

NT 5000: Introduction to the New Testament (4 hrs)

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School – Hudson Extension
Tuesdays, January 8 through April 16, 6:00-9:00 pm

Dr. David B. Sloan
614-678-2032
david@davidbsloan.com

*** Please note that some readings are to be done before the first class.**

Course Description

Introductory survey of the New Testament, including the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, apostolic history, New Testament literature, principal critical issues, and the unity and diversity of New Testament theology. *Four hours.*

Course Objectives

This course is designed to equip students with *interest* (#1 below), *abilities* (#2 and 3), and *knowledge* (#2, 4, and 5) in New Testament studies. By the end of this course the student should:

1. have an increased *passion* for the Bible;
2. be able to *interpret* the New Testament in its *cultural, literary, and theological* contexts due to a basic competency in
 - a. the historical, social, religious, and political *culture* of the New Testament,
 - b. the *setting and purpose* of each individual New Testament book,
 - c. and the *theology* of the New Testament as a whole;
3. be able to *apply* the New Testament in a *modern* context;
4. know the *stories* of Jesus and the early church; and
5. be able to discuss the *authority and reliability* of the New Testament.

Course Textbooks

- Gary M. Burge, 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). [NTA]
- Kent L. Yinger, *The New Perspective on Paul: An Introduction* (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2011).
- *The New Testament* in a standard translation such as ESV, NIV, NRSV, HCSB, KJV, NASB. Paraphrases such as the Message, the Living Bible, or the Good News Bible will **not** be permitted. A major **study Bible**, such as the *HCSB Study Bible*, the *ESV Study Bible*, or the *NIV Study Bible*, is **recommended**. A good study Bible gives introductions to each book of the Bible and comments on many of the verses and can serve as a good reference tool that you will enjoy having long after this class is done.

Course Requirements

1. **Preparation, Attendance, and Participation** (30%) – Readings and reflection questions will be assigned for every class. Each student will be expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and answered the questions thoughtfully. This will help our class discussions to be the most meaningful. **For the first week** there are no reflection questions to answer, but **read chapters 1-4 of *The New Testament in Antiquity***. For later class meetings, answers should be submitted by email before class begins.
2. **Background Research Projects** (20%) – Two **two-page, single-spaced** research papers will be written and presented to the class. The goal is to increase your understanding of the world of the New Testament so that when you read the New Testament you are reading it with a shared understanding with the original audience. For your topic, choose either a town (e.g. Antioch, Corinth, Pergamum), a group (e.g. the scribes, the Pharisees, the Samaritans), or a custom (e.g. korban, Passover, taxes) mentioned in the New Testament. Research the matter in **at least four sources** (dictionaries, commentaries, studies). Summarize your findings in about 1-1/2 pages and then relate those findings to **a passage in the New Testament**, explaining how your findings help you understand the passage. Due dates are to be determined based on the topic.
3. **Take-Home Midterm Exam** (15%) – A take-home exam on Jesus and the Gospels will be due by email by the end of the day on **Tuesday, February 19**.
4. **Lesson Plan** (15%) – Select a New Testament book and divide it into a series of lessons. Using basic tools of Biblical interpretation (concordance, Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias, at least two commentaries), give for each lesson: (1) the verses to be covered; (2) the main point of the lesson (not just a title, but the main thesis of the passage); (3) a simple outline of how the lesson will be taught (about three points; give subpoints if applicable); (4) a list of any historical, cultural, or theological issues that you would want to research before teaching this passage; and (5) a brief note about modern applications that will be discussed in the lesson. Include a bibliography of resources that you would use as you teach this series. Due by email before class begins on **Tuesday, April 16**.
5. **Take-Home Final Exam** (20%) – A comprehensive take-home final exam will be due by email by the end of the day on **Friday, April 26**.

Grading Scale

93–100% = A	90–92.9% = A-	
87–89.9% = B+	83–86.9% = B	80–82.9% = B-
77–79.9% = C+	73–76.9% = C	70–72.9% = C-
67–69.9% = D+	63–66.9% = D	60–62.9% = D-
59.9% and below = F		

Academic Integrity Policy

Any work that you submit for this class is presumed to be *your own original work* that has *not previously been submitted for credit in another course* unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from the professor. If you use words or ideas that you have found in publications, web

sites, or other sources, *you must fully identify the original source* and the extent of your use of the words or ideas in this source.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend *each and every* session throughout the entire course period. Due to the nature of Extension classes, attendance at all sessions is especially important. Missing even an hour of a class means a significant portion of the required contact with the instructor and learning community has been lost. For this reason, students missing any portion (hours) of an Extension course can result in a grade reduction; missing more than two class sessions *will* result in a grade reduction and possibly failing the course.

In the case of *extreme* emergency or unforeseen circumstances (family emergencies, death, etc.) the student should contact the instructor and secure the necessary permission to miss time in a class and make up the missed class time and assignments. Vacations, ministry responsibilities and travel plans are not considered emergencies and such requests will be denied. As the schedule for the Extension courses is set ahead of time, students should plan ahead to be sure they will be able to make it to all class sessions before they register. If the emergency necessitates a longer absence the student should contact the Dean of Students to request an extension of time, or in rare instances a withdrawal from the class without penalty.

Course Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1/8	Introduction	NTA Chapters 1–4
1/15	Introduction to the Gospels	NTA 5–6
1/22	Gospel of Mark	NTA 9, The Gospel of Mark
1/29	Gospel of Matthew	NTA 7–8, The Gospel of Matthew
2/5	Gospel of John	NTA 11, The Gospel of John
2/12	Gospel of Luke	NTA 10; Bailey, “The Manger and the Inn” ; Sloan, “Interpreting Scripture with Satan?” ; The Gospel of Luke
2/19	Acts of the Apostles	NTA 12, Acts; Midterm Exam due
2/26	Intro to Paul, Galatians	NTA 13–14; Yinger, <i>New Perspective</i> ; Schreiner, “Another Look at the New Perspective” ; Galatians
3/5	Romans	NTA 18, Romans
3/12	1 Corinthians	NTA 16, 1 Corinthians
3/19	2 Corinthians, 1–2 Thessalonians	NTA 15, 17, 1–2 Thessalonians, 2 Corinthians
3/26	Prison and Pastoral Epistles	NTA 19–21, Philemon; Colossians; Ephesians; Philippians; 1–2 Timothy; Titus
4/2	Hebrews and James	NTA 22–23, Hebrews, James
4/9	1–2 Peter, 1–3 John, Jude	NTA 24–25, 1–2 Peter; 1–3 John; Jude
4/16	Revelation	NTA 26–27, Revelation; Lesson Plan due
F 4/26		Final Exam due

Recommended Reference Works for Research

Bible Encyclopedias

1. *Lexham Bible Dictionary* (free: <https://www.logos.com/product/36564/lexham-bible-dictionary>)
2. IVP Bible Dictionary Series, 4 vols.:
Volume 1. Green, J. B., S. McKnight, and I. H. Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2013.
Volume 2. Hawthorne, G. F., R. P. Martin, and D. G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993.
Volume 3. Martin, R. P. and P. H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.
Volume 4. Evans, C. A. and S. E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of NT Background*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.
3. Freedman, David N., ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1993.
4. Vanhoozer, K. J., ed. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
5. Sakenfeld, K. D., ed. *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 6 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006-2009.
6. Bromiley, G. W., ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia [ISBE]*, revised. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979–1988.

New Testament Backgrounds

1. Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Biblical Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993.
2. Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
3. Scott, J. Julius, Jr. *Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
4. Evans, Craig A. *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies: A Guide to the Background Literature*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2005.

New Testament History

1. Barnett, Paul. *Jesus & the Rise of Early Christianity: A History of New Testament Times*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2002.
2. Witherington, Ben, III. *New Testament History: A Narrative Account*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

New Testament Theology

1. Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
2. Marshall, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.

Other Recommended Works

1. Beale, G. K. and D. A. Carson, eds., *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

2. Carson, D. A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
3. Bailey, Kenneth E. *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2008.
4. Pennington, Jonathan T. *Reading the Gospels Wisely: A Narrative and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.
5. Gombis, Timothy G. *The Drama of Ephesians: Participating in the Triumph of God*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010.
6. Gorman, Michael J. *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness—Following the Lamb into the New Creation*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2010.

Commentaries on Individual New Testament Books

See <http://bestcommentaries.com/new-testament-commentaries/>

or <https://denverseminary.edu/resources/news-and-articles/new-testament-exegesis-bibliography-2018/>