



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

NT501: New Testament Survey

Course Developer: Dr. Mateus de Campos
Course Instructor: Dr. Jim Davis

Summer 2021 (May 24th – August 29th)

Required Web Meetings:

Tuesday, May 24th (7-7:30 PM ET/5-5:30 PM CT/4-4:30 PM PT)
Tuesday, June 7th (7-8:30 PM ET/5-6:30 PM CT/4-5:30 PM PT)
Tuesday, July 12th (7-8:30 PM ET/5-6:30 PM CT/4-5:30 PM PT)
Tuesday, August 2nd (7-8:30 PM ET/5-6:30 PM CT/4-5:30 PM PT)
Tuesday, August 23rd (7-8:30 PM ET/5-6:30 PM CT/4-5:30 PM PT)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Contacts

Course Instructor: Dr. Jim Davis at talljimdavis@gmail.com

Flourish: registrar@flourishmovement.org

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the New Testament, providing a framework to understand its message as a whole, as well as the particular message of each book.

Recognizing the richness of the New Testament message as a faithful witness to the self-disclosure of God in Christ, attention will be given to the broader theological picture of God’s redemptive act running throughout the whole New Testament canon as well as to the historical particularities in which that message was communicated. To that end, the historical-cultural, literary and theological aspects of the New Testament will be explored.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the historical-cultural environment in which the New Testament books were written.

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- Develop a chronological framework to locate the New Testament events, persons and writings.
- Be able to situate the New Testament within its biblical theological framework, understanding the role of Israel's Scriptures as its formative theological and interpretative matrix.
- Understand Jesus' message and mission as conveyed in the Gospels.
- Understand the basics of Paul's theology as conveyed in his letters.
- Explain the nature and content of the canonical writings, identifying their historical contexts, literary genre and structure, and theological emphases.
- Situate the message of each book of the New Testament in the broader picture of God's redemptive act.

The ultimate goal of the course is to develop a deeper relationship with the New Testament and with its divine author, in order to be able to serve him, his Church and his world through the faithful teaching of Scripture, for the glory of God.

Course Modality

This course is offered online at flourishmovement.org. This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for five (5) web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. Finally, students will be placed in small groups of 4-6 that will have several web meetings. More information can be found within the course site. Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

Course Schedule

The course is organized into eleven content weeks called "Lessons," one holiday week, and two additional weeks focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week(s)	Dates	Lesson Title
1	May 24-30	Lesson 1 Introduction: A Framework for Understanding the NT Lesson 2 Israel's Story and Worldview
2	May 31-June 6	Lesson 3 Historical Background: Second Temple Judaism Lesson 4 Historical Background: The Greco-Roman World
3	June 7-13	Lesson 5 Introduction to the Gospels Lesson 6 The Gospel According to Mark
4	June 14-20	Lesson 7 The Gospel According to Matthew
5	June 21-27	Lesson 8 The Gospel According to Luke

6	June 28-July 4	Week of July 4 – Break; No Coursework Due
7	July 5-11	Lesson 9 The Gospel According to John
8	July 12-18	Lesson 10 The Acts of the Apostles
9	July 19-25	Lesson 11 Introduction to the New Testament Letters Lesson 12 Galatians
10	July 26-Aug. 1	Lesson 13 The Thessalonian Correspondence Lesson 14 The Corinthian Correspondence
11	Aug. 2-8	Lesson 15 Romans Lesson 16 The Prison Epistles
12	Aug. 9-15	Lesson 17 The Pastoral Epistles Lesson 18 The General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude
13	Aug 16-22	Lesson 19 The Johannine Letters Lesson 20 Revelation
14	Aug 23-29	Final Coursework

Course Requirements

I. Readings

Students are required to obtain the specified books for this course. Books can be obtained through any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site. Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

- **Primary source readings.** Students are required to read (or listen to) the entire New Testament. Students should design their own schedule in order to accomplish this goal. However, it is highly recommended that students use the exam dates as guidelines in order to be prepared for them. Audio books may be utilized.
- **Secondary source readings.** Students are required to read the assigned sections of secondary sources outlined below.

Required Books

Students should purchase the following books:

- An English Bible (ESV/NRSV are recommended)
- Wright, N. T, and Michael F Bird. *The New Testament in Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2019. ISBN: 9780310499305. *This book is also available in an enhanced version with additional capabilities for students. It may be purchased and used in the course in place of the*

printed version which it includes as explained here. The price is the same as the printed version:
<https://enhancededitions.zondervanacademic.com/more-details>

Recommended Books

The following books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3rd Ed. ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Pub, 2003. ISBN: 9780802822215
- Carson, D. A, and Douglas J Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd Ed. ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 9780310539568.

II. Lectures

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

III. Activities and Assignments

Students will complete various activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. Small Groups are among the activities (see below). Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments can be found within the course site.

IV. Small Groups

Students taking the course for credit (whether taking for CLP credit alone or those taking it for both CLP and Gordon-Conwell credit) will be placed in groups of 4-6 students that will meet via Zoom to discuss course content. Groups will meet in most weeks of the course, at a mutually agreeable time within the lesson. Each student will submit a summary of each group session. Instructions and discussion prompts will be available in the course site.

V. Web-Meetings with Course Instructor

Students will meet five times (one introductory session, and four substantial meetings) with the Course Instructor as a class to discuss course content and student insights. Dates and times are specified at the top of this syllabus. Information on how to connect will be available in the course site.

VI. Exams

The main evaluation for the course will be in the form of exams. Each 110 min. exam will be comprised of multiple-choice questions. Exams are designed to test both the knowledge of the New Testament and the understanding of the material covered in the lectures and readings. Exams will be “open notes,” i.e. students will be allowed to consult their own lecture notes, but not the textbook.

- Exam 1 – Lessons 1-4, due June 6
- Exam 2 – Lessons 5-9, due July 11

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- Exam 3 – Lessons 10-20, due Aug 29

VII. Lesson Assignments

Students are required to submit reports of their group discussions. Instructions are available in the course site. The reports will be evaluated according to the level of engagement with the course material.

There will be study questions provided in most lessons. You do not need to submit your responses, but we highly recommend that you treat these questions as assignments so that you are well prepared for discussions and for the exams.

VIII. Course Reports

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing, small group attendance, and class video session attendance.

Assignment Formatting and Submission

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname_AssignmentName_MMDDYY

example: JSmith_ResearchPaper_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Small Group Meeting Reports	10%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%
Exam 3	30%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course.

Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course.
Small groups	Must attend to pass course.
Class Web Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A	> 92-100	B+	> 84-88%	C+	> 72-76%	D+	> 60-64%	F	Below 52
		B	> 80-84%	C	> 68-72%	D	> 56-60%		
A-	> 88-92%	B-	> 76-80%	C-	> 64-68%	D-	> 52-56%		

Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu.

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

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If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact registrar@flourishmovement.org for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7th week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7th week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be July 12th.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- June 3rd – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 100% refund
- June 17th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 80% refund
- July 1st – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 50% refund
- August 19th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) with no refund

Once August 19th passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an “incomplete” for the course.

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishmovement.org no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at registrar@flourishmovement.org with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.