

New Testament Survey
CHR 112
(3 hrs.)



Dr. George H. Guthrie
Union University
Fall 2007

I. Purpose of the Course

New Testament Survey, as the title suggests, is a course designed to provide you with a general overview of the New Testament Scriptures with regard to matters of background, content, and application. Using the New Testament as the primary textbook, we will survey matters of general introduction, the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, and the birth, growth, and message of the Early Church. In the course we will attempt to relate the message of the New Testament to your contemporary context and personal relationship with God.

II. Goals of the Course

- A. To increase your knowledge of the historical, geographical, cultural, theological, and ethical facts that form the foundation of the New Testament.
- B. To teach you to interpret the basic historical, theological, and ethical messages of the New Testament in their original contexts.
- C. To encourage you to grow in your ability to apply New Testament truths to your life and world.
- D. To assist you in developing a love for the New Testament that will result in a walk with God, commitment to the community of faith, and further study of the Bible.
- E. To enable you to apply New Testament truths to leadership roles in society in general and in the local church in particular.
- F. To encourage you to have a great time doing all of the above.

III. Textbooks

A. *A Copy of the Bible*

There are many excellent translations of the Bible. You may use your own translation of the Bible, if that translation is readable and understandable to you. For reading, the professor recommends *The New Living Translation* by Tyndale Publishers or the *Holman Christian Standard Bible* translation. You will read the whole of the New Testament this semester.

- B. Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament*, 2nd ed. Baker, 2005.
- C. Longenecker, Bruce. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*. Baker Academic, 2002.
- D. Guthrie, George H. *New Testament Survey Course Notebook (revised 2007 edition)*. Note: you must use the new version of this notebook, since the format, projects, and additional tools included in it will be in sync with class presentations.

IV. Assignments & Quizzes

A. Reading Assignments

We will do a lot of reading for the term, including the New Testament itself, the text from Elwell and Yarbrough, a narrative work, and several online articles. As you complete a reading assignment, **circle it in your course schedule and write the date completed to the right in the margin**. You will be asked for a “reading report” at numerous points throughout the term; you must turn in **a copy** of your Course Schedule **with the percentage indicated on it**. This means you will have to do the math:

$$\text{total pages read} \div \text{total pages assigned} = \text{percentage read}$$

Each time you figure the percentage, do so **for that section of the class just completed**. In other words, on September 14 you will report on all the reading assigned for the term to that point. October 5 you will report on all reading assigned for the weeks since September 14, etc. These reading percentage grades will be averaged for the final reading grade. You will be penalized 5 points for late percentage reports (this includes those that are not completed correctly and must be redone!).

In addition, you are responsible to be ready to discuss in class on the day a reading is due the review questions at the end of each chapter in *Encountering the New Testament*.

B. Quizzes

We will take quizzes over class notes approximately every two weeks. One or two of these will be dropped at the end of the term and the rest will be averaged for your quiz grade. There are no make-ups on quizzes. If you have an excused absence on the day of a quiz, that will be a dropped quiz grade for you.

C. Exams

We will take two sectional exams and a final exam in the course. Dr. Guthrie will explain the content of the sectional exams the week prior to the exams themselves. The final will be comprehensive. Each exam will be taken from class notes.

D. Projects

You will complete projects throughout the term. The projects are designed to help you engage in Bible Study on the New Testament text. **Late projects, no matter how late, begin with a 20 POINT PENALTY!** A paper is considered late if it is turned in after it is taken up in class. In other words, if you forget and leave your project in your room on the day it is due and do not bring it to class, it is late. Two project grades will be dropped at the end of the term.

Approximately 50% of the Daily Projects will be graded as “Complete” or “Incomplete” and approximately 50% will be given a percentage grade. Those given a percentage grade will be assessed a grade as follows:

100 – extraordinary work; extremely thorough, demonstrating a masterful grasp of the concepts addressed by the project.

95 – excellent work; thorough and neat, demonstrating a good grasp of the concepts addressed by the project; very strong effort, well above average.

90 – good work; fairly thorough, showing good effort, though more work is needed in areas; above average; may be somewhat messy

85 – average work; basic assignment completed but seemed rushed with only basic effort and thought given; may be messy

80 – below average work; assignment only partially completed; little effort; may be messy; OR a very good assignment turned in late

75 – poor work; bare minimum effort; may be messy

60 – inadequate; OR an average assignment turned in late

0 – assignment not turned in

V. Method of Instruction

"Interactive Lecture" is the basic method of instruction in this course. Dr. Guthrie will lecture and constantly will ask for volunteers to answer questions or read from the New Testament. We also will utilize discussion groups and audio-visual materials.

VI. Method of Evaluation

A. Your grade for the term will be determined as follows:

<i>Sectional Exams</i>	<i>30% of grade</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>20% of grade</i>
<i>Reading</i>	<i>20% of grade</i>
<i>Biweekly Quizzes</i>	<i>10% of grade</i>
<i>Projects</i>	<i>20% of grade</i>

NO EXTRA WORK WILL BE ASSIGNED TO MAKE UP A GRADE DEFICIENCY!

B. The grading scale will be as follows:

A	95-100	Excellent
B	85-94	Good
C	75-84	Average
D	65-74	Poor
F	55-64	Failing

VII. Policies on Attendance and Cheating

A. Attendance & Tardies

Regular class attendance is required for the successful completion of this course. Class absences are considered **excused** or **non-excused**. A written excuse for class absence must be given to the professor immediately upon the student's return to class.

Also, ***three times late to class equals an absence***. Coming to class late hurts you and the class. You miss important material, quizzes, and explanation of assignments; you cause the class to be distracted in the middle of a lecture. If you have a legitimate reason for being late, please discuss that with your professor.

If a student misses an exam and the absence is non-excused, the student will be

penalized on the exam (-20 points as a beginning point, with additional points taken off at the professor's discretion). If the absence is excused then the student must arrange a time with the professor to make up the exam.

Excessive non-excused absences will be penalized as follows:

<i>4-6 hours of class time missed</i>	<i>course grade lowered 1/2 letter</i>
<i>7-8 hours of class time missed</i>	<i>course grade lowered 1 letter grade</i>
<i>9 hours and above</i>	<i>course grade lowered 1 1/2 letter</i>

(note: "1 hour" = a 50 min. class segment; letter grade = 10 points)

B. Cheating

The professor enforces Union's policy on cheating and a student who cheats will be reported to the Provost's Office.

VIII. Contacting Your Professor

My office is located on the 3rd floor of Jennings and my number on campus is 661-5264. You can also reach me by e-mail at gguthrie@uu.edu. Please notice and honor my office hours posted on my door. Some hours are set for student visits so I can give you my full attention. I am available to meet with you for any reason and want to help you in any way I can. If you have an emergency of which I need to be aware (or could pray for you about) feel free to call me at home at 1-731-783-1413. I look forward to working with you this term!