



Understanding the New Testament
THEO216 [all sections]
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. **Course Catalog Description**

This course covers the origin and development of the Christian religion as expressed in the New Testament. We will seek to understand the Christian scriptures in their original context and thus their significance for today. *Prerequisites: THEO200 and 215.*

II. **Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials**

DeSilva, D. A. (2004). *An introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, methods, & ministry formation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Print ISBN: 9780830827466, 0830827463 eText ISBN: 9780830866106, 0830866108

Recommended: A good study Bible. The following are some options to consider:
NET Study Bible: New English Translation. Garland, Texas: Biblical Studies Press. A free, reliable resource available at <http://www.bible.org/>.

NIV Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Corporation.

Life Application Study Bible: New Living Translation. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers.

The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press.

III. **Course Learning Outcomes**

Course learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each program of study that are in line with the institutional outcomes of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, leadership, communication, and career preparation. Course outcomes support program outcomes and are listed below.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Describe how history, culture, and geography influenced the writings of the New Testament.
2. Identify and explain the relationship between the different types of literature in the New Testament.
3. Identify the central message of Jesus and explain its meaning and significance.
4. Develop some basic methods and skills necessary for studying and interacting with biblical literature, the New Testament in particular.
5. Explain some of the primary theological ideas expressed in the New Testament.
6. Interpret the New Testament for the purposes of ministry, preaching, and teaching in the local church.

Unit	Objectives	Topics Covered	Course Outcomes Supported
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the role of composition and canon in creating the New Testament. 2. Compare and contrast an early church family system to a 21st century family system. 3. Assess how history, culture, and geography influenced the New Testament. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Testament Groundwork and Foundation • Exegesis 	1:1,2,4 2:5,6 3:1,4
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summarize the function and value of form criticism. 2. Identify genre and theological differences among the Gospels. 3. Describe the Synoptic Gospels and how they emphasize Jesus' central message. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral to Written Tradition • Preaching from the Synoptic Gospels 	1:1,2,4 2:5,6 3:1,3,4
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construct an argument for the book of Acts following Luke rather than John. 2. Design a sermon incorporating a common theme found in all four Gospels. 3. Formulate what one can and cannot learn from the Gospels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the Gospels in Acts • Women, Wealth, and the Will of God 	1:2,5 2:3,5,6 3:2,3,4
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare and contrast the Gospel according to John to the Epistles of John. 2. Summarize how Paul's experiences influence his writings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the Epistles Model • Getting to Know Paul 	1:1,2,5 2:2,4
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare and contrast theological messages in the Epistles with those in the Gospels. 2. Summarize exegetical methodology, including examples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practicing Exegesis • Theological Themes in the New Testament 	1:1,2,3,4,5 2:2,4
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish Revelation from the rest of the New Testament. 2. Identify the primary theological concept in Revelation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for Teaching Revelation • Jesus in Revelation 	1:1,2 2:5,6

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes and unit objectives. You are more likely to achieve these only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. [Course Policies](#)

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	180	18%
Unit 1 Writing Assignment	1	150	15%
Unit 3 Writing Assignment	1	150	15%
Unit 5 Group Writing Assignment (Mastery Assignment)	1	220	22%
Unit 6 Writing Assignment (Mastery Assignment)	1	300	30%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance

Unit	Graded Work Due	Relevant Reading/Viewing Prep	Unit Learning Objectives Supported
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 Discussion Unit 1 Writing Assignment: Key Players and Plots, due by Sunday at 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeSilva, Chapter 1 Metzger, pp. 39-73 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-3 1-3
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeSilva, Chapter 5 & Video, "Biblical Exegesis" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 Discussion Unit 3 Writing Assignment: Jesus and Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeSilva, Chapters 7-8 Video, "N.T. Wright on Women in Ministry 5" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-3 1-3
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeSilva, Chapters 10-11 & Video, "How Paul Invented Christian Theology" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 1-2
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 Discussion Unit 5 Group Writing Assignment: Exegetical Skill, due by Sunday at 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeSilva, Chapters 18-19 & Video, "Heaven is NOT the Christian Hope" DeSilva, Chapter 5, pp. 219-229 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 1-2
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 6 Discussion Unit 6 Writing Assignment: Course Reflection, due by Sunday at 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeSilva, Chapter 24 Menzies, <i>True Myth</i>, Chapter 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 2

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.