



加拿大恩道華人神學院  
CANADIAN CHINESE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
AT AMBROSE SEMINARY

COURSE SYLLABUS

**NT 501-CL New Testament Foundations  
Fall 2013 Module**

**Course Description**

This course offers an introduction to the content, context, and interpretation of the New Testament. As such, it focuses upon the following three components: (1) an introduction to exegetical tools useful for reading, interpreting, and applying the New Testament; (2) a survey of the New Testament writings with particular attention to the respective historical settings, persuasive designs, and theological content of the four Gospels, Acts, Letters, and Revelation; and (3) an appreciation of the essential features of first-century Judaism and the wider Greco-Roman world.

**Class Schedules**

**Dates:** Oct. 23–26; Oct. 30–Nov. 2, 2013

**Time:** Wed.–Fri. 6:30–9:30 pm; Sat. 9:00 am–5:00 pm

**Location:** Edmonton, TBC

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Dr. Marcus Tso 曹傑明博士

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**Textbook**

Achtemeier, Paul J., Green Joel B. and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Or its Chinese translation in three volumes:

V1: 亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學：四福音及耶穌》。香港：天道出版社，2003。

V2: 亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學：保羅及其書信》。香港：天道出版社，2004。

V3: 亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學：後期著作及背景》。香港：天道出版社，2006。

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend each day of week module classes. Given that this is a module course, it is extremely important that you attend all of the class time. Each unit of unexcused absence will result in a grade reduction of 3%.

**Course Outline**

| Date | Unit | Topic | Relevant chapters from: |      |
|------|------|-------|-------------------------|------|
|      |      |       | Achtemeier              | 亞德邁耶 |

|       |    |  |            |                |
|-------|----|--|------------|----------------|
| 10/23 | 1  | Introduction to the course; introduction to New Testament Studies; the World of the NT | 1, 2       | 3:7, 3:8       |
| 10/24 | 2  | The NT Canon; introduction to the Gospels  | 25, 3      | 3:9, 1:1       |
| 10/25 | 3  | Gospel of Matthew; Gospel of Mark  | 4, 5       | 1:2, 1:3       |
| 10/26 | 4  | Gospel of Luke; Gospel of John; Jesus of Nazareth                                      | 6, 7, 8    | 1:4, 1:5, 1:6  |
|       | 5  | Acts: The Early Church and the Apostles, Peter, Paul; NT Letters; Paul and His World   | 9, 10, 11  | 3:1, 2:1, 2:2  |
| 10/30 | 6  | Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians  | 12, 13     | 2:3, 2:4       |
| 10/31 | 7  | Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians  | 14, 15, 16 | 2:5, 2:6, 2:7  |
| 11/1  | 8  | Colossians; 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Pastoral Epistles and Philemon                      | 17, 18, 19 | 2:8, 2:9, 2:10 |
| 11/2  | 9  | Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude  | 20, 21, 22 | 3:2, 3:3, 3:4  |
|       | 10 | 1- 3 John, Revelations   | 23,24      | 3:5, 3:6       |

### Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. understand the New Testament world so as to place the books studied into their original historical and cultural contexts;
2. have a basic knowledge of the content and purpose of each book of the NT, including the literary characteristics, historical backgrounds, theological themes, and major characters, events, and places of each book;
3. reflect theologically on the contents of the NT;
4. use the NT more intelligently in their teaching and preaching ministry;
5. develop a life-long love for the study of the New Testament.

### Course Requirements

All assignments are to be submitted electronically via Moodle on or before the due dates indicated below. Papers can be submitted either as Word documents or PDF files. They may be checked by Turnitin for plagiarism. To allow for blind (and hence more objective and impartial) marking, please do not include your name or any identifying information on your papers. Therefore, no cover page is required. Please indicate your word count at the end of each paper, according to MSWord's counter.

1. **Reading logs: Due first day of class, Oct. 23, 2013; 10% of the final grade (5% per log)**
  - a. Log your reading of the entire NT in any major translation (Read after registration and before the beginning of the course, even if previously read, approximately 230 pages)
  - b. Log your reading of the main textbook: Achtemeier, Paul J., Green Joel B. and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. Or its Chinese translation in three volumes:  
亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學》。香港：天道出版社，2003-2006。  
Read all before the beginning of the course, approximately 600 pages in English.
2. **Book review: Due Nov. 16, 2013; 20% of the final grade**  
Write a book review on the main textbook containing a brief summary of the contents and arguments of the book, a longer critical analysis of the book that delineates both its strengths and weaknesses with clearly cited examples from the book, and a succinct evaluation of the book as a conclusion (about 2600 words in Chinese, or 2000 words in English).
3. **Take-home or online examination (proctored): Nov. 30, 2013; 30% of the final grade**

This 3-hour exam will test your comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the NT material and background. It is a closed-book exam consisting of multiple-choice questions covering the people, dates, and places of the NT world, and a short essay question that requires more judgment and insight from you about the ideas covered in the course. The mechanics of taking this exam will be explained during the course. In special situations, an earlier alternative date might be arranged with the instructor.

**4. Research paper: Due Dec. 21, 2013; 40% of the final grade**

Write an academic research paper, with standard formatting, footnotes, and bibliography, on one of the following theological themes (about 3900 words in Chinese, or 3000 words in English).

- a. The Kingdom of God in one of the Synoptic Gospels
- b. Eternal life in the Gospel of John
- c. The role of the Holy Spirit in the life and witness of believers/the Church in Acts or one or more of Paul's letters
- d. Christology in one or more of Paul's letters (the significance of Jesus' identity and work)
- e. Soteriology in one of the NT books (what does salvation mean and how to obtain it?)
- f. The identity of the people of God in one of the NT books (continuity or discontinuity with OT Israel?)
- g. Eschatology in one of the NT books (the what's and the so-what's)
- h. Another topic approved by the instructor

While your primary text is the NT, and you must begin your research there, to broaden your perspective and verify/deepen your reading of your chosen texts, you must also show engagement with the secondary scholarly literature, including (but not limited to) commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and encyclopaedias. (See bibliography below for some suggested resources.) Begin your paper with an interesting focus question, present your evidence and analysis, and conclude with your solution to the question. Your paper needs to describe and analyse what your chosen book(s) has to say about your chosen theme in its literary, historical, and theological contexts, and identify what the implications are for today. Consult one of the following guides for style and formatting: Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 7th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. Or Alexander, Patrick H. et al., eds. *The SBL handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999.

**EVALUATION**

|    |                |        |     |
|----|----------------|--------|-----|
| 1. | Reading logs   | 40 hrs | 10% |
| 2. | Book review    | 15 hrs | 20% |
| 3. | Examination    | 10 hrs | 30% |
| 4. | Research paper | 25 hrs | 40% |

**Grading**

The available letters and percentage scale for course grades are as follows:

| <u>Letter Grade</u> | <u>Percentage</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A+                  | 96-100            | Excellent          |
| A                   | 90-95             |                    |
| A-                  | 85-89             |                    |
| B+                  | 78-84             | Good               |
| B                   | 72-77             |                    |
| B-                  | 66-71             |                    |
| C+                  | 61-65             | Satisfactory       |
| C                   | 58-60             |                    |
| C-                  | 55-57             |                    |
| D+                  | 53-54             | Minimal Pass       |
| D                   | 50-52             |                    |

F <50 Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer 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.

#### **Important Notes/Dates:**

Include here such information as is relevant to the course but not listed above.

The last day to enter a weekend course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial and academic penalty (**drop**): for courses with three weekends – Noon on the first Saturday; for courses with two weekends – end of the second evening of the first weekend. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Please notify the Registrar's Office at [registrar@ambrose.edu](mailto:registrar@ambrose.edu), if you wish to drop a class.

Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the "audit" up to the "drop" date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. If you wish to change to audit, please notify the Registrar's Office at [registrar@ambrose.edu](mailto:registrar@ambrose.edu).

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (**withdraw**): for classes with three weekends – the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend; for classes with two weekends, Friday 9 AM of the second weekend. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

#### **Bibliography**

See the bibliographies at the end of each chapter of the main text by Achtemeier et al. Other survey texts and helpful books to supplement this course are listed below.

1. Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. 卡森, 穆爾. *21世紀新約導論*. 尹妙珍, 紀榮神譯. 香港: 天道, 2007.
2. Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Revised Edition with CD-ROM. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005. 亞伯勒, 埃爾韋爾. *新約透析: 歷史與神學的探討*. 李愛明譯. 香港: 漢語聖經協會, 2000. (based on first edition)
3. \_\_\_\_\_, ed., *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998.

4. Morris, Leon. *New Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1990. 莫理斯著, 周天和譯. 認識新約神學. 台北: 校園出版社, 1991.
5. Stambaugh, John E., and David L. Balch. *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986.
6. Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.
7. \_\_\_\_\_, *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels*. New York: HarperOne, 2012.
8. \_\_\_\_\_, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.
9. 吳慧儀. 談情說理話新約. 聖經研究叢書. 第4版. 香港: 明風出版, 2004. ISBN: 9789628329069.
10. 孫寶玲, 黃錫木. 耶穌生平與福音書要領. 香港: 基道出版社, 2004.
11. 黃錫木, 孫寶玲, 張略. 新約歷史與宗教文化導論. 聖經導論叢書. 香港: 基道出版社, 2002.
12. 黃錫木. 新約研究透視. 第二版. 香港: 基道出版社. 2000. ISBN: 9624571449.
13. 陳濟民. 新約神學精要. 香港: 中國神學研究院, 1996.

### **Electronic Etiquette**

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

*The following information must be included in your syllabus:*

### **Academic Policies**

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. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part 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).

### **Extensions**

Extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor. Requests for course extensions beyond the last day of the semester must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by one month prior to the final due date for course assignments. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

### **Academic Integrity**

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. 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 immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies 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 advised to retain this syllabus for their records.