



# Introduction to the New Testament I

## INSTRUCTORS

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course will expose the student to issues concerning how to interpret the Gospels, and provide an historical and theological survey of each of the four Gospels, culminating with discussion of how these four Gospels witness to the one Jesus.

## REQUIRED READINGS & RESOURCES

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The Bible: a standard translation (not a paraphrase)

Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 978-0310226970. (560 pages)

Pennington, *Reading the Gospels Wisely*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012. ISBN: 978-0801039379 (288 pages)

Thomas Schreiner, *The King in His Beauty* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013) Pages 428-539 (Gospel and Acts).

## LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

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1.	Mid-term and final exam	70%
2.	Two book reviews	20%
3.	Assigned Readings	10%



- ♦ There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final. The exams will cover class lectures and readings. The exams are taken online, but must be taken in the presence of the course instructor/coordinator. The final exam is cumulative, covering the entire semester.
- ♦ There are two book reviews assigned. These should be four to six pages each. Half of the review should present an overview of the book. The other half of the review should express your opinion of what you liked and disliked about the books.
- ♦ These are the minimal requirements to pass the course. The reviews must be turned in, both tests must be taken, and the readings must be completed to pass the course. Although a book review counts for twenty percent of the final grade, if a book review is not turned in or accepted because it is over a week late, the student cannot pass the course regardless of scores on other assignments.

## OUTCOMES, OBJECTIVES, AND EVALUATION

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### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will expose the student to issues concerning how to interpret the Gospels, and provide an historical and theological survey of each of the four Gospels, culminating with discussion of how these four Gospels witness to the one Jesus. (3 hours)

### **II. Official Outcomes and Objectives**

Outcomes:

Know the major themes and movements of God's redemptive work as revealed in the Scriptures.

Objectives:

- Understands the materials of the New Testament canon concerning the life and teachings of Jesus and the transmission of the gospel in the early Church
- Understands the basic history and doctrines of the early Church as expressed in the New Testament
- Is able to articulate the basic argument and major contribution of each book of the canon



## ATTENDANCE

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Students are expected to attend all sessions of the Downline Institute. To receive credit for this course students must attend all teaching sessions covering Matthew and the Lukan Parables either live or online.

## RESPECT FOR DIVERSE VIEWPOINTS

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Students are expected to have respect for one another, particularly when other students express diverse viewpoints in the classroom.

## PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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Plagiarism is the unattributed use of the words, quotations, or ideas of someone else. Students must always properly credit sources used in assessments and required projects.