



AMBROSE  
SEMINARY

## NT 501 NEW TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS

### General Information

**Dates:** 18th January – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
**Times:** Tuesdays 2:30-5:15 pm  
**Location:** A1085-2  
**Instructor:** [Dr Paul Spilsbury](#)

### Contact Information

**Office:** L2041  
**Office Phone:** 410-410-2917  
**Email:** [pspilsbury@ambrose.edu](mailto:pspilsbury@ambrose.edu)  
**Moodle:** <http://moodle.ambrose.edu>

### Course Description

The New Testament is a compendium of the earliest Christian writings. These writings give us vital insight into the life and thought of the first followers of Jesus. They also form the basis of much subsequent Christian theology, spirituality, and practice. This course lays the foundation for the study of the New Testament including its origins, nature, context, content, interpretation, and application.

### Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the world of the first Christians, including Second Temple Judaism and the wider Greco–Roman world.
- To provide a basic knowledge of the origins and content of each of the New Testament writings in the context of early Christianity.
- To give an introduction to the canonization of the New Testament documents.
- To explore ways for appropriating the message of New Testament for theology and practice today.

## Course Requirements

There are three assignments in this course. Students must complete all three assignments in order to receive a passing grade.

1. Reading and Reflection:

- a. **Read** the relevant portion of the New Testament in preparation for each class period as indicated in the Course Schedule below.
- b. **Read** an average of 75 pages per week for ten weeks (750 pages total) from the New Testament Introductions on reserve in the library in preparation for class as indicated in the Course Schedule below. You may read from several different sources throughout the course of the semester.
- c. **Post** online a 300-word reflection for each week's reading. These reflections should interact with one or two critical issues raised by the reading. Each posting must include the author and title of the reading, and the pages read.
- d. **Post** at least one 100-word interaction with another student's submission each week.

**Due: Weekly**

2. Term Paper:

- Write a 6-page research paper on a focused area of interest to yourself within New Testament studies.
- Your paper should have a clearly defined thesis statement and be well laid out with an introduction and conclusion.
- It should also include a bibliography (not included in the page count) of 15–20 items, including encyclopedia and journal articles, books, and commentaries.
- Make sure that your topic is manageable within the space constraints of the assignment. Long papers will be penalized.
- The paper should conform to the format laid out in the *Style Guide* provided in the Moodle online classroom.

**Due: 29<sup>th</sup> March**

3. Final Exam:

The final exam will be based on the entire semester's work, including lectures, class discussions and all reading. It is an essay-type exam lasting 3 hours.

The exam is scheduled for **Monday April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00–4:00.**

**Course Schedule** (Subject to Change)

#	Date		Subject	Assignments
1a.	January	18	Introduction to the Course	
b.			What is the NT?	
2a.		25	World of the NT	Reading & Reflection
b.			—continued	
3a.	February	1	The Gospels	Reading & Reflection
b.			—continued	
4a.		8	Mark	Reading & Reflection
b.			Matthew	
5a.		15	Luke	Reading & Reflection
b.			—continued	
		22	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Reading Week</i>
6a.	March	1	John	Reading & Reflection
b.			—continued	
7a.		8	Acts	Reading & Reflection
b.			—continued	
8a.		15	Paul	Reading & Reflection
b.			—continued	
9a.		22	—continued	Reading & Reflection
b.			—continued	
10a.		29	Hebrews, James	<b>Research Paper Due</b>
b.			Petrine Epistles	
11a.	April	5	Johannine Epistles	Reading & Reflection
b.			Revelation	
		12	<i>Class Cancelled</i>	Reading & Reflection
12a.		18	<b>Final Exam</b>	
b.				

## Course Grade

1.	Reading and Reflection:	40 %
2.	Term Paper:	30 %
3.	Final Exam:	30 %

## Grading Scale

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
A+	90 and higher	
A	85-89	Excellent
A-	80-84	
B+	77-79	
B	73-76	Good
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	
C	63-66	Satisfactory
C-	60-62	
D+	55-59	Poor
D	50-54	Minimal Pass
F	49 and lower	Failure

## Important Notes

- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and [Academic Calendar](#).
- The last day to enter this course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw without financial penalty is **21<sup>st</sup> January**.
- The last day to voluntarily withdraw from this course or change to audit without academic penalty is **18<sup>th</sup> March**.
- Students intending to withdraw from this course should consult the [Academic Calendar](#) for the appropriate procedures.
- The research paper must be submitted as a Word attachment to the instructor's e-mail address. They will be returned to the student's [Ambrose e-mail address](#).
- Assignments are due before the beginning of class on the date specified.
- Extensions for individual assignments beyond the published due dates will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances. If you feel you qualify for an extension, you must make a request to

the instructor via e-mail in advance of the due date. Assignments submitted late without permission will be penalized by 5% per day, or part thereof.

- Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline as listed in the Academic [Calendar of Events](#). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.
- Students are strongly encouraged to have their written work read by a second reader before submitting it to the instructor. This person’s name should be included on the title-page.
- Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.
- An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.
- Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or dismissal from Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.
- Students are strongly discouraged from inappropriate use of technology during class periods. Such uses include texting, social networking, and surfing the internet. The instructor reserves the right to ask students to power down their devices or to leave the classroom if necessary.
- Personal information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual may be collected as a requirement of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).
- Students are advised to consult this syllabus regularly throughout the semester and to retain it for their records.