

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

Instructor: 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, pastoral, and mission 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, 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 readers participation in the passages.

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

A primary goal of the course is to create a love and thirst for more in-depth study and application. 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. The assigned videos and/or 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. A combination of lecture and integrated discussion will take up most of each session. The instructional approach is

primarily to model and impart a way of study for life-long learning and service. Discussions will facilitate what students have learned from their reading, written assignments, and personal experiences. We will also look at some specific text to help address the highlights of each book and thoughtful lifestyle participation.

Course Requirements

1. Class attending attendance
2. Class participation.
3. Complete video presentation, 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 Schedule:
2020-2021**

To facilitate integrating multiple progression of students’ course study, this syllabus is intended to enhance students’ education by providing each other with the opportunity to participate in sharing what they have learned in previous classes.

First Year Students - Understanding the Bible	
September	Introduction to the New Testament
October	How To Read the Bible
March	Exegesis
May	Hermeneutic
Second Year Students - Themes in the New Testament	
September	Jesus (Christology and Soteriology)
October	The Kingdom of God (Pneumatology and Eschatology)
March	Hope (Eschatology)
May	The Church (Ecclesiology)
Third Year Students - Content and Participation	
September	Matthew, Mark, Luke/Acts
October	Gospel of John, John I, II, III
March	The Life of Paul and Romans
May	I&II Corinthians, I&II Thessalonians
Fourth Year Students - Content and Participation	
September	Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians
October	Colossians, Philemon
March	I&II Timothy, Titus, I&II Peter
May	Hebrews, Revelation, James, Jude

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