

Syllabus for
BIB 261—New Testament Introduction
3.0 Credit Hours
Summer 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general introduction to the various books of the New Testament with an emphasis on content and an examination of questions such as authorship, source, reliability, and canonicity.
Prerequisite: None

This course introduces the student to the textual criticism, critical literary methods, and the question of the inspiration of the New Testament; examines the questions of authorship, sources, reliability, and canonicity of the New Testament materials; and provides a survey of New Testament Apocryphal writings.

II. COURSE GOALS

The goal of this course is to provide the student a foundation for more in-depth study of the New Testament, to enable the student to understand how God speaks today personally and corporately through the New Testament, and to help the student utilize the New Testament for purposes of teaching and preaching in the church.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

This course is designed as a foundational course in the New Testament for all theology majors. As a result of successfully completing this course the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Give an overview of the NT as a foundation for more in-depth study.
- B. Discuss the NT's history, geography, personalities, and chronology.
- C. Articulate the life-setting, theme(s), and content of each NT book.
- D. Discuss and explain the major theological concepts of the NT and the key passages that reflect these concepts.
- E. Describe the canon, text, and literary genres of the NT.
- F. Describe the Jewish, Greco-Roman, and pagan backgrounds of the NT world.
- G. Discuss important critical approaches to NT study such as redaction and source criticism.
- H. Discuss how God speaks today, both to the church and to him/her personally through the writings of the NT.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbooks

The New Testament, any modern English version or Greek text.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament* (SNT). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
ISBN: 0-310-23835-0

Wright, N. T. *The Original Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub. , 1997. ISBN: 0-8028-4283-6.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
4. Final Exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding ePortfolio requirements. Students should consult the ePortfolio handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
 - b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
2. Incompletes

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
 - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
 - d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
 - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
4. Attendance
 - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."

- b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures: The student will write a total of three reading research/interaction papers (one per week) for this course. Each paper should be double spaced with appropriate documentation of sources. Use at least 5 sources (text books may be used as sources).
 - a. Assignment I: Complete a Reading Interaction Paper (6-8 pages) that introduces each of the four Gospels and Acts. Describe normal introduction material such as author, date, purpose, etc., as well as the theological message found in each of the Gospels and Acts. In addition, Read N.T. Wright's book, *The Original Jesus*, and write a 3-5 page interaction with the book (e.g., 2-3 page summary, and 1-2 page response). Total pages for assignment: 8-11 pages.
 - b. Assignment II: Complete a Reading Interaction Paper that describes the background as well as the theological messages of seven of the New Testament books attributed to the Apostle Paul (i.e., Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, and Philemon). Total pages for assignment: 8-10 pages.
 - c. Assignment III: [Part one] As a take home final, complete a Reading Interaction Paper (6-8 pages) that describes the background and theological messages of several of the New Testament books not addressed in the paper for Assignment II (Include within your paper the books of Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 1 John and Revelation). At this time (week 3) the next assignment [Part two] is due as well.
 - d. Eportfolio Assignment III: [Part two] Also, due at the final is the following eportfolio assignment: *discuss the portrait of Jesus that is found in each of the four gospels. Give evidence from each gospel to support this portrait (e.g., In the gospel of Luke, Jesus is portrayed as .../ Luke's Jesus is shown to be ...by the way he..., etc.). Give at least four examples from each Gospel to validate your portrait claim. Finally, discuss the application of each of these portraits for modern church and society (3-4 pages).* Note: this assignment fulfills the eportfolio aspect of this course. If you are currently subject to eportfolio requirements, then in addition to emailing it at the due date, it must be sent via eportfolio to Edward Watson for assessment as well. The electronic submission is as follows: Portfolio—General Education, Outcome—Spiritually Alive, Competency—Biblical Knowledge (1A), Rubric—BIB 261/Portraits of Jesus, Assessor—Edward Watson. Total pages for assignment: 9-12 pages.

2. e-Portfolio compliance (0% or one letter grade reduction for noncompliance)
To be “compliant” the student will have correctly submitted the research paper electronically as an artifact for assessment. To be “noncompliant” the student has either not submitted or incorrectly submitted the research paper electronically. Noncompliance will result in a one letter grade reduction of the final grade for the course.

[It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that he/she is in compliance. Compliance is verified by checking for the assessment results in one’s e-portfolio. If there is a problem you may receive notification by the professor/assessor through one’s **ORU Group Wise e-mail address.**]

VI COURSE CALENDAR

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Assignment Due on Friday of each week</u>
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1	Assignment one due
2	Assignment two due
3	Final: Assignment three due

Email each finished assignment by Friday at Midnight of the week due to ewatson24@cox.net and also to ewatson@oru.edu

In addition, all assignments must also be submitted via Desire2Learn. You may contact the SLLE department for more information on how to submit via Desire2Learn.

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
BIB 261 — New Testament Introduction
Summer 2012

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior		X		

2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		

3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X

4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills			X	
4B	Interpersonal skills		X		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			X	
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	