

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI5532 New Testament History, Literature, and Theology, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the history, literature and theology of the New Testament. It addresses the background of the New Testament, historical issues of date, authorship and occasion, literary issues of genre, structure and content, and theological themes that are unique to the book.

Course Objectives

- A. Recognize the history, literary issues and theological themes of the New Testament documents (Knowledge and Understanding)
- B. Evaluate different positions on crucial issues in New Testament studies related to history, literature and theology (Judgment and Design)
- C. Apply the knowledge of New Testament issues to their personal life and to the life and ministry of the church (Performance and Action)

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2009. ISBN: 9780805443653

Schreiner, Thomas R. *The King in His Beauty: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013. ISBN: 9780801039393

Wright, N. T. *The Kingdom New Testament: a contemporary translation*. New York: HarperOne, 2011. ISBN: 9780062064929

Assignments (what student does for a grade)

Guideline for the Discussion Board: Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).

Assignment 1-1 Timeline and Significance: Construct a one-page timeline that highlights the following key information and provide sidebars showing the significance of these events, persons, or groups.

(Note: The key information below will be important for the **final exam**.)

1. What is the significance of the following events or books for the NT?

- (a) The Assyrian exile of Israel (the northern kingdom)
- (b) The Babylonian exile of Judah (the southern kingdom)
- (c) The conquests of Alexander the Great

2. What is the name of the Greek ruler who erected a statue of Zeus in the Jerusalem temple, and when did this event take place?
3. What are the years of rule for the following Roman Emperors?
 - (a) Augustus
 - (b) Tiberius
 - (c) Nero
 - (d) Domitian
4. When did the Romans destroy the Jerusalem temple?
5. What were the four major Jewish sects active in first-century Judaism?
6. What was the name of the Jewish ruling council?

Assignment 1-2 Apologetic Memory Aid: Create a one page memory aid designed to provide a quick 'at a glance' reference chart dealing with the following contested issues. (Note: The answers to these contested issues will be crucial for your **final exam**.)

1. From where is this quote taken? "Therefore, to squelch the rumor, Nero created scapegoats and subjected to the most refined tortures those whom the common people called 'Christians'."
2. What are the most likely dates for Jesus' birth and death, and what are critical data for dating these events?
3. What are the two major possibilities regarding the relationship between the Synoptic Gospels?
4. In what order were the Gospels written according to the two-Gospel hypothesis?
5. In what order were the Gospels written according to the Markan priority view?

Assignment 1-3 Small Group Handout: Put together the elements from the list below in a one page handout using a format that would be appealing to a group of adults beginning a study of Matthew's Gospel. Be sure to include information from both Köstenberger, Kellum and Quarles, and Schreiner. (Note: The elements below will all be central to your **final exam**.)

1. When did Matthew most likely write his Gospel? Why is an early date significant?
2. What are the primary and secondary purposes of Matthew's Gospel?
3. What are the chapters in Matthew that correspond to the Sermon on the Mount and the final eschatological discourse?
4. What literary and theological feature is particularly prominent in Matthew 1-4?
5. What are some texts that demonstrate Matthew's concern for the "Great Commission"?

Assignment 2-1 Mark's Gospel Outline: Compose a one page outline of Mark's Gospel that organizes the material in units suitable for teaching, preaching, or leading a small group Bible study.

Assignment 2-2 Study Questions: Answer briefly (limited to one page total) the following study questions and submit them. (Note: These study questions are part of your **final exam**.)

1. Who does ancient tradition suggest wrote Mark's Gospel? Who was believed to be his close associate?
2. What is the major Christological title in Mark?
3. What internal evidence supports Lukan authorship?
4. To whom is Luke-Acts dedicated? What is the recipient's likely identity and on what basis?
5. What is the most natural way to understand Luke's purpose in writing?
6. What was the major issue discussed at the Jerusalem Council?

Assignment 3-1 Revelation Chart: Put together a ONE page chart that lists the four major approaches (with definitions) to the book of Revelation and conclude the chart with an evaluation of each approach (and state the approach you followed). The following questions will guide your chart development (and function as a study guide for the **final exam**).

1. What were the occasion and purpose of the book of Revelation?
2. What is the definition of "Apocalypse," and what are some of its accompanying traits?
3. What are five primary approaches to the study of the book of Revelation? Give a brief description of each in one or two sentences.

Assignment 4-1 New vs. Old Creation Chart: Put together a ONE-page chart that compares New Creation and Old Creation in Paul. Use Schreiner's discussion on pp. 548-64 for your headings. Be sure to include a concluding paragraph offering a critique and analysis of Schreiner's argument.

Assignment 4-2 Study Questions: Answer the following study questions. (Note: These are important for your **final exam**.) Keep this submission to TWO pages total.

1. Why is Paul's authorship of Romans so certain among scholars?
2. Why are Paul's travel plans so important in dating the book of Romans?
3. Why did Paul write Romans?
4. On what major divisions of Romans do most scholars agree?
5. When Paul says in Romans 3:23 that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," whom does he have in mind when referring to "all"?
6. How are individuals viewed as righteous by God in Romans?
7. Why are the Corinthians letters especially practical for the modern church?
8. How many letters did Paul write to the Corinthian church?
9. From where did Paul receive information about the church's condition?
10. What is the dual purpose of 1 Corinthians, and what is the main purpose of 2 Corinthians?
11. What will be the nature of the believers' resurrection body?
12. What is the relationship between the new and old covenants in 2 Corinthians?

Assignment 5-1 Journal: Write a half page journal entry for each of the four Pauline letters read this week (total of 2 pages combined). Please include points of application from each letter. See example in Week 5 Resource folder.

Assignment 5-2 Study Questions: Answer the following study questions. (Note: These are important for your **final exam**.) Keep this submission to one page total.

1. What are the two possible destinations for Galatians?
2. What did Paul teach in Galatians concerning justification by faith versus works of the law?
3. What five evidences are usually used to dismiss Paul's authorship of Ephesians?
4. What are the probable date, provenance, destination, occasion, and purpose of each of the epistles covered in this lesson?
5. What is the 'Colossian heresy' and how does it relate to the occasion of Colossians?

Assignment 6-1 Study Questions: Answer the following study questions in one page. These should be added to the earlier questions as a study guide for your **final exam**.

1. When was 1 Thessalonians likely written? How long was 2 Thessalonians written after 1 Thessalonians?
2. What was the cause of the Thessalonians' deficient work ethic?
3. Which position regarding the rapture finds most support in 1 Thessalonians and why?
4. How many church offices are prescribed in the Pastoral Epistles?
5. What are the qualifications of church leaders (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)?
6. Explain the relationship between Paul, Philemon, and Onesimus?

Assignment 7-1 Study Questions: Answer the following study questions in one page. These should be added to the earlier questions as a study guide for your **final exam**.

1. What is the purpose of Hebrews?
2. What is the major source of theology for the author of Hebrews, and how was it interpreted?
3. Which James was the author of the book of James?
4. In what ways do Paul and James agree on faith and works?
5. What is the most likely date for 1 Peter, and why?
6. What is the heresy addressed in 2 Peter?
7. Who were most likely the "false teachers" in Jude?

Assignment 8-1 Final Exam: Answer correctly the online, timed exam questions, which are based on the study questions distributed throughout this course, which address issues of history, literature, and theology from the New Testament. Here are the study questions for this week's NT documents. Make sure these are added to your study guide, but these are not submitted for a grade. [These will help you to complete the exam.]

1. What is the purpose of Hebrews?
2. What is the major source of theology for the author of Hebrews, and how was it interpreted?
3. Which James was the author of the book of James?
4. In what ways do Paul and James agree on faith and works?
5. What is the most likely date for 1 Peter, and why?
6. What is the heresy addressed in 2 Peter?
7. Who were most likely the "false teachers" in Jude?

Assessments

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Discussions (6 posts with 2 response per post)	25
Study Questions (2-2 / 4-2 / 5-2 / 6-1 / 7-1)	25
1-1 Timeline and Significance Chart	5
1-2 Apologetic Memory Aid	5
1-3 Small Group Handout	5
2-1 Mark's Gospel Outline	5
3-1 Revelation Chart	5
4-1 New vs. Old Creation Chart	5
5-1 Pauline Journal	5
8-1 Final Exam (online)	15
Total:	100

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work

Online Library

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at my.moody.edu. If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>. Here are additional tutorials on how to use the Crowell Library and do digital research: <http://libguides.moody.edu/aecontent.php?pid=245942&sid=5129214>

Course Copyright Statement

Copyright by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. All rights reserved.
Unless otherwise specified, the materials and services on this website are for your personal and non-

COURSE SYLLABUS - BI-5532 New Testament History, Literature, and Theology

commercial use, and you may not modify, copy, distribute, transmit, display, perform, reproduce, publish,

license, create derivative works from, transfer, or sell any information, software, products or services obtained from the website without the written permission from Moody Distance Learning, Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60610.