2:36-48 and Romans 3:21-31 and be prepared to enter into class discussions related to the issues found therein.

Week Four

1. Read Elwell and Yarbrough, Chapters 18-21 (pp. 273-344), giving written responses to study questions 3, 4 and 5 on page 286; 3, 4 and 5 on page 305; 2, 4, 5 and 6 on page 325; and 1, 3, 4 and 5 on page 343.
2. Read "Three Big Questions" in the Course Pack.
3. Read Romans 8:28-38 and be prepared to enter into class discussions related to the issues found therein.

Week Five

1. Read Elwell and Yarbrough, Chapters 22-24 and the Epilogue (pp. 347-394), giving written responses to study questions 1, 3, 5 and 6 on page 359; 2, 3 and 6 on page 385; 1 and 5 on page 394; and the following study questions on page 373: 1 and 4 on I Peter; 1 on II Peter; and 2 and 3 on I John.
2. Read Hebrews 11:1-6 and be prepared to enter into class discussions on the issues found therein.
3. Read "Interpreting the Book of Revelation" and "How Is Revelation to Be Interpreted?" in the Course Pack.