New Testament Theology and History  
NEWT IS03  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Winter Semester, 2016 Online

Instructor: Andy Reimer, PhD  
Email: areimer@naiits.com  
Phone: 403-470-5370

To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to http://academics.naiits.com/  
NOTE: If you do not currently have an id and login for the course site, please email moodle@naiits.com and request to be enrolled in the course.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of the contents and theology of the New Testament as read, interpreted, and applied in multiple ancient and modern contexts. Standard New Testament introductory matters (e.g., date, authorship, source theories, composition) will be covered as well as interpretive tools and techniques. Primary emphasis will be placed on exploring the New Testament in its own socio-political and socio-religious world with an eye to applying New Testament teachings and theology in contemporary socio-political and socio-religious worlds, including urban and traditional indigenous contexts.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1.) Have been introduced to and be able to demonstrate a competent understanding of the issues and concerns brought to the study of the New Testament by critical biblical scholars.

2.) Be able to apply relevant interpretive tools and techniques on New Testament texts with some degree of competence.

3.) Demonstrate an imaginative engagement with and be able to thoughtfully discuss the social, religious, and political context of Jesus and the first 70 years of the Jesus’ movement/early Church that provide the ancient context for interpreting NT texts.

4.) Identify contemporary applications of NT texts by noting similarities and differences between ancient contexts and various contemporary contexts, including but not limited to North American Aboriginal contexts.
5.) Have been exposed to and be able to demonstrate some understanding of New Testament theological language and themes; have explored various ways these may be reapplied in contemporary context, including but not limited to pastoral and systematic theology.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS


• New Testament (modern English translation; you may stay with a Bible you are familiar with but if you are looking for a Bible for study purposes consider the following three; translation theories and choices will be discussed in class)
  o Joel B. Green, ed., *Common English Bible Study Bible with Apocrypha* (CEB, 2013).
  o For just the CEB text (valuable for detailed analysis) see: [http://www.commonenglishbible.com/explore/passage-lookup](http://www.commonenglishbible.com/explore/passage-lookup)
  o For just the NRSV text (valuable for detailed analysis) see: [http://bible.oremus.org/](http://bible.oremus.org/)
  o *New Living Translation Study Bible* (Tyndale, 2008).

B. SUPPLEMENTARY/RECOMMENDED READING

Other reading materials will be provided in the online classroom.

C. ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

1. Reading and Discussion of Textbook (Reading due end of 1st week of Unit; Discussion 2nd week)

For each unit, students must read an assigned portion of the Powell textbook for the first half of the unit. Student must then provide a 150-300 word response (in total) to the assigned reading based on the instructor’s questions. As part of the second half of the unit, students must interact briefly with other students’ responses.

2. Reading and Discussion of “Virtual Lecture(s)” (Reading due end of 1st week of Unit; Discussion 2nd week)

For each unit, students must read all other assigned readings (typically virtual lectures) for the first half of the unit. Halfway through the unit, students must provide a 200-350 word response (in total) to the readings based on the questions the instructor will pose. In the second half of the unit, students will then interact with each other’s responses.

3. NT Literacy Quiz (Due at the latest, February 27)
In the first unit, students will be provided with some basic facts and information on the context and contents of the NT. These will form the basis for a NT literacy quiz that the students can complete any time during the first 3 units of the course.

4. A Close Reading (Due at the latest, March 26)

Students will be introduced to narrative critical analysis and exegetical techniques for epistolary texts (NT letters). Students may choose to work with either a narrative text (Gospels or Acts) or a section of a Pauline letter and apply the analytical techniques demonstrated in the virtual class.

5. Applied or Academic Project Based on NT Text (Due at time of presentation, April 4)

Students may discuss any particular interest they have that is based on a New Testament text and create a project they will submit to the instructor and share with the rest of the class (on the last week of class). It can be either an academic research paper or an applied project (related to other involvements, experiences, or interests a student may have). Possibilities will be discussed further during the course and in consultation with the instructor. Students need to have their projects approved by the instructor by midcourse (Feb 27).

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Course Workload
Hours of work / credit hour: The total number of work hours including class time for a 3-credit course is 125-135 hours over the course of a semester. A 1-credit course has 40-45 hours of work including class time over the course of a semester. Because people work at different rates, the actual number of hours per individual may vary.

Student Commitment to Learning
Assignment Due Dates: You are required to meet all deadlines for assignments and activities as outlined in the schedule. Late work will automatically lose one letter grade following the submission deadline and a further grade for each weekday it is delinquent beyond the due date. You will need to contact the professor, preferably in advance, for consideration due to extenuating circumstances.

Learning Community Engagement
Class attendance and regular online participation is required in order to create a robust community-learning environment. Therefore, if you are unable to engage online or in class for more than 3 weeks throughout the course, you will receive at least a letter grade reduction. If you miss 4 or more weeks throughout the course, you will not pass the class. In addition, hybrid courses require full participation at intensive F2F sessions. If you miss more than 3 hours of F2F in a hybrid course, you cannot pass the class.

All coursework is due on the dates listed.

All coursework must have student name and student number, as well as the full name and code of your particular course, and delivered online via MOODLE or to the following email address:
areimer@naitst.com
Coursework submitted after the final due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal Request for an Extension to coursework, will receive a grade of “F.” Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.” Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Inclusive Language
Use inclusive language, images, and metaphors for humans in classroom dialogue, in-class presentations, online interactions, and all writing assignments.

Academic Integrity
Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

NAIITS and its partner institutes (George Fox, Tyndale, Wheaton College, Providence UC, Acadia) maintain a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the program. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean. It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of NAIITS and its partners.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at http://tyndale.ca/registrar. For proper citation style, consult the Chicago-Style Quick Guide (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the Chicago Manual of Style Online, especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textbook Reading &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual Lecture Reading &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT Literacy Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Close Reading (Narrative or Epistle)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
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F. COURSE EVALUATION
Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and
improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a reminder to complete the evaluation with a link to the online course evaluation on the Moodle platform. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed.

### IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT and REQUIRED READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topics*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Jan 11-16</td>
<td>Orientation to the Moodle classroom, Share backgrounds, Discussion and Q&amp;A on Course Related Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1: Jan 18-30</td>
<td>Introduction; OT backdrop; Political, Social and Religious World of Jesus; Theological theme—“The ‘Christ/Messiah’ and Kingdom of God”; NT book covered—Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2: Feb 1-13</td>
<td>Narrative Criticism; Epistles &amp; Exegesis; Theological theme—“Political Power, the Poor and Jesus’ Upside-Down Kingdom”; NT books covered—Matthew and Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3: Feb 15-27</td>
<td>Theological theme—“The ‘Father’ and the ‘Son’ and Eternal Life”; NT books covered—Gospel and Letters of John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4: Feb 29-Mar 12</td>
<td>The Pagan World of Paul; Theological theme—“The Spirit and the Birth of the Church”; NT book covered—Acts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 5: Mar 14-Mar 26</td>
<td>Theological theme—“The ‘Lord’ and the ‘Spirit’: God’s covenant righteousness and faithfulness”; NT books covered—Letters of Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 6: Mar 28-Apr 9</td>
<td>Theological theme—“The Return of the King”; NT books covered—General Epistles and Revelation; How we ended up with a NT</td>
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*Subject to change through instructor/student re-negotiation