



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

WINTER 2019
NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY & HISTORY
NEWT 0522

JANUARY 16 – APRIL 10
WEDNESDAYS, 2:15 PM – 5:05 PM

INSTRUCTOR: DR. VAN JOHNSON

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Access course material at <http://classes.tyndale.ca/>

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[Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.](#)

The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the New Testament focusing on its over-arching vision of God's mission in the world and how human beings are called to respond. Each book will be placed in its historical and cultural setting as we focus on its distinctive contribution to the New Testament. Along

the way students will be introduced to critical methods for studying the New Testament and will reflect on how we can integrate scholarly perspectives with a conviction that the New Testament is the word of God.

Recommended: BIBL 0501

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Use appropriate NT critical methodologies in the study and preaching of the NT as a result of integrating lecture material with course readings and by engaging in classroom discussion;
2. Identify the main themes of each section of the NT through weekly written responses to the Biblical text and corresponding textbook readings;
3. Demonstrate an ability to teach the NT effectively through awareness of its Jewish matrix, the general content of the NT corpus, and the various theological perspectives of the NT writers by preparing a lesson plan on a NT book;
4. Show sensitivity to the seminal role of apocalyptic eschatology throughout the NT by analyzing one NT book according to its eschatological content and framework.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

The New Testament [non-paraphrase translation (i.e., not The Living Bible, The Message, New English Bible); preferably: NIV, NRSV, NASB, ESV]

Achtemeier, Paul et al. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. ISBN: 802837174

VanderKam, James. *An Introduction to Early Judaism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. ISBN: 802846416

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Textbook readings and weekly reports: Due weekly; 12.5% of final grade.

The readings are intended to complement the lectures by reinforcing central ideas discussed in class and providing detail not given in the lectures. There are 2 reasons why I ask for a short weekly response to the textbook readings. 1) I am evaluating your ability to identify primary issues, and 2) your questions will alert me to what issues need more explanation. **[This assignment supports learning objectives #1, #2, #3]**

Each week a 1-page response will be submitted electronically to: sjagan@mpseminary.com. Samantha, the TA for the course, will collect and return these to you by email. You are responding to the assigned pages from the textbooks. These are due **before 11.00 a.m. on the day of class, starting with week #2, Jan 23.**

Please note: students who register for the course after Jan 16 will have one extra week to catch up on textbook reading; on Jan 30, the textbook reading for Jan 23 and 30 will be due.

In each report, identify and explain 2 main concepts that are significant for your understanding of the NT and 1 question that you would like more discussion about. For each main concept, write one paragraph that explains the concept sufficiently so that a non-NTTH student would understand it. In other words, how would you explain the idea and its importance to a Sunday School class? Then write a question that fits 1 of these 3 categories: 1) a question seeking clarification about an idea in the textbook, or 2) one that asks about the implications of an idea for biblical/theological understanding, or 3) one that asks about the applicability of an idea for ministry.

1% will be awarded each week that the reading and response is completed on time, with 2.5% awarded at the end as a bonus if all 10 reading reports were submitted on time. There is no grade given for completing textbook readings after their assigned due dates.

See IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT & READING SCHEDULE for assigned readings and due dates. Note: INT stands for Introducing the New Testament, and EJ for Early Judaism.

2. NT readings: Due weekly; 12.5% of final grade.

The NT text itself is the primary document of this course. Appropriate to a survey course on the NT is the reading of the NT. Reading the text within a semester will highlight common elements, but also reveal the contrasting styles and content of the twenty-seven books. **[In support of learning objectives #3 and #4]**

Students will read through the NT in 10 sections. For reading the assigned NT passage before the weekly due date, 1% will be awarded (with bonus of 2.5% with completion of all readings on time). **No written report required.** You will be asked to fill in a sheet that records the completion of the weekly readings. Any missed NT readings (not

completed when assigned) may be credited with .5% if done before April 11. On April 10, a sheet will be circulated in class where a student may record the completion of a missed NT reading.

Please note: students who register for the course after Jan 16 will have one extra week to catch up on textbook reading; on Jan 30, the textbook reading for Jan 23 and 30 will be due.

See IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT & READING SCHEDULE for assigned readings and due dates.

3. Examination of NT Eschatology: Already/Not Yet

A formative eschatological perspective underlies all NT writings. The assignment requires that you read a NT book with sensitivity to the eschatological understanding that affected its shape and content. **[In support of learning objective #4]**

3.1 Write an analysis of the eschatological expressions in one NT book: Due on March 6; 30% of final grade.

Students will be assigned different NT books. The biblical text is the only resource required for this assignment. The student will prepare a 5-page summary in table format, which depicts how the NT book reflects the “already/not yet” perspective of the early church. Each relevant passage is to be classified with 5 points of information: 1. Scripture reference; 2. Eschatological marker; 3. Timing (already; not yet; or both); 4. Function (encouragement; exhortation; evangelism; instruction); and 5. Explanation (brief summary of columns 1-4).

In the conclusion, state whether the biblical book shows more concern for “the already” or for the “not yet.”

Evaluation Criteria: Submissions will be evaluated on:

- 1) *clarity* (are the markers of the Kingdom clearly identified?);
- 2) *consistency* (does the explanation, #5, follow from classifications, #1-4?);
- 3) *comprehensiveness* (are all major eschatological references analyzed?);
- 4) *comprehension* (does the student illustrate a clear understanding of how the eschatological references are shaping the content of the biblical passage?).

This assignment is to be submitted in paper form at the beginning of class on March 6.

3.2 Class Presentation: Due on March 6; 5% of final grade.

5% is reserved for students’ 2-3 minute oral presentation on March 6. For those who are prepared to present their work on the assigned day, 3-5 points will be awarded. The range of 3-5 allows the instructor to rank the clarity of the points made and the quality of the examples given. Each student is to give one example of

the “not yet,” one example of the “already,” and an overall assessment as to which eschatological reference is more prominent in the assigned NT book. *Being concise in presentation is a virtue.*

4. Teachings notes for a NT book: Due on April 13 (Saturday night before midnight); 40% of final grade.

One of the goals of this course is that you teach the NT effectively. By preparing a lecture, you will be asked to think through what is most important and how to communicate it. [In support of learning objective #3]

Prepare a lecture for an adult Sunday School class that explains one NT book (choose any NT book other than the one assigned for the eschatological analysis, assignment #3), describing: 1) a few specifics: authorship, genre and date; 2) the situation that it responds to; 3) the structure [outline of book] and flow [how you would describe it]; 4) central themes; and 5) how the central themes relate to current concerns. Although the assignment is presented in point form, references should be cited and bibliography included according to the Chicago Manual of Style.

Evaluation Criteria: Submissions will be evaluated on:

- 1) *clarity* [all concepts clearly explained];
- 2) *consistency* [between description of structure and flow; between section 4 and 5];
- 3) *comprehensiveness* [all major categories discussed sufficiently, and for higher grade, additional relevant material added];
- 4) *citations* [sources documented consistently and accurately]; and
- 5) *creativity* [how the material is shaped to engage the audience].

Please submit electronically to sjagan@mpseminary.com. Samantha will collect and return these to you by email with grading comments.

D. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

1. Weekly textbook readings	12.5 %
2. Weekly NT readings	12.5 %
3.1 Eschatology, written report	30%

3.2 Eschatology, oral report	5%
4. Teaching notes for NT book	40%
Total grade	100%

F. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. Your work should demonstrate the following characteristics:

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [writing resources](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; aau@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

G. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

CONTENT: LECTURE OUTLINE

1. The New Testament Text
 - 1.1. Reading the NT (Historical criticism)
 - 1.2. Formation of NT
 - 1.2.1. Transmission of NT books (Text criticism)
 - 1.2.2. Selection of NT books (Canon criticism)

2. Matrix of NT: Judaism and Greco-Roman world
 - 2.1. History of Second Temple period
 - 2.2. Judaism, its unity and diversity
 - 2.3. Greco-Roman culture
 - 2.4. Apocalyptic Eschatology: Jewish and Christian

3. Jesus and the gospels –
 - 3.1. Background issues
 - 3.1.1. Genre (Ancient Biography)
 - 3.1.2. Reading the Gospels (Narrative Criticism)
 - 3.1.3. Oral Stage: Form Criticism
 - 3.1.4. Written Stage and Synoptic Problem
 - 3.1.5. History of Search for Historical Jesus
 - 3.1.6. Redaction Criticism
 - 3.2. Reading the gospels
 - 3.2.1. Matthew
 - 3.2.2. Mark
 - 3.2.3. John

- 4. NT Letters
 - 4.1. Background Issues
 - 4.1.1. Greco-Roman Letters
 - 4.1.2. Epistolary conventions
 - 4.2. Authorship
 - 4.2.1. Paul
 - 4.2.2. New Perspective on Paul and the Law
 - 4.3. Reading the Letters
 - 4.3.1. Social Setting & Rhetorical Criticism
 - 4.3.2. Romans
 - 4.3.3. General Letters: James

- 5. NT History
 - 5.1. Luke/Acts

- 6. NT Apocalyptic
 - 6.1. Jewish Apocalyptic
 - 6.2. Revelation

REQUIRED READING SCHEDULE

Jan 16: no readings required

Jan 23: (*Reading #1*): Galatians; James
INT: 355-76; 491-512; 589-608
EJ: 1-87

Jan 30: (*#2*): Matthew
INT: 15-87;
EJ: 88-174

Feb 6: (*#3*): Mark
INT: 89-147; 207-243
EJ: 175-218

Feb 13: (*#4*): John

INT: 175-205

Feb 20: no class scheduled, Reading Week

Feb 27: (#5): 1&2 Thess; 1&2 Cor
INT: 271-297; 327-353; 427-445

Mar 6: Class discussion of Eschatology: the “Already, Not Yet” in NT books

Mar 13: (#6): Romans
INT: 299-326

Mar 20: (#7): Luke; Acts
INT: 149-174; 245-270

Mar 27: (#8): Phil; Col; Eph; Phm; 1&2 Timothy; Titus
INT: 377-426; 447-464

Apr 3: (#9): Hebrews; 1-3 John; 1-2 Peter; Jude
INT: 465-490; 513-554

Apr 10: (#10): Revelation
INT: 555-588

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Tyndale Library supports this course with [e-journals and e-books](#). See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

It is recommended that the student consult *An Introductory Bibliography for Biblical Studies*, Dept of Biblical Studies, Tyndale Seminary, 2003. For a survey course of the NT, it is not feasible to produce a bibliography covering all of the relevant reference works. The resource mentioned above will provide this.

Some of the following entries are available for viewing online from the WorldCat site in the Tyndale library system (look for the link “view now”). For example, search for E.P. Sanders et al, *Redefining First Century Jewish and Christian Identities*.

You can also follow this link to the "New Testament Reading Room" for other online resources: <http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsm modular/reading-rooms/newt>
Please note: The entries under *Monographs and Articles* are those referred to specifically in class lectures.

Dictionaries:

Aune, D., ed. [Westminster Dictionary of New Testament and Early Christian Literature and Rhetoric](#). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

Evans, C., and S. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 2000.

Freedman, D., ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Green, J., and S. McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992.

Hawthorne, G., and R. Martin, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.

Martin, R., and P. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.

Monographs and Articles:

Aland, K. and B. Aland. [The Text of the NT: An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism](#). 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Allison, D. "Was there a 'Lukan Community'?" *Irish Biblical Studies* 10 (1988): 62-70.

Arrington, F., and R. Stronstad. *Full Life Bible Commentary to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.

Bailey, K. E. "Informal Controlled Oral Tradition and the Synoptic Gospels." *Asian Journal of Theology* 5 (1991): 34-54.

_____. "Middle Eastern Oral Tradition and the Synoptic Gospels." *Expository Times* 106 (1995): 363-367.

Barnett, P. *The Birth of Christianity: The First Twenty Years*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Bauckham, R. "The Delay of the Parousia." *Tyndale Bulletin* 31 (1980): 3-36.

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Brown, R. *The Gospel of John*. Anchor Bible. 2 Vols. New York: Doubleday, 1966.

Bultmann, R. *Theology of the New Testament*. Translated by Kendrick Grobel. 2 vols. New York: Scribner, 1951-55.

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- Cohen, S. *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1987.
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- Davies, W.D. *Paul and Rabbinic Judaism: Some Rabbinic Elements in Pauline Theology*. London: SPCK, 1955.
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- Diessmann, A. *Bible Studies*. Translated by Alexander Grieve. Edinburgh: Clark, 1901.
- _____. [*Light from the Ancient East: The New Testament Illustrated by Newly Discovered Texts from the Graeco-Roman World*](#). Translated by L. Strachan. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1910.
- Dodd, C.H. *The Interpretation of the Fourth Gospel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968.
- Dunn, J. *Jesus, Paul, and the Law*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990.
- _____. *Jesus Remembered*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- _____. *Romans 1-8*. Dallas: Word Books, 1988.
- _____. *Romans 9-16*. Dallas: Word Books, 1988.
- _____. *Unity and Diversity in the NT: An Inquiry into the Character of Earliest Christianity*. 2nd ed. London: SCM, 2002.
- Ferguson, E. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

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- Gerhardsson, B. *Memory and Manuscript*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.
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- Wright, N. T. *What Saint Paul Really Said: Was Paul of Tarsus the Real Founder of Christianity?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
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