

Penn West Academy for Ministry
Licensed Ministry Curriculum
Introduction to the New Testament
2020-2021

Instructure: Rev. Dr. George S. Steffey

Course Description

As part of preparation for serving in the United Church of Christ as an authorized licensed minister the **goal** of this course is for students to become equipped to read and apply the New Testament so they can engage with the New Testament as a diverse-yet-unified, coherent witness to Jesus Christ and thereby deepen their grasp of the gospel. This New Testament study will contribute to the assimilating and integrating of the following **Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ that find their bases in the New Testament.**

Our study will have the following specific **objectives** in mind:

1. Increased understanding of the historical and pastoral issues related to each of the documents of the New Testament, and the purposes and themes of each of the documents.
2. Increased understanding of the theological shape of the New Testament canon, as well as its location in the wider theological curriculum (i.e., alongside church history, liturgy, preaching, etc.).
3. Increased skill in interpreting individual passages in the light of the book in which they occur, the context of the author(s)' overall thought, and the canon as a whole (biblical theology).

Required Texts

1. A "literal" Bible translation (e.g., RSV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, etc.).
2. The Bible Project website www.thebibleproject.com
3. *Eat This Book* by Eugene Peterson
4. (As we focus on a New Testament book a selected book may be required specific to the text.)

General Approach

We will pay detailed attention to the text of the New Testament so that each student is expected to have completed the assignments for the next class. A combination of lecture and our collective discussion will take up most of each session. The assigned readings will provide key background information, so that the lectures may focus more single-mindedly on the "big picture" of the New Testament documents' structures, themes, theologies and current applications. We will also look at some specific text to help

address the highlights of each book and some of the unique differences between the books. Discussions will facilitate what students have learned from their reading, written assignments, and personal experiences. The instructional approach is primarily to model and impart a way of study for life-long learning and service. A primary goal of the course is to create a love and thirst for more in depth study and application.

Course Requirements

1. Class attending attendance
2. Class participation.
3. Complete both assigned readings and written homework. The content of lectures and our class discussion will largely focus on the “big issues” of content and themes.

Course Evaluation: This is pass/fail course based on class attendance, class participation, and satisfactory completion of assignments.

**Course Schedule:
2020-2021**

Year in Cycle	Class Content	Preparation for Next Class
1-1	Orientation to the New Testament	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read I, II, III John. 2. Watch the video for I, II, III John in the Explore section of The Bible Project. 3. What is the primary theme that runs through all of these three letters and why is that the theme.
1-2	I John II John III John	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Read the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Mark, each like you would a novel 2 Watch the two videos of Matthew Part I and Matthew Part II and the two videos of Mark Part I and II in the Explore section of The Bible Project website. 3 Write a summary outline of the each book. 4 Using commentaries on Matthew and Mark, and other research resources write a 300 to 400 word paper that addresses in why and where and anything else that you see is different in the two books 5 Where do you see differences in Matthews and Mark’s account of Jesus life and ministry and why do you think they are those differences.

1-3	Matthew Mark	1. Read Luke and Acts. 2. Watch all The Bible Projects videos in the Luke and Acts Series 3. As best you can make an outline summary (write it out to turn in) of the Book of Luke and the Book of Acts. 4. Where are there differences in Matthew and Mark. 5. Come up with three puzzling question that come out of your reading of Luke/Acts. Then email them to me by May 1, 2021.
1-3	Matthew Mark	
1-4	Luke- Acts	1 Read <i>Eat This</i> Book by Eugene Peterson 2 Watch all the “How to Read the Bible” of the Bible Project videos 3 Write a short essay about why understanding the Old Testament is needed to understand the New Testament
2-1	What is the Bible and how to read the New Testament	1. Read the Gospel of John 2. Watch the video(s) on the Gospel of John in the Explore section of The Bible Project website 3. Write a paragraph or more, but no more than 300 words about why the Holy Spirit is to come after Jesus goes back to the Father.
2-2	Gospel of John	1. Read I & II Timothy and the letter to Titus 2. Watch the video for I & II Timothy and Titus in the Explore section of The Bible Project website 3. Write an essay about what you think is unique about the content of each of these three letters
2-3	First Timothy Second Timothy Titus	1. Read I & II Peter, Jude and James 2. Watch the video(s) of I & II Peter, and Jude in the Explore section of The Bible Project website A writing assignment to be determined
2-4	First Peter Second Peter Jude James	1. Read any book on the life of Paul. 2. Read the hand-out on the life of Paul 3. Prepare the content for an Adult Sunday School class on the life of Paul and his writing in the New Testament.

<p>3-1</p>	<p>Introduction to the writings of Paul and the Epistles</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read I and II Corinthians and 1 and II Thessalonians 2. Watch the video's of I and II Corinthians and 1 and II Thessalonians in the Exploring section of the Bible Project website. 3. Write three short (500 to 1,000 words each) papers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. About the issues Paul is address in I Corinthians b. About Paul's defense as an apostle in II Corinthians (10:1-13:10) c. About the Second Coming in I Thessalonians (4:1-5:11) and II Thessalonians (2:1-17)
<p>3-2</p>	<p>First and Second Corinthians First and Second Thessalonians</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Colossians and Philemon 2. Watch the two videos about Colossians and Philemon in the Explore section of The Bible Project. 3. If Paul were writing to a church in America today what would be the idols that he would site as pressures that are turning followers of Jesus away from Jesus? Write a short essay as your response. 4. Who are Epaphras, Philemon, and Onesimus? What is Paul's relationship to each of them and how are the letters to the Colossian church and Philemon connected? 5. Watch the Image of God video in the Explore Explore section of The Bible Project and write a short essay about how the Image of God is related to the Greek word "Koinonia".
<p>3-3</p>	<p>Colossians Philemon</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the letters to the Galatians, Philippians, and Ephesians 2. Watch the videos about Galatians, Philippians, and Ephesians in the Explore section of The Bible Project (TheBibleProject.com) 3. According to Paul in each of these letter answer the following question with one or two sentences each. 4. Write a short essay about what is your favorite passage in each letter. 5. Write a 20 to 25 minute sermon based on Galatians 5:16-26

3-4	Galatians Philippians Ephesians	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the Book of Revelation. 2. Watch the two videos of Revelation in the Explore section of The Bible Project website. 3. From these video list the Old Testament references and write a sentence or two about what each one is talking about 4. From you study write a 300 word essay about what <u>you think</u> Revelation is revealing. Do not use commentaries to help you.
4-1	Revelation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Romans 2. Watch the video(s) of Romans in the Explore section of The Bible Project website 3. And write an explanation of what you think Romans 12:1-12means. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Take into consideration the biblical context of what Paul is addressing. b. Take into consideration its' application for today. 4. If you feel industrious pick two of more of the passage to explain.
4-2	Romans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Hebrews 2. Watch the video(s) of Hebrews in the Explore section of The Bible Project website 3. Using the resources you have available (i.e: Bible, Commentaries, Internet) answer the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who wrote the letter of Hebrews? b. Who was the author writing to? c. What is the key to understanding Hebrews? d. When was Hebrews written? e. Where were the people living that the author was writing to? f. Why did the author write Hebrews? 4. From your reading and understanding of the content of Hebrews why does the author of Hebrews write about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angels? (Chapter 1:4-2:18) Moses? (Chapter 3:1-4:13) Melchizedik? (Chapter 4:14-7:28) Sacrifices? (Chapter 8:1-10:18) 5. What is the authors point in writing about faith in Chapter 11:1-12:28?

4-3	Hebrews	<p>For those who the next class will be you last.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List to turn as least 5 things that you got you got out of this Introduction to the New Testament course. 2. Include in you Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers final Paper how what you have learned in these 15 New Testament classes has helped you address any or all of the Marks. <p>For returning students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review what we have studied in the last 1,2,3 years and send me any one to three questions that you may have about what you have been introduced to so fare. We will discuss them in our next class. 2. Write a 3 page essay on what you have learned is the one most important thing you think you need to be put into practice as a follower of Jesus.
	New Testament Review	To be determined.