**Syllabus**

**New Testament Survey**

Winter/Spring, 2022

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**Course Description**

This class is an introduction to the background, content, interpretation and theology of every book in the New Testament. The class will include historical and Jewish background to the New Testament, canon, genre and textual criticism, as well as application of the New Testament to life today.

**Course Rationale**

The twenty-seven books of the New Testament form the foundational document of the Christian religion. They have been the source of inspired authority for the church for two thousand years. They are the fulfillment of the messianic expectation of the Hebrew Old Testament. In the New Testament, the nature and character of God is revealed, especially in the person of the Son, Jesus of Nazareth. We also find in these books an inspired account of the establishment and growth of the Christian church, as well as paradigmatic examples of Christian leadership and teaching. It is in the New Testament that the nature of the kingdom of God is most fully revealed, and its final consummation is anticipated in the book of Revelation. This course is designed to give a big-picture of the historical, cultural background to the New Testament, as well as an introduction to the content of all twenty-seven of its books. The Christian leader is not fully competent to lead God’s people without an in-depth understanding of the New Testament as a whole, and this course is designed to meet this most basic need.

**Course Outcomes**

The student who completes this course will:

1. Grasp the historical, cultural and religious background to the New Testament.

2. Recognize the different genres of literature in the New Testament.

3. Be able to explain the unique aspects of the four gospels.

4. Recognize the connections between the Old and the New Testament.

5. Have a basic knowledge of each book in the New Testament; its place and purpose in the Scripture.

6. Acquire a practical knowledge of the application of the New Testament to Christian ministry.

**Textbooks**

**Required:**

Palmer, David A. *Casket Empty: God’s Plan of Redemption Through History,* New Testament Study Guide (Crossway, 2016).

**Strongly Recommended**:

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2007)

Oakes, John M. *From Shadow to Reality: A Study of the Relationship Between the Old and the New Testament* (Spring, Texas: Illumination Publishers International, 2006)

**Assignments:**

1. Students will be required to complete the reading of the primary textbook by the date of the last class, which is May 28th. 20% of the total grade.

2. There will be three short quizzes on March 26. April 22 and May 27. 20% of the total grade.

3. There will be a final exam, which will be primarily multiple choice and true/false to be completed roughly one month from the end of the class. 60% of the total grade.

Grade scale will depend on the difficulty of the exam, so I am not publishing a grade scale such as 90%, 80%, etc.

Final exam (and quiz #1?) will be done on-line, without notes or a Bible, by the honors system. Final will be sent by e-mail about May 31 and due two weeks later. All correspondence about grades and questions about the course are to be done by e-mail. john.oakes@gcccd.edu

**Schedule:**

Feb 18-19  Historical, Cultural and Religious Background to the New Testament. Begin study of the four gospels. Text: Ch 1,2 (you will be reading this after the lecture)

March 26  Finish the four gospels Text: Ch 3,4 (read before the lecture)

April 22-23 Acts and begin Letters of Paul Text: Ch 5,6,7 (read before the lecture)

May 27-28  Finish Letters of Paul, Hebrews, General Epistles and Revelation. Text: Ch 8,9,10 (read before the lecture).

Notes, power points and audio will be posted at www.evidenceforchristianity.org.