



# NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

## ODESSA COLLEGE - SYLLABUS

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3055 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An overview of the New Testament Scriptures, its literature, culture, history and truths.

### ACADEMIC OBJECTIVES:

1. To acquaint the student with the New Testament literature, culture, and history.
2. To stimulate the student to think critically about the truths in the New Testament and how they relate to today's culture.
3. To stimulate an interest in the student for the New Testament that encourages a commitment to lifelong study.
4. To provide an understanding of the historical background and setting into which Jesus Christ came and in which Christianity began.
5. To enable the student to understand the major divisions of the New Testament and God's moving in and through individuals.

### CORE ASSIGNMENTS:

- Research Paper - 30%

This paper is designed to cause the student to interact with the material on a personal level. The student will write a paper on a topic from the course material that is interesting to the student. The length of the paper varies depending the grade desired by the student. See "Contract Grading" below for details.

- Exams (2) - Mid-term and Final - 30%

These two exams will include essay, fill in the blank and multiple choice testing you on both the material covered in class lectures, notes and discussion. See "Contract Grading" below for details on how this exam is graded. Unless otherwise arranged, there will not be any make up exams. Reviews for exams will occur the class period before the exam is given.

**Mid-Term - March 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Final - May 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Reading report - 25%

The student will be required to read the entire New Testament over the course of the semester as well as class notes. You will be asked at the end of the semester if you have completed your reading. A reading schedule is posted below which averages to about 2 chapters per day.

- Class discussion and Quiz's - 15%

Over the semester, 10 quizzes will be given covering the weekly **Bible** reading material. You may be called upon to verbally summarize a plot line, character development, offer insight from a passage

or you may be asked to answer some basic questions from the reading.

**Quizzes are given at the beginning of class so do not be late.**

In addition, you are expected to interact with your fellow students and professor for the purpose of encouraging depth of thought and understanding.

### **CONTRACT GRADING:**

Contract grading is a system where the student determines the desired grade and then works to achieve that goal. Based on the students schedule, dedication, and ethic, they can set the bar they are comfortable with and get the most they can out of the course.

Mid-term and Final exam:

- 90-100 - Test only
- 80-89 - Word Bank with no page references
- 70-79 - Word Bank with page references
- 60-69 - Word Bank per section

Research Paper:

- 90-100 - 9 page paper, 5 references
- 80-89 - 6 page paper, 3 references
- 70-79 - 5 page paper, 2 references
- 60-69 - 3 page paper, 2 references

For Course:

- 90-100:
  - 9 page paper, 5 references
  - Test only
  - Take all 10 quizzes
  - Max of 5 absences
- 89-80:
  - 5 page paper, 3 references
  - Word bank with no page reference
  - Take 8 out of 10 of quizzes
  - Max of 7 absences
- 79-70:
  - 3 page paper, 2 references
  - Word bank with page references
  - Take 5 out of 10 of quizzes
  - Max of 10 absences
- 69-60:
  - 3 page paper, 2 references
  - Word Bank per section
  - Take 5 out of 10 of quizzes
  - Max of 10 Absences

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- The Bible - KJV, NIV, NAS, Living Bible, The Message, etc. Digital copies for classroom study are not permitted. You need to bring a copy of the Bible with you to class each day.

### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATION:

1. **BE HERE** - The student will begin losing 5 pts on his or her final grade for every day missed after ten absences. Because the exams will cover the material in class and also the reading material, failure to attend all class sessions will limit the ability of the student to answer exam questions.
  - a. In case of absence, it is the responsibility of the student to gather the information missed.
  - b. In the case a student cannot make an exam, the student must make prior arrangements with the instructor.
2. **TURN IT OFF** - All cell phones must be turned off prior to each class. There will be no texting, tweeting, posting, facing, viewing videos or making videos in our time together.
3. Portable computers for class are acceptable.
4. Assigned reading should be read **prior** to coming to class on the day that it is scheduled to be discussed.
5. Points will be deducted for papers that are late. Papers are late if they are handed in **after** the start of class on the due date. In other words, papers are late at 9:01.
6. Students may hand in rough drafts for tips on how to improve their papers. No rough drafts will be accepted after one week prior to the due date of the paper.
7. There are four aspects of this class (Paper, Exams, Reading, Class Interaction) that are graded. You must receive at least a 50% in all four aspects to pass this class. Failure to achieve a 50% in one of the four aspects will result in failure of the class.

### RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES:

1. Your paper is due at the beginning of class on May 4<sup>th</sup>
2. Title and bibliography page do not count as a page
3. You should refer to Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago style) for form. (Title page, Body, Bibliography, footnotes, etc.)
4. Paper will be double-spaced using 12 pt. type. Margins should be 1-inch all around, except at the top of the first page of your paper you should have a 2-inch margin.
5. Your paper should make use of footnotes. See below for example of a footnote.<sup>1</sup>
6. You must use at least 5 sources for your paper. You may use internet sources based on the following:
  - a. Unacceptable Sites - Wikipedia.com, Answers.com, Google.com, Bing.com or Yahoo.com
  - b. Acceptable Sites - Sites posting articles from scholarly authors or universities are acceptable.
7. You can submit a rough draft to the instructor for tips. Rough drafts will not be accepted after one week prior to due date.
8. Give reasons for your argument in your paper. Do not make vague generalizations.
9. Paragraphs should flow well. Think of them as needing to hold hands.

### GRADING RUBRIC FOR RESEARCH PAPER

- Content - 25%
  - Have you interacted with the chosen topic?
- Structure - 25%
  - Have you structured your arguments well, stating supporting and counter positions with clarity and purpose?
- Grammar - 25%
  - Have you used acceptable english?
- Source Material - 25%

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<sup>1</sup> Gleason L. Archer Jr., "Daniel," in *Daniel-Minor Prophets*, vol. 7 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, p. 4.

- Have you cited the required number of sources accurately in both format and content? Is the Bibliography correct?

## RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC:

Something that has to do with the New Testament. As we discuss the New Testament, what are you becoming curious about? What do you want to learn more about? Now, write a paper on that.

Topics must be submitted to the Professor and approved by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## READING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT

The following is a reading guide for the semester. It averages to about 2 chapters each day, every day. That is about 10 minutes of reading per day. You will be quizzed over the previous weeks reading. Therefore, on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, you may have a quiz over Matthew 1-13.

Jan 19, 2011	First day of class
Jan 21, 2011	Matt 1-13
Jan 24, 2011	Matt - 14-28
Jan 31, 2011	Mk 1-16
Feb 7, 2011	Lk 1-13
Feb 14, 2011	Lk 14 - John 3
Feb 21, 2011	Jn 4 - Jn 17
Feb 28, 2011	Jn 18 - Acts 11
Mar 7, 2011	Acts 12-28
Mar 14, 2011	Spring Break
Mar 21, 2011	Romans
Mar 28, 2011	I Corinthians
Apr 4, 2011	II Corinthians
Apr 11, 2011	Gal, Eph, Phil, Col
Apr 18, 2011	Thess, Tim, Titus, Philemon
Apr 25, 2011	Hebrews
May 2, 2011	James, Peter, John
May 11, 2011	Jude, Revelation

## KEY DATES

- Research Paper Topic Due - March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Mid-Term - March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Research paper due - May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Final - May 11<sup>th</sup>

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

A. **Plagiarism** – According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2<sup>nd</sup> College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using “as one’s own the writings or ideas of another.” Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include allowing another person compose or rewrite a student’s written assignment.

B. **Falsifying Information** – Falsifying information shall include forging a proctor’s name, submitting another’s work as one’s own, or otherwise providing false or misleading information.

C. **Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty** – During examinations, academic dishonesty shall include referring to written information not specifically permitted by the instructor or syllabus. It shall further include receiving unauthorized written or oral information from a fellow student or proctor. Academic dishonesty shall include stealing, buying, selling, or transmitting a copy of any examination.

Any student proven to have committed any of the above will receive an “F” for the course.

## **ADA COMPLIANT**

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Issues with special needs will be referred to the Office of Disability Services.

## **STUDENT OBJECTIVES:**

Please answer the following questions.

1. What caused you to take this class?

2. What do you want from this class?