

REGENT COLLEGE
Distance Education

BIBL 502: NEW TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS

Dr. Rikk Watts

Grader and Online Course Tutor: Brenton Dickieson, bdickieson@regent-college.edu

On-campus Course Tutor: Peter Coelho, de-bibl502@regent-college.edu

3 Graduate Credit Hours

Main source for guidelines, resources, extra handouts;

www.regent-college.edu/classesonline

Your due date: _____

(See the Student Contract copy in your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.

Course Description

This course introduces the content of the books of the New Testament with a view to providing a basis for further reading and study. The primary focus will be on the message of each book within its particular historical-cultural setting, with some attention being given to its contribution to the theology of the New Testament as a whole. It is most profitably taken in conjunction with Christian Thought & Culture II (INDS 502), which further explores how the New Testament functions as an intrinsic part of the scriptural rule of faith and life for the Christian. This course is a prerequisite to 600 and 700 level BIBL courses.

Course Outline and Reading Schedule

See Appendix 2.

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

	<u>3 credit hrs</u>
Lectures	36 hrs
Reading	52 hrs
Term Project (1250 words)	19 hrs
Examinations	20 hrs
Discussion Participation (including preparation)	<u>8 hrs</u>
TOTAL	135 hrs

Assignments:

All assignments are due (submitted or postmarked) on the due date set in your Student Contract (check the Student contract, which is the last page of your Student Handbook, for more details). Exams should be completed by the due date. Check your student handbook for detailed instructions.

1. Reading:

- The New Testament on a daily basis as per the outline.
- Wright (476 pp.), prior to mid-term; this will leave time for working on your term paper after the mid-term.
- Johnson (550 pp.), on a regular basis as per the reading schedule.

2. Comparative Review

Using Johnson, Carson-Moo, Brown, and Ehrman, discuss and assess their various positions on the critical issues, e.g. authorship, date, unity, provenance, etc. (but not canonicity), for ONE of the following: a) John, b) Ephesians, c) the Pastoral Epistles, d) 1 and 2 Peter, or e) James; 1250 words (approx. 5 pages). Discussion of theology, structure, content, etc. should only occur if they have a significant bearing on the issues above.

Do not use footnotes but refer to authors parenthetically using name and page only, e.g. CM, 220.

The student needs to identify the various critical issues of a certain biblical book (authorship, date, provenance, etc where applicable), indicating which ones are most important by the amount of discussion devoted to each, to have noted the key points involved in each issue, citing the various scholars they have read (critically evaluating their methods and conclusions) and where scholars differ to offer a judgment substantiated with reasons (I feel or I believe does not constitute reasons) indicating which position they think is more likely. See the enclosed handout for further guidelines.

Relevant sections (John, Ephesians, the Pastoral Epistles, 1 and 2 Peter, OR James) are available on request from the Distance Education office.

3. Examinations

Each exam consists of objective (i.e. multiple choice and true/false questions), short answer, and point-form essay questions of about 3 hours duration. The exam will be based on the lectures/class notes and will also presume knowledge of Wright and Johnson. See the sample exam on the Course Moodle site for further reference.

- a) The midterm exam will cover the items in Appendix 1 of this course outline, plus the lectures through Acts. This exam should be taken approximately three months after starting the course. Exam papers will not be returned to the student.
- b) The final examination will NOT be comprehensive; it will cover the lectures from Paul through the Revelation and should be taken towards the end of the six-month period. Exam papers will not be returned to the student.

Midterm exam

3 hours 33 MCQ, 6 True/False, 12 Gospels, 7 Short answers and 2 Essays

Final exam

3 hours 55 MCQ, 6 True/False, 9 Short answers and 2 Essays

TIP 1: For the True / False questions, do not guess. Think carefully! A point is deducted for each

wrong answer; there is no penalty for unanswered questions.

TIP 2: The essay questions for the final exam will be on one person and one book from lectures covering Romans through Revelation. For the book essay, it will exclude books which are part of the term project.

NOTE: Both exams are closed book. This means no notes or bibles allowed. A maximum of 3 hours is permitted for each exam; 45 minutes extra for first year ESL students. The original exam sheet must be returned with your answers.

Please refer to your student handbook for specific information on ordering your exam.

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>

4. Discussion questions

On your course Moodle site, there are discussion questions available for you to reflect and aid you in your studies. Not only will these questions contribute to your studies for your exams and term paper, but hopefully, will also help you reflect and apply this course to your life.

You do not need to answer every question in every unit, and the main purpose is to meaningfully engage in a number of different questions in a number of different areas. You may engage in discussion by starting your own threads, or by responding to other students in their questioning and answering. The discussions will cover the reflective questions that are listed at the end of each lecture in your course lecture notes. All evaluations will be based on the quality of your participation, not necessarily quantity or hours logged.

If you are studying with a group, you may count your discussion times with your group as fulfilling the participation requirement. However, please contact your grader, for approval first. Your 8 hours of online work includes reading posts, posting yourself, and the preparation work needed to answer the questions.

Whether you are local or studying at a distance, please register online at www.regent-college.edu/classesonline and click on Distance Education, then BIBL 502. This will be your main source of information and updates. Also, it is a place where you may initiate or continue discussion about the course.

5. Required Reading Report

Appendix 3 should be handed in with your final assignment.

Questions about the content, assignments, and studying for exams can be answered through the discussions forum, www.regent-college.edu/classesonline, where you will find your course tutor, Brenton Dickieson.

Evaluation

Term Project	30%
Examinations	60% (30% each for the Midterm & Final Exams)
Discussion questions	10%
Reading:	up to 10% or proportion thereof will be deducted for incomplete reading.

NB: Course evaluation forms are to be submitted by your course due date

Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details <http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator *first* for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

Academic Honour Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of “Academic Integrity” in the College Catalogue.

Bibliography

Required reading:

An English Bible (The NIV and/or NRSV will be used in class)

N. T. WRIGHT, *The New Testament and the People of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.

Luke Timothy JOHNSON, *The Writings of the New Testament, An Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999.

Helpful texts:

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002). Students might find this a helpful overview.

For Term Paper:

R. E. BROWN, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York-London: Doubleday, 1997.

D. A. CARSON, and Douglas J. MOO, *An Introduction to the New Testament 2nd Edition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Bart D. EHRMAN, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings 3rd Edition*. New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

APPENDIX 1

On the mid-term exam you will be expected to understand the significance of the following names or terms so as to be able to identify various features or characteristics of same to the following (e.g. “Which of the following does not describe the Diaspora?”):

Alexander the Great
Antiochus Epiphanes
apocalyptic
Apocrypha
Augustus
Diaspora
Domitian
emperor worship
Epicureanism
Essenes
Fate
Gnosticism
Haggadah
Halakah
Hasmoneans
Herod Antipas
Herod the Great
Josephus
Maccabees
Mishnah
mystery religions
Passover
Pentecost
Pharisees
Philo
Ptolemies
Qumran
Sadducees
Samaritans
Scribes
Seleucids
Septuagint
Stoicism
synagogue
Talmud
temple
Tiberius
Zealot

APPENDIX 2: Course Outline and Reading Schedule

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---|
| 1. CD 1, 2 | iTunes A | Introduction/Backgrounds
Read (in retrospect):
Wright, 3-80
Johnson, 21-91 (pps. For Rev. ed., 1999) |
| 2. CD 3, 4 | iTunes B | Text/Canon; Introduction to the Gospels
Wright 81-166
Johnson, 595-619
Johnson, 155-158 |
| 3. CD 5, 6 | iTunes C | The Mission and Message of Jesus
Wright, 167-279
Johnson, 93-153 |
| 4. CD 7, 8 | iTunes D | Mark/Matthew
Mark
Matthew
Johnson, 159-211; Wright, 280-370 |
| 5. CD 9, 10, 11 | iTunes E, F | Luke/Acts/Paul
Luke
Acts
Johnson, 213-257, 261-278; Wright, 370-476 |
| 6. CD 12, 13, 14 | iTunes F, G | 1-2 Thessalonians/1 Corinthians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Corinthians
Johnson, 281-293, 295-312 |
| 7. CD 14, 15 | iTunes H | 2 Corinthians/Galatians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Johnson, 312-340 |
| 8. CD 16, 17, 18 | iTunes H, I | Romans/Colossians/Ephesians
Romans
Colossians
Ephesians
Johnson, 343-366, 393-421 |
| 9. CD 18, 19, 20 | iTunes J | Philippians/Philemon/The Pastoral Epistles
Philippians
Philemon
1 Timothy
Johnson, 369-391, 423-433 |
| 10. CD 20, 21 | iTunes K | Pastoral Epistles/Hebrews/James
Titus |

2 Timothy
Hebrews
James
Johnson, 433-452, 455-476, 507-518

11. CD 21, 22, 23 iTunes L, M 1-2 Peter/Jude/Gospel of John
1 Peter
Jude
2 Peter
Gospel of John
Johnson, 479-505, 525-557

12. CD 23, 24 iTunes M Epistles of John/Revelation
1 John
2 John
3 John
The Revelation
Johnson, 559-592

APPENDIX 3 - SUBMIT THIS FORM BY YOUR DUE DATE
Reading Report

NAME: _____

Cross through all the readings you have completed.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|---|
| 1. | Johnson, 1-91
Wright, 3-80. | 9. | Philippians
Philemon
1 Timothy
Johnson, 369-391, 423-433. |
| 2. | Johnson, 595-619, 155-158.
Wright, 81-166. | 10. | Titus
2 Timothy
Hebrews
James
Johnson, 433-452, 455-476,
507-518 |
| 3. | Johnson, 93-153.
Wright, 167-279. | 11. | 1 Peter
Jude
2 Peter
Gospel of John
Johnson, 479-505, 525-557. |
| 4. | Mark
Matthew
Johnson, 159-211.
Wright, 280-370. | 12. | 1 John
2 John
3 John
The Revelation
Johnson, 559-592. |
| 5. | Luke
Acts
Johnson, 213-57; 261-78.
Wright, 370-476. | | |
| 6. | 1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Corinthians
Johnson, 281-93, 295-312. | | |
| 7. | 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Johnson, 312-40. | | |
| 8. | Romans
Colossians
Ephesians
Johnson, 343-366, 393-421. | | |