

SYLLABUS - REL 1122: New Testament Introduction

Catawba College, Spring 2012

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Course Description and Goals

REL 1122 is designed to provide the student with a meaningful encounter with the New Testament as viewed both as literature and as theological testimony. Special emphasis will be placed upon the historical setting for the New Testament's writing and upon a historical-critical appreciation of the literature itself. Due to the introductory nature of the course, exposure to the New Testament will be broad but limited in depth.

“A text without a context is a pretext for a proof text..” (Donald A. Carson)

Expected Learning Outcomes Each Student Should Be Able to:	Means of Assessing Those Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate in writing an introductory knowledge of the historical setting for representative portions of the New Testament, together with the impact of that setting on the New Testament itself	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three, in-class examinations ("objective" and essay questions)• Final Examination (cumulative)• Occasional announced and pop quizzes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate in writing an introductory knowledge of the basic characters, stories, and theologies found in representative portions of the New Testament.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Examination (cumulative)• Occasional announced and pop quizzes• “Gospel Infancy Narratives” Paper• Three, in-class examinations ("objective" and essay questions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate in writing an introductory knowledge of the Four-Source Theory and Redaction Criticism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essays on these topics included in two of the in-class examinations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate in writing the ability to analytically read and use relevant primary and secondary source materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three, in-class examinations ("objective" and essay questions)• “Gospel Infancy Narratives” Paper• “Paul and Ethics” Paper

Textbooks

The following books are required for responsible participation in this course:

The Harper Collins Study Bible. New Revised Standard Version. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-06-078684-7. I highly recommend this translation, though the particular edition is not critical. Please see me for any exceptions. **NOTE: Your Bible should be brought to all class sessions.** The approximate cost of this book is \$30.

Drane, John. *Introduction the New Testament.* 3rd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8006-9750-1. The approximate cost of this book is \$45.

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels.* English Edition. United Bible Societies, 1985. ISBN: 0-8267-0500-6. The approximate cost of this book is \$20. However, copies may be rented for significant savings through the Catawba College Bookstore.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be checked promptly each day at the beginning of class. If you are late you must speak with me at the end of class or you will be counted absent. Tardiness should be a rare exception. Repeated tardiness will be counted as absences. Four absences are allowed during the semester, whether "justified" or not. **EACH absence beyond the four permitted will result in a two-point reduction in the final grade for the course.** Any student missing more than one fourth of the sessions during the semester will automatically receive an F or an I for the course, depending on the circumstances. Missed Tests can be made up ONLY if you present to me on the day of your return to class a justifiable and verifiable excuse. Papers turned in late without a justifiable and verifiable excuse will be penalized 10 points for each day they are late. Quizzes cannot be made up, although the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. *One Final Note:* You are expected to do your "toileting" in between your class sessions at Catawba College. Please do not use class time for such activities because your departure and return to class are usually disruptive. This is also the case with examinations during which you will not be excused to use the bathroom except for emergencies.

Grade Distribution

In-Course Exams (3):	35%
Quizzes:	20%
Paper #1:	10%
Paper #2:	15%
Final Exam:	20%

Grading Scale:

100-92: A	Clearly superior college-level performance
91-90:	A-
89-87:	B+
86-83:	B Good college-level performance
82-80:	B-
79-77:	C+
76-73:	C Acceptable college-level performance
72-70:	C-
69-67:	D+
66-63:	D Minimally-acceptable college-level performance
62-60:	D-
≤ 59:	F Failure to achieve college-level performance

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY: When you enter the classroom, please turn off all alerts on your cell phone. You may not use your cell phone for any reason during class. Should you use any electronic device during an examination or quiz, you will automatically flunk that graded assignment, and you may flunk the course. Laptop computers may be used during non-graded class activities. However, if you use your laptop for purposes other than those directly related to our course, then you will not be allowed to bring your laptop to class again.

TOPICS AND PREPARATIONS

PART I: THE HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1/11 A. Introduction to the Course and Introduction to the Study of the New Testament

1/13 B. The Tools of New Testament Analysis

NOTE: No Class on Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/18, 20 C. The Old Testament Background and Canonization of the NT
Preparation: *Reading the New Testament*, Tuckett, 1-19 (reserve); Drane, 435-436.

1/23 D. Judaism From Alexander the Great to the Beginnings of the Common Era
Preparation: Drane, Ch. 1; **WWW Reading:** <http://virtualreligion.net/iho/>. Click on the “Texts” icon and read pericopes 1-11.

1/25,27 E. Judaism in the First Century of the Common Era and the Greco-Roman World
Preparation: WWW Reading: <http://virtualreligion.net/iho/>. Click on the “Texts” icon and read pericopes 25-28, 36, 39-40, 42-43, 48, 51-54. For more information on the Pharisees and Sadducees, see pericopes 62-75.

1/30;2/1 F. Apocalyptic and the Dead Sea Covenanters
Preparation: Review Drane, 40-41; **WWW Reading:** Go to the following website: <http://www.ibiblio.org/expo/deadsea.scrolls.exhibit/intro.html>. Study the following documents: "Introduction: The World of the Scrolls;" "The Qumran Library" (also study the introductions to the following scroll fragments: *The Community Rule*; *Hosea Commentary*; *Damascus Document*; *The War Rule*); "The Qumran Community." Also, in <http://virtualreligion.net/iho/>, click on the “Texts” icon and read pericopes 77-85, 88.

FEBRUARY 3: EXAM #1

PART II: EARLY CHRISTOLOGICAL TESTIMONY

2/6 The Nature of Our Sources and The Synoptic Problem
Preparation: Drane, Ch. 8. **WWW Reading:** Go to and read the material to be found at <http://www.mindspring.com/~scarlson/synopt/faq.htm>. **Be sure to start bringing your Synopsis of the Four Gospels with you to class.**

2/8,10 A. The Theology of Mark

Preparation: Mark; Drane, 187-194

- 2/13,15 B. The Theology of Matthew
Preparation: Matthew; Drane, 194-199
- 2/17,20,22 C. The Theology of Luke-Acts
Preparation: Luke; Drane, 191-94; 246-250
- 2/24,27 D. The Theology of John
Preparation: John; Drane, 199-207

FEBRUARY 29: EXAM #2

PART III: THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS

- 3/2 A. The Quest For the Historical Jesus
Preparation: Drane, Ch. 10

NOTE: No class March 5-9: Spring Break

- 3/12,14,16 B. The Life of Jesus [Including film, *From Jesus to Christ, Part I*]
Preparation: Drane, Chs. 2, 6, 7

- 3/19,21 C. The Teachings of Jesus
Preparation: Drane, Chs. 3-4. Mt. 5-8; 10-11; 13; 24; Mk. 2; 7-8; 10; Lk. 10. I also recommend reading Marcus Borg's essay on "The Teaching of Jesus Christ," *The Anchor Bible Dictionary, III*, pp. 804-812 (library reference section)—Borg will give you an appreciation for some of the current complexities in this subject.

MARCH 23: EXAM #3

PART IV: PAUL AND THE PAULINE TRADITION

- 3/26,28,30 A. Paul the Apostle
Preparation: Drane, 224-244; Ch. 12; "Paul: Life," *Anchor Bible Dictionary, V*, pp. 187-190 (library reference section)
- 4/2 B. The First Letter to Thessalonica
Preparation: I Thessalonians; Drane, 278-282, 296-298. You may note that Drane dates Galatians before I Thess. I (and countless others) disagree because, to name just one reason, there is no internal turmoil in Thessalonica at the time I Thess was written. Controversy seems to be a mark of Paul's later letters.
- 4/4,11 C. The First Letter to Corinth
Preparation: I Corinthians; Drane, 303-314

NOTE: No class April 6-9: Easter Break

- 4/13,16 D. The Letter to the Galatians
Preparation: Galatians; Drane, 282-291
- 4/18,20 E. The Letter to the Romans
Preparation: Romans; Drane, 319-328

PART V: SOME CONCLUDING ISSUES

- 4/23 The Revelation
Preparation: The Revelation; Drane, 404-416. **WWW Reading:** <http://virtualreligion.net/iho/>. Read pericopes 268-284 (under the “Texts” section—scroll down from the introduction to find this)
- 4/25,27 The Status of Women in Early Christianity
Preparation: “The Oppression of Women in the New Testament,” Bart Ehrman. *A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. Ch. 18. “New Testament Pericopes Relevant to the Status of Women.” Both of these documents are to be found on our BlackBoard site, under course documents.
- 4/30 Review and Evaluation

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

ANALYTICAL AND REFLECTIVE PAPERS

PAPER #1: “The Gospel Infancy Narratives”

In textbooks you read about it, and in lecture you hear about it, but as college students you need to have some hands-on experience with careful analysis of scripture, even if it is only at the introductory level. This paper will get you started in the right direction. What I want you to do is write a **3-4 page** paper in which you carefully describe the similarities and differences between Matthew’s (Mt 1:18-2:23), and Luke’s infancy narratives (Lk 1:26-2:52), and John’s prologue (Jn 1:1-18). Then you are to **try to explain how we might account for these similarities and differences**—this last part is a very important part of your paper. **Please note:** you are to use no sources for this paper other than the scripture passages themselves and your Bible (not the annotations in the margins). This is an exercise in fundamental biblical scholarship, **not a research paper**.

Grading Criteria:

- Extent to which you explain your analysis.
- Coherency of your response.
- The degree to which your paper conforms to the Paper Policy and Instructions listed below.

Due Date: Friday, January 27, 4:00 p.m.

PAPER #2: “Paul and Ethics”

Ever since the Protestant Reformation in the 16th-century C.E., many Christians have emphasized only Paul’s theology of “justification by grace through faith.” And, yet, every one of Paul’s letters contains something called *parenesis*, which is moral exhortation. Using the pericopes listed below, do the following: 1) Briefly summarize Paul’s moral teaching there; 2) Explain how Paul’s encouragement to moral behavior fits within the main themes within the letter from which the pericope comes. This is not a research paper. You are to do your own work, using only what you’ve learned from Drane, class presentations, and especially Paul’s letters themselves. If you use Drane’s ideas or words, you must document them properly, or else it is plagiarism. Please see Dr. Sang should you have any questions about the predicted content of your paper, or about how to properly document it. This paper should be approximately 4-5 pages long. **Due Date: TBA**

Required Pericopes: I Thess. 4:1-12; I Cor. 13:1-13; Gal. 5:13-6:10; Rom. 13:1 – 15:6

Paper Policy

The papers submitted in this course are expected to reflect those qualities epitomized by a liberal arts education. *Your grade will be directly affected by grammar, syntax and spelling. After determining your paper's grade, I will deduct 2 points for each grammatical error, and 1 point for each spelling and punctuation error. The greatest total penalty, however, will only be 10 points (i.e., one letter grade).* The simplest way to avoid such penalties is to have a reliable friend proof-read your paper before submitting it for a grade. For further information on plagiarism and the Honor Code consult the appropriate pages in the *Catawba College Catalog*. However, the following list of “thou shalt nots” should prove to be generally useful:

Some of the Most Common Types of Plagiarism

1. Failing to identify direct or word-for-word quotations by use of appropriate symbols and reference to the source.
2. Restating in your own words the work (ideas, conclusions, words) of another without reference to the source.
3. Presenting as your own the creative work (for instance, music or photographs or, of course, written work) of another without proper acknowledgment.

Rule of thumb: When in doubt, document.

Special Instructions for Submitting Papers

It is a requirement of this course that you submit your papers to me via *Blackboard*. You must follow the following instructions carefully:

- ◆ Compose your paper in **WORD (not in WORKS)**.
- ◆ **Save it as a WORD 97-2003 Document**
- ◆ The paper must be titled and must conform to all of the paper requirements stated above. **At the top of the first page you must type your name and your email address. If your email address is not there, I will deduct five points from your paper’s grade.**
- ◆ Of course, always back up your paper to a thumb drive or some similar, secure storage device.

- ◆ Log in to *Blackboard*. (Note: If you are using Internet Explorer 8, you may have trouble accessing *Blackboard*. If that is the case, I recommend that you download *Firefox* –another browser—and access *Blackboard* through it.) Go to this course and click on the *Assignments* link.
- ◆ Find the assignment for which your paper has been written, and click on the hyper-link for that assignment.
- ◆ To attach your file, use this sequence of commands:
- ◆ Browse; Choose File, Open, Submit (don't forget this one); CLICK SUBMIT ONLY ONCE
- ◆ You will receive a day and time receipt window for your submission. You **MUST** copy and print that window and save it. If there is some question about your paper being submitted on time, this is the only proof you will have that you did so.
 - ◆ My remarks will be found in green print, embedded within your text, as well as in marginal “bubbles.” Your grade will be found at the very end of your paper where I have typed and/or highlighted your name.

The Writing Center

The Catawba College Writing Center provides free, one-on-one consultations to all Catawba students. Our tutors have been intensely trained, and while they won't rewrite students' papers for them, they will give students feedback and encouragement at all stages of the writing process (brainstorming, drafting, revising, polishing). Students who use the writing center should be prepared to discuss the assignment they are working on and to begin making revisions, with the tutor's guidance, during the session. **All** students are encouraged to use the Writing Center which is open afternoons (in ADMN 211) and evenings (in the Library, Study Room #5). Walk-ins are welcome, but we honor appointments first. For more information or to make an appointment, call 704-645-4819 or stop by ADMN 211.

Sapere Aude!