

Spring 2021
Zoom (Link on Moodle)
Friday (1/15; 2/19; 3/19; 4/16) 7:00–9:00pm
Saturday (1/16; 2/20; 3/20; 4/17) 8:30am–3:00pm

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Zoom Appts: <https://goo.gl/7VYctV>

Introduction to the New Testament

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God – Mark 1:1

DRAFT

In light of the COVID public health situation and in order to maximize pedagogical effectiveness, TEDS is complying with local guidelines regarding social distancing. Due to the nature of this class, it is being offered in a synchronous video conference format only. There will be no face to face section offered. You should not anticipate that the course sessions will be recorded for this course. All students should plan to attend at the scheduled time. Students will be expected to have video cameras turned on throughout the course session and should have their microphones muted, unless they are asking a question.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introductory survey of the New Testament, including the life and ministry of Christ, apostolic history, New Testament literature, principal critical issues, and the unity and diversity of New Testament theology. *Three hours.* (From TEDS Catalog)

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- articulate an overview of the content of the NT.
- grasp more fully the context (historical, social, religious, political) of the NT world.
- evaluate the critical issues surrounding NT interpretation.
- synthesize the main themes of NT theology and their significance.
- apply the NT to one's personal life, witness, and ministry.
- deepen one's love for and devotion to the Lord through interaction with his Word and one another

III. COURSE TEXTS

Bible (Accepted translations, alphabetized: CSB, ESV, NASB, NIV, NKJV, NLT, NRSV)
Campbell, Constantine R. and Jonathan T. Pennington. *Reading the New Testament as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020. (ISBN: 978-0801097928)

Abbreviation below: *RNT*

IV. COURSE EVALUATION

1. **Class Participation** (5%): Students are expected to: attend every class, arrive punctually, contribute to (fruitful) in-class discussions, and refrain from disrupting class. Excessive disruptions (e.g., talking) or disengagement (e.g., texting, watching cat videos on YouTube) will affect this grade component. Please note: students with excessive absences will be in danger of failing the course.

2. **Reading Comprehension Questions** (25%): For each set of readings, you will answer a series of questions on Moodle. Your answer to each question should be roughly 250 words (+/- 10%) and interact with your textbook. Parenthetical references should be included as follows (Campbell et al., 50). **Due before the start of each weekend session.**

3. **Essay Plan** (10%): **Due February 19 at 7:00 pm.**
 - Each student will prepare a **300-500-word** plan for their research essay. (Word count does not include bibliography.)
 - Choose a prompt:
 1. Select one of the key themes (or major narratives) for a Synoptic Gospel (preferably one discussed in class) and compare that with how the theme is presented in the Gospel of John.
 2. Compare and contrast Paul's argument, structure, tone, etc. in the Epistle to the Galatians with another of Paul's Epistles or the Epistle to the Hebrews.
 3. Discuss how one key theme is expressed in the General/Catholic Epistles collection (e.g., perseverance, false teachers, community/church).
 4. Identify the main message of Revelation and trace that theme throughout John's Apocalypse.
 - The plan (with some license to change) will include:
 1. a tentative thesis statement;
 2. a one-paragraph summary of your argument;
 3. an outline of your essay that corresponds to summary;
 4. a bibliography of at least 8 primary and secondary sources, including monographs (scholarly books), journal articles, essays, commentaries, dictionary articles, etc.
 - **Please note:** if you select a new topic for your essay, you will need to submit another essay plan for review (unless told otherwise).

4. **Research Essay** (30%): 2500 words (+/- 10%; including footnotes; excluding bibliography, cover page, and appendix); 12 pt Times New Roman; double-spaced; Chicago Manual of Style. **Due April 23 at 11:59 pm.**
 - Must build upon your essay plan and the corrections and revisions you have made to the plan and include your revised Essay Plan as an appendix.
 - Must use more than 10 scholarly sources (see 2 above for criteria)

5. **Essay Presentation** (10%): On **April 17**, you will offer a short (5- to 10- minute) presentation of the conclusions from your research paper. This should be carefully prepared and fit within the timeframe provided. A handout or other resource for your fellow students is not required, but would be welcomed.
6. **Final Exam** (20%): Your final examination (taken on Moodle) will be comprehensive and cover content from the lectures, readings, and assignments. (Expect Reading Comprehension Questions to appear again!) **Due May 13 at 11:59 pm.**

V. COURSE EVALUATION (2): STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

1. **Submission:** Assignments must be submitted on Moodle on their due date. (If they are not submitted on Moodle, then they are late.) Please make sure your submission has been successful. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day but will not be accepted more than 5 days late. The only exception for assignments (and quizzes) is a Dean approved absence.

2. Grade Scale

A	96–100	B	87–89	C	77–80
A-	93–95	B-	84–86	C-	72–76
B+	90–92	C+	81–83	D	65–71

VI. OTHER POLICIES AND RESOURCES

1. **Students with a Documented Disability:** In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Trinity Evangelical Divinity school to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or academic adjustments, and services to students with a documented disability to help ensure an equal educational opportunity. Students seeking these services should contact Student Services.
2. **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** The community at Trinity International University promotes a commitment to integrity in all areas of life. In the case of breaches of academic honesty such as plagiarism or cheating on examinations, the matter will be reported to the Dean/Associate Dean of Students. Students should be advised that normally in cases of academic dishonesty or plagiarism the penalty shall be a “0” for the assignment and an “F” for the course. For the full policy, please see the *TEDS/TGS Student Guide*.
3. **Course Extensions:** Course extensions may not be granted by the professor past the final day of exam week, and are granted only for very exceptional reasons. Requests for course extensions must be made to the Dean of Students office. Grades of “incomplete” are not granted at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Please Note: In addition to your textbook readings, you must also read the relevant portions of the NT.

Weekend 1: Introduction to the NT and Gospel Studies

1. Readings: *RNT*, chs. 1–5
2. Reading Comprehension Questions
3. Watch Lecture Videos

Weekend 2: The Gospels, Acts, and Pauline Studies

1. Readings: *RNTA*, chs. 6–11
2. Reading Comprehension Questions
3. Complete Essay Plan
4. Watch Lecture Videos

Weekend 3: The Pauline Letters

1. Readings: *RNT*, chs. 12–22
2. Reading Comprehension Questions
3. Watch Lecture Videos

Weekend 4: Hebrews, the Catholic Epistles, and Revelation – and Presentations!

1. Readings: *NTA*, chs. 23–30
2. Reading Comprehension Questions
3. Prepare Paper Presentation
4. Watch Lecture Videos

Please note: This provides a basic overview of what is due, but a breakdown of our time and a more detailed schedule will be uploaded on Moodle prior to class.