

Saint Louis Christian College
BNT 101n—NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY
Harold Merritt, Professor
3 Credit Hours

Fall, 2014

Course Prerequisites: None

Thursday
6:00-10:00 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the books of the New Testament highlighting the key passages and theology, as well as placing each book in its historical and cultural context.

COURSE RATIONALE

This course contributes to student achievement of the following Division of Biblical Education objectives:

1. Given instruction in the Bible and in biblical theology, the student will exhibit knowledge of the messages of the various Old and New Testament books and the saving message of the Bible as a whole. (SLO 2, 8, 9)
2. Shown how to use tools and sound methods for interpreting the Bible, the student will demonstrate the ability to properly interpret, apply, and communicate Scripture. (SLO 1)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon conclusion of this course, the learner should be able to:

1. List from memory the books of the New Testament in order and spelled correctly.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the distinctive characteristics, key passages, and theology of each New Testament book.
3. Exhibit knowledge of the historical cultural context of each New Testament book, particularly authorship, date, place and occasion of writing, and recipients.
4. Locate major geographical sites of the New Testament
5. Outline generally the formation and authority of the canon.
6. Communicate personal application of Biblical values in both written and oral form.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL HANDOUTS

New International Version of the Bible

Elwell, Walter A. and Yarbrough, Robert W. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013.

Course pack .

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance.** (College catalog, p.30)
Class attendance is expected and required. Each course meets a total of five sessions with each session having four individual hours or units. Attendance will be taken during each of the total 20 hours or units that the course meets. Whenever four hours or units of absences have occurred, the student will be given an additional assignment to make up for the lost time in class. Failure to complete the additional assignment would result in a reduction in the final grade by one letter.

Institutional policy states “*If absences exceed 25 percent of the total class sessions, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the class with a grade of F.*” Only five total hour units of absences are allowed in this attendance policy. Absences beyond these five will exceed the 25 percent allowance and will result in a grade of F.

2. **Memorization of the New Testament books.** The student will be required to write from memory the names of the NT books in order and spelled correctly.
3. **Reading.** The student is to complete the assigned reading of (1) the majority of the New Testament in the New International Version and (2) the majority of the textbook *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey* (See “Course Schedule” section of syllabus). **PLEASE NOTE: A reading report is due each week, including week #1.** In the reports the word “insight” refers to something important you learned about a NT book or its historical/cultural background, **NOT** life lessons = application. (**Report forms provided—see below pages 5-9**).
4. **Expository Studies Journal.** The student will compile a journal of selected expository studies with application of biblical values (Life Lessons). The student will (1) read one gospel and several epistles selected from the list below and (2) make entries in the journal showing accurate interpretation and thoughtful reflection on **one passage from each of 5 chapters** selected for the journal (**NOT** an exposition of the entire chapter). **PLEASE NOTE: A MODEL is provided at the end of this syllabus—see page 10.**

Guidelines:

- (1) **Read the entire book(s), BUT each week select only 5 texts from 5 different chapters for your journal entries.** If 2 or more books are read, include some entries from each book.
- (2) The text chosen from each chapter may vary in length (from a verse or two to a paragraph or more in the case of an encounter or event or parable). **Again, do NOT use an entire chapter as your text.**
- (3) Include a variety of topics, rather than repeating the same lesson from several chapters.
- (4) Comments should include specific reference to the content of the passage in context not just application. For application to be legitimate it must be firmly and accurately anchored in both the text and the context—ex. 2 Cor. 6:14; 1Tim. 4:12.
- (5) Comments should be 6-8 sentences long—no more than 10 sentences.
- (6) The journal should be typed, double-spaced, size 12 font.
- (7) Be sure to state chapter and verse(s) at the start of each entry.

The journal will be due weekly as follows:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Week 2 | Choose <u>1</u> Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; you may wish to choose Matthew or John since they are required reading). |
| Week 3 | Choose from Paul’s letters (1 <u>or</u> 2 Corinthians <u>or</u> Galatians and Ephesians <u>or</u> Philippians and Colossians) |
| Week 4 | Choose from Paul’s letters (1 and 2 Thessalonians <u>or</u> 1 and 2 Timothy) |
| Week 5 | Choose from the General Epistles (Hebrews <u>or</u> 2 of the following: James, 1 Peter, 1 John) |

5. **Quizzes.** Students will have the opportunity to show knowledge of the textbook through quizzes on selected chapters. Study guides will be provided.

Week 2 Quiz #1 on chs. 4-7

Week 3 Quiz #2 on chs. 17-20

Week 4 Quiz #3 on chs. 21-22

6. **Final Exam.** A study guide will be provided.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

| | |
|--|-----|
| New Testament Books Test | 6% |
| Reading of assigned NT Books | 12% |
| Reading of assigned chapters in textbook | 12% |
| Expository Studies Journal | 30% |
| Weekly quizzes | 15% |
| Final Exam | 25% |

COURSE SCHEDULE

READING

| | Topic | New Testament | Textbook |
|---------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| Week 1 | Intro, Matthew-Mark Reading Report #1 | Matthew | Chs. 1-5 |
| Week 2 | Luke-Acts Reading Report #2 Journal #1=one Gospel (See course requirement #4) Quiz #1=Covering review questions on chapters 4-7 | John & Acts | Chs. 6-7; 13-16 |
| Week 3 | Paul's Major Epistles & Prison Epistles Reading Report #3 Journal #2=From Paul's letters (See course requirement #4) Quiz #2=Covering review questions on chapters 17-20 | Rom-Col, Philemon | Chs. 17-20 |
| Week 4 | Thess, Pastoral Epistles, Hebrews, & James Reading Report #4 Journal #3=From Paul's letters (See course requirement #4) Quiz #3=Covering review questions on chapters 21-22 New Testament Books Test | I Thess-James | Chs. 21-22 |
| Week 5 | I Peter through Revelation Reading Report #5 Journal #4=From the General Epistles (See course requirement #4) Final exam | I Peter-Revelation | Chs. 23-24 |

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See the select bibliography for further reading at the end of each chapter in the textbook.

Websites: www.ntgateway.com
www.ntimages.com

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Late Work:** Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. In the event of extenuating circumstances (illness, emergency, etc.), late work will be accepted for full credit. Other late assignments will be accepted, but the grade will be reduced one increment from the assigned grade (for example B to B-) per day per day, including weekends and holidays. No late work will be accepted after 10 days. **Extenuating circumstances must be explained in writing within 4 days. If you do not communicate with the professor, it will be assumed there were no extenuating circumstances.**
2. **Missed Quizzes:** Quizzes missed due to an excused absence (extenuating circumstances) may be made up with the professor's permission. The quiz should be taken within one week. Quizzes missed due to an **unexcused** absence may NOT be made up and will receive a grade of F (zero).
3. **Learning Disability:** If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see me privately to discuss assessment measures that would enhance your ability to learn.
4. **Classroom Decorum:** To promote a productive learning environment students are expected to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner--showing respect to the professor and other students. Failure to act maturely can result in a warning, a grade demotion, or failure/dismissal from the class.
5. **Academic Honesty:** Any cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of F (zero) for that quiz/assignment. See the college catalog.
6. **Adjustment of Syllabus.** The professor reserves the right to modify the course schedule as long as it does not add to the student's work load.
7. **Keep all papers.** It is important that you keep all papers in case a question arises regarding their submission/grade or the accuracy of your final grade.
8. **Cell Phones.** Use of cell phones/texting is not permitted during class sessions.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus phone and e-mail address: 314-837-6777, ext 1504; hmerritt@slcconline.edu

Home phone: 314-831-8837

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY READING REPORT
Week #1--July 10, 2014

Name _____

Answer the following questions regarding this week's reading assignment.

New Testament Book, Matthew

- How many chapters did you read? _____

- List 3 major themes in Matthew.

(1)

(2)

(3)

Textbook, chapters 1-5, 82 pages

- How many pages did you read? _____
- State two important insights from your reading of the textbook.

(1)

(2)

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY READING REPORT
Week #2--July 17, 2014

Name _____

Answer the following questions regarding this week's reading assignment.

New Testament Books, John and Acts

- How many chapters did you read in John _____, Acts _____?

- List 2 major themes in John.

(1)

(2)

- List 2 major themes in Acts.

(1)

(2)

Textbook, chapter 6-7 and 13-16, 73 pages

- How many pages did you read? _____
- State two important insights from your reading of the textbook.

(1)

(2)

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY READING REPORT
Week #3--July 24, 2014

Name _____

Answer the following questions regarding this week's reading assignment.

New Testament Books, Romans-Colossians and Philemon

- How many chapters did you read in Romans _____, 1 Cor _____, 2 Cor _____ Gal _____, Eph _____, Phps _____, Col _____, Phm _____?
- State 1 major theme in each of the following letters:

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

Philemon

Textbook, chapters 17-20, 72 pages

- How many pages did you read? _____
- State two important insights from your reading of the textbook.

(1)

(2)

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY READING REPORT
Week #4—July 31, 2014

Name _____

Answer the following questions regarding this week's reading assignment.

New Testament Books, 1 Thessalonians-James

- How many chapters did you read in 1 Thess ____, 2 Thess ____, 1 Tim ____, 2 Tim ____, Titus ____, Heb ____, James ____?
- State 1 major theme from each of the following letters:
 - 1 Thessalonians
 - 2 Thessalonians
 - 1 Timothy
 - 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Hebrews
 - James

Textbook, chapter 21-22, 33 pages

- How many pages did you read? ____
- State two important insights from your reading of the textbook.
 - (1)
 - (2)

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY READING REPORT
Week #4—Aug. 7 2014

Name _____

Answer the following questions regarding this week's reading assignment.

New Testament Books, 1 Peter-Revelation

- How many chapters did you read in 1 Pet ____, 2 Pet ____, 1 Jn ____, 2 Jn ____, 3 Jn ____, Jude ____, Rev ____?
- State 1 major theme from each of the following books:
 - 1 Peter
 - 2 Peter
 - 1 John
 - 2 John
 - 3 John
 - Jude
 - Revelation

Textbook, chapters 23-24, 24 pages

- How many pages did you read? ____
- State two important insights from your reading of the textbook.
 - (1)
 - (2)

MODEL ENTRY FOR YOUR EXPOSITORY JOURNAL

1. Mt 4:8-10 This is the third temptation of Jesus by Satan in the desert at the start of His ministry. The devil urges Jesus to bow down and worship him. He falsely promises Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. Jesus refuses and bases His refusal on Dt. 6:3 which declares that worship and service is to be offered only to the Lord your God! From this we learn the importance of relying on the truth of Scripture when we are tempted. This is especially true when we are tempted to engage in idolatry by putting someone or something ahead of God. Like Jesus we need to “hide God’s Word in our hearts” to help us resist any temptation that confronts us.
2. -----
3. ----- etc.

Thought flow (organization) for the Expository Journal

3-4 sentences to describe what’s in the text in its context

3-4 sentences to thoughtfully apply the main point of the text to today

Note that the summary of the text and context come first, followed by the application. Also, note that the two are kept separate. Be sure to follow this organizational pattern for the sake of clarity.

When this is applied to the model above you’ll note the following:

- Sentence one sets the event described in the text in its literary context and its historical context. The literary context is found in the statement that this is the third temptation, indicating that there are two others discussed. The historical context is evident in the statement that the temptations occurred in the desert and at the start of Jesus’ ministry.
- Sentences 2-4 summarize the content of the passage itself.
- Sentences 5-7 apply the text in a way which is both legitimate and specific.