



**TYNDALE**  
University College

**RLGS 1023**

## **NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES**

**Fall 2010, Room 2087, Tuesday/Thursday, 4:00 pm – 5:20 pm**

**Instructor:** Stephen Thomson

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Class cancellations due to inclement weather or illness will be announced/posted on the commuter hotline.

**mytyndale.ca:** This course has LMS pages that are meant to enhance your learning experience and that you may need to access in order to complete some assignments. It is where news items, notices and marks will be posted. Log in often with your mytyndale username and password.

**Mailboxes:** Every student is responsible for information communication through the student mailboxes. A mailbox directory is posted beside the mailboxes.

### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a survey of the redemptive story in the major literary traditions of the New Testament, including an orientation to the historical backgrounds, religious context, literary forms, matters of canon, text, interpretation and critical issues. Particular emphasis will be given to the message of the New Testament documents.

### **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To provide a foundational understanding of the New Testament documents as history and as Scripture, and as first-century literature, which serve as the intellectual basis of the Christian faith.
2. To survey the teachings and distinctive themes of the major New Testament literary traditions within their historical contexts and to appreciate their relevance for our contemporary life of discipleship.
3. To encourage further in-depth study of the New Testament documents by providing a framework for that study with the purpose of understanding, commitment, and informed Christian service.

### III. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Wenham, David, and Steve Walton. Exploring the New Testament: A Guide to the Gospels and Acts, **Volume 1**. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2001

Marshall, I. Howard, Stephen Travis and Ian Paul. Exploring the New Testament: A Guide to the Letters and Revelation, **Volume 2**. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2002

Sears, Patricia. Tyndale University College Essay Writing Guide. Toronto: Tyndale, 2004

### IV. SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS: (not required)

Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels

Dictionary of Paul and His Letters

Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments

Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds

### V. CLASS PREPARATION:

**Week 1** -- READING: Vol. 1, chs. 1-2  
Vol. 2, chs. 1, 15

*Survey -- The Biblical Metanarrative and The Place of the New Testament*

**Weeks 2-6** -- READING: Vol. 1, chs. 3-11, 13  
Mark, Matthew, Luke, Acts

*The World of Jesus (see textbooks)*

#### ***The Synoptic Tradition***

*Jesus -- His Mission and Message*

*The Gospel of Mark*

*The Gospel of Matthew*

*The Gospel of Luke*

*The Acts of the Apostles*

**Weeks 7-10** -- READING: Vol. 2, chs. 2-14, 16-19  
The Letters of Paul (especially the 4 listed below)  
Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, Jude

#### ***The Pauline Tradition***

*Paul: The Person and Mission*

*The Letters of Paul*

***Early Letters***      *Galatians*

***Major Letters***    *Romans*

***Prison Letters***   *Ephesians*

*Pastoral Letters 1 Timothy*

*Other Literary Traditions*

**Weeks 11-12** -- READING: Vol. 1, ch. 12  
Vol. 2, chs. 20-21  
John, 1-3 John, and Revelation

*The Johannine Tradition*

*The Gospel of John*  
*The Book of Revelation*

**Examination Week** as scheduled by the Registrar. For exam conflicts/rescheduling please see page 92 of the Academic Calendar.

**VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. New Testament Reading**

Read the New Testament once through. Give a **'detailed'** reading to those books that will be discussed at length in class (see 'Class Preparation' schedule).

**2. Textbook Reading**

Follow the 'Class Preparation' schedule and read the assigned chapters in your two volumes of Exploring the New Testament. This advanced reading will aid to learning during class time.

**3. Research Assignment # 1 -- 25%**

Prepare an 8-10 page research paper on the following question:

Judaism of 'the second temple' period is key to understanding Jesus' life and work. Describe second temple Judaism as a worldview and demonstrate how its principles are so important for understanding the Jesus of the Synoptic Tradition?

Use a minimum of **5 research sources**. As a formal research assignment, follow the procedures outlined in The Tyndale University College Essay Writing Guide.

*Due Date: Week 5*

**4. Research Assignment # 2 -- 25% - Prepare a 7-page introduction to ONE of the following:**

- First Thessalonians
- 1 Corinthians
- Colossians
- Philippians
- Hebrews

- 1 John

Use a minimum of **5 research sources**, following the procedures outlined in The Tyndale University College Essay Writing Guide. The **structural outline** to follow for this assignment is:

- Historical Issues: Authorship, Date, Historical Situation of the Recipients, Other Historical Issues, etc.
- Literary Issues: Structure, Language, and Style, Special literary or grammatical features, etc.
- Theological Issues: Themes and Issues being discussed, Overall Purpose, etc
- Contemporary Relevance of the document

*Due Date: Week 9*

### **5. Final Examination -- 50%**

The final exam will be held during exam week, as scheduled by the Registrar.

The final examination will be based on a list of research questions that will be handed out during the class period of **Week 2**. The research questions should be worked on during the semester from class lectures, personal research and textbook reading.

**WISDOM:** Utilize the opportunity of a class full of fellow students to develop **study groups** for New Testament dialogue and exchange of ideas. Your commitment to attentive interaction both during class and after class will properly prepare you for the final examination.

## **VII. GRADING AND ATTENDANCE ISSUES:**

Assignments will be accepted anytime, between Monday and Friday, of the week they are due. **They will NOT be accepted after that week passes.**

Attendance requirements are outlined in 'The Academic Calendar.'

Students are responsible to keep a backup print copy of all assignments.

It is in the context of the classroom that we learn together and from each other. I am here to be a help to you. Ask your questions before class, during class, at breaks, over coffee, after class, or make an appointment to see me at my office. Ask your questions!!!! Have a great semester studying the NT.

## **VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

A good bibliography is provided in your textbooks.