



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

NT 501-CL New Testament Foundations Winter 2014 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: Jan. 8-11; Feb. 12-15, 2014

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

Location: Ambrose, A2133

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Marcus Tso 曹傑明博士

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Office: L2064

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Textbook

Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, 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 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
1/8	1	Introduction to the course; introduction to New Testament Studies; the World of the NT	1, 2	3:7, 3:8
1/9	2	The NT Canon; introduction to the Gospels	25, 3	3:9, 1:1
1/10	3	Gospel of Matthew; Gospel of Mark	4, 5	1:2, 1:3
1/11	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
2/12	6	Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians	12, 13	2:3, 2:4
2/13	7	Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians	14, 15, 16	2:5, 2:6, 2:7
2/14	8	1 and 2 Thessalonians; Pastoral Epistles; Philemon	17, 18, 19	2:8, 2:9, 2:10
2/15	9	Hebrews; James; 1 and 2 Peter; Jude	20, 21, 22	3:2, 3:3, 3:4
	10	1- 3 John; Revelation	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.
- If Hebrew or Greek words are used, please beware of **font issues**.
- Submitted assignments may be checked by **Turnitin** for plagiarism.
- Papers need to be formatted properly, including a title page, page numbers on either right corners, double-space, 12 point fonts, 1-inch margins, footnotes in 10 point fonts, and for the research paper, a bibliography.
- Consult one of the following guides or an approve alternative for style and formatting:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Alexander, Patrick H. et al., eds. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999.
 - c. See also <http://www.plagiarism.org/citing-sources/citation-styles> for proper citation styles under the Chicago system or the MLA system, which are also acceptable.

1. **Reading logs: Due Feb. 11, 2014; 10% of the final grade (5% per log)**
 - a. Log your reading of the entire NT in any major translation (Read after registration, even if previously read, preferably before the class in which a certain book is covered, approximately 230 pages)
 - b. Log your reading of the main textbook: Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, 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, preferably before the class in which a certain chapter is covered, approximately 600 pages in English.

2. **Book review: Due Feb. 21, 2014; 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. **Research paper: Due April 11, 2014; 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.

4. **Examination: (Online and proctored on April 15, 2014, or in A2210 on April 17, 2014, at 1:00. The professor will decide between these options after consulting with the class.); 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 questions covering the people, dates, and places of the NT world, the contents and notable features of the NT books, 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.

EVALUATION

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

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	
A	90-95	Excellent
A-	85-89	
B+	78-84	
B	72-77	Good
B-	66-71	
C+	61-65	
C	58-60	Satisfactory
C-	55-57	
D+	53-54	
D	50-52	Minimal Pass
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:

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, 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.

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 2nd 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. While you are not required to consult all or any of them, they may be helpful for your research paper or pursuing your study interests beyond this course.

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: 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: Baker, 1998.
4. Marshall, I. Howard, Stephen Travis, and Ian Paul. *Exploring the New Testament, Volume 2: A Guide to the Letters & Revelation*. Second Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
5. Morris, Leon. *New Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1990. 莫理斯《認識新約神學》。周天和譯。台北：校園出版社，1991。
6. deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.
7. Stambaugh, John E., and David L. Balch. *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986.
8. Wenham, David, and Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Volume 1: A Guide to the Gospels & Acts*. Second Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
9. Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. COQG 1. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992. 賴特。《新約與神的子民》。左心泰譯。台北：校園書房出版社，2013。
10. _____, *Jesus and the Victory of God*. COQG 2. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.
11. _____, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. COQG 3. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.
12. _____, *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels*. New York: HarperOne, 2012.
13. _____, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. COQG 4. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.
14. 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。
15. 孫寶玲、黃錫木。《耶穌生平與福音書要領》。香港：基道出版社，2004。
16. 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。
17. 黃錫木。《新約研究透視》。第二版。香港：基道出版社，2000。
18. 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.

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.

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.