

Syllabus for  
**BIB 261—New Testament Introduction**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Spring 2015

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 goals of this course are to provide 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. Present the Jewish, Greco-Roman, and pagan backgrounds of the NT world.
- G. Delineate 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

##### A. Required Materials

###### 1. Textbooks

*The New Testament*, any modern English version.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament* (SNT). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. ISBN: 9780310238256

Harrington, Daniel. *Interpreting the New Testament, v1*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1990. ISBN 08-46-5124-0

Watson, Edward. *NT Course Supplement*, 2006.

Keller, Timothy. *King's Cross : Understanding the Life and Death of Jesus*. New York: Riverhead Trade, 2013. ISBN 9781594486661

###### 2. Other: None

##### B. Optional Materials

###### 1. Textbooks: None

###### 2. Other: None

#### 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, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

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. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

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 Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting a Whole Person Assessment artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. School and/or Department Policies and Procedures

1. Completion of a Course
  - a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
  - b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.
1. 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 Policy
- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows:
    - (1.) If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
    - (2.) If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
    - (3.) If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
  - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.)** Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
  - c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

- |     |                              |     |
|-----|------------------------------|-----|
| (1) | Exams                        | 60% |
|     | Two Unit Exams (40%)         |     |
|     | Final (20%)                  |     |
| (2) | Active Learning              | 40% |
|     | Book Reviews (28%)           |     |
|     | Gundry Core Components (12%) |     |

Each student will write a 4-6 page interaction paper over both the Keller and Harrington books. These papers will cover summary as well evaluation and interaction with the books. The Harrington paper will be due sometime before the second exam and the Wright paper will be due sometime before the final.

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirement: *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 Whole Person Assessment aspect of this course. In addition to submitting the assignment on the due date, it must be sent via Whole Person Assessment 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.

Whole Person Assessment compliance (zero for the assignment)

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 zero for the assignment. .

[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**.

## COURSE CALENDAR

### NT Introduction Course Calendar

<u>Week #</u>	<u>NT Assignment</u>	<u>Gundry</u>	<u>Script. Mem.</u>
1	Greco-Roman Religious/Political Setting	Ch 1-2	Luke 10: 27
2	First-century Judaism Jewish Religious Setting NT Canon	Ch 3 Ch 4	Galatians 4: 4
3	Interpreting the NT The Text of the NT	Ch 5	Matt. 28: 19-20
4	Introduction to Gospels Why four Gospels? Portraits of Jesus Synoptic Problem	Ch 6  Harrington	John 1: 1-3, 14
5	Test #1 Mark	Ch 7	John 3: 16
6	Mathew	Ch 8	Rom. 6: 23
7	Luke/Acts	Ch 9	Rom. 12: 1
8	John	Ch 10	1 Cor. 13: 1
9	Apocryphal Gospels	Ch 11	Eph. 2: 8
10	Test #2 Introduction to Paul Galatians 1-2 Thess.	Ch 12	Hebrews 12: 1
11	Romans 1-2 Cor.	Ch 13	James 1: 2-4
12	Prison Epistles	Ch 14	1 John 2: 1-2
13	Pastoral Epistle	Ch 15	Rev. 2: 4-5
14	Hebrews, James 1-2 Peter, Jude	Ch 16-17	
15	1-3 John, Revelation	Ch 18	

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes**  
**BIB 261 — New Testament Introduction**  
**Spring 2015**

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
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> 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	