

## **BIBL 2302 – Story of the New Testament**

Winter Term 2014 (Jan. 6 – Mar. 19)

MW 4:00-5:15pm

**Instructor:** W. Gregg Strawn, MS

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Course Description:** Follows Story of the Old Testament and develops the last three periods of Bible history: intertestamental, life of Christ and history of the early church. The course also studies briefly the history of the church since the end of the first century, including both the Reformation Movement and the Restoration Movement. The course also discusses important current issues in the church.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to describe the basic content of Jesus' message and summary of his life on earth.
2. Students will be able to identify ways in which the early church and thoughts in the epistles are a continuation of Jesus' message and life.
3. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate contemporary life decisions and church doctrine in light of New Testament thought.
4. Students will be able to identify the author and major topics of each New Testament book.

### **Required Text: (Students should have text with them for every class meeting)**

ESV Study Bible, Crossway, 2008. **ISBN-13:** 978-1-4335-0241-5

### **Course Requirements**

#### **1. Attendance, Participation, Quizzes (25%):**

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in discussions, debates, and/or other activities. Full credit for participation requires near-perfect attendance and a demonstrated knowledge of assigned daily readings. Quizzes, covering assigned readings, will be given at the beginning of most class meetings. These will assess your retention of the reading material. The quizzes may be multiple-choice, short answer, and T/F. Completing the reading assignment will also help you offer thoughtful comments during the class time.

Each unexcused absence will result in a zero on the quiz for that day and a zero for class involvement. If an absence is excused, that quiz will not be made up and that day's participation and quiz score will be excluded from consideration in assessing points for this category.

Excused absences include genuine sickness, University related absences (sports, performances, etc.), and genuine emergencies. An absence is more likely to be excused if the student contacts the instructor in advance of the absence with documentation explaining the cause for being absent. After the fact, the student should bring a written explanation of the absence for the teacher to consider.

## **2. New Testament Thematic Essay (15%):**

Track a major concept Jesus introduces in the Gospels to at least 2 other places (preferably more than 2 citations) in the rest of the New Testament. Explain Jesus' teaching. Also, consider how the concept is re-shaped, enlarged upon, applied or interpreted in the hands of subsequent writers and the early church.

eg. Love one another → Gal, I John

eg. Attitude towards the poor → Acts, James

Further instructions and possible topics will be explained in class.

## **3. Contemporary Ethical Question Essay (15%)**

The student should have the topic approved by the instructor 3 weeks before the due date for the paper. Consider an ethical question of contemporary concern in the American church. Cite a contemporary periodical to show that the question is indeed under current consideration. Explain the question: What is the question under discussion? Why is it being asked currently?

Summarize your understanding/interpretation of the teaching of at least 3 New Testament passages that speak to the question. Based on your reading of Scripture, communicate the answer to the question that you accept and present an argument in support of your conclusion. Further instructions will be explained in class.

## **4. Exams (45%)**

The three exams will cover the readings, lectures, and class discussion. They may include multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay. The first test is worth 10% of the course grade. The second test is worth 15% of the course grade. The final exam will be comprehensive and is worth 20% of the course grade. Students must bring a blue essay book to the exams.

### **Grading Scale for Course:**

A = 100-90    B = 89-80    C = 79-70    D = 69-60    F = 59 and below

## **Course Policies**

### **1. Academic Honesty Policy:**

Academic honesty is expected of all students. Any form of cheating, copying, or dishonesty is unacceptable. These include: helping another student on an exam or quiz, using unauthorized aids during exams and quizzes (including notes, phones, or other electronic aids), falsely claiming authorship on an assignment, and plagiarizing material. Plagiarism is the use of another's words and/or ideas without giving the author the credit. If you have questions about this, go to the following webpage for a brief description with examples:

[www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml). Academic dishonesty will result in a "0" for the assignment and following the process outlined in the current OC academic catalog.

**2. Late Work Policy:** Assignments will be considered late if not turned in to me at the beginning of class on the day it is due. The grade for assignments that are late will be reduced

by 5% (from the grade the effort would have earned) for each day that it is late. Work that is more than 7 days late will not be accepted for any points.

Exams: The opportunity to make up exams will not be granted automatically and are only available at my discretion. Make-up exams may be entirely essay. The student should make every effort to complete the exam as quickly as possible following an absence. If the make-up exam is not completed within the time specified by the instructor following the student's return, the student will receive a "0" for the exam. There are two legitimate reasons for missing an exam: extreme illness and urgent personal emergency. Both must be verified by an outside source (i.e. written doctor note or funeral program). Please note that travel arrangements for holidays, attending weddings or family gatherings, or attending performances are *not* acceptable reasons for missing an exam.

### **3. Classroom and Electronic Etiquette Policy:**

Students are expected to be on time to class and actively engaged to create a healthy learning environment. I view the following as being disrespectful to both me and your fellow students.

- a. Tardiness is disruptive and reduces your time for completing, or even taking the quiz.
- b. Cell phones are to be turned off. Texting and calls destroy a healthy learning environment.
- c. Laptops can be used for note-taking but NOT for surfing the web, email, completing assignments, or other distracting activities.
- d. Engaging in anything the instructor views as disrespectful or distracting during class will negatively impact your participation grade. You may also be publicly confronted and/or asked to leave class.
- e. The instructor comes to teaching from an "old school" paradigm, including a high level of class control. While such strictness may seem unusual to a contemporary student, it will be the instructor's common stance.

### **4. Inclement Weather Policy:**

In the event of snow, ice or other weather issues, or if the instructor is ill; the instructor may decide to cancel class for the day. Efforts will be made to disseminate that information to the students as soon as the decision is made. In addition, the instructor will attempt to include primary lecture insights missed due to the cancellation in following lectures. In case of cancellation, the students may be requested to stay an extra 10-15 minutes at a subsequent class. The instructor realizes that students may have conflicts during that extra class time. The student should secure notes from another student if they are not present for the extra lecture and assume the information may be part of any future test.

**Mission Statement:** Courses taught in The Campbell Institute for Theological Education are accredited by Oklahoma Christian University. The mission statement of Oklahoma Christian University is "to be a premier Christian institution of higher learning and higher calling".

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA/504) Statement:**

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Amy Janzen (425-405-5907) before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, I will work with you, with Amy Janzen, and with the Oklahoma Christian University Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in the course.

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