



**Introduction to the New Testament**  
**30 Hours**  
**Jen Gilbertson, PhD**

## **I. Course Description**

The gospel is the good news of God's reign! This course introduces students to the books of the New Testament by considering their content, themes and theology; grappling with their historical-cultural contexts; and exploring their place in the big story of Scripture. The goal is to encourage disciples of Jesus not only to read God's Word, but to live it by the Spirit.

## **II. Learning Outcomes**

### **A. Primary Student Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, you will...

1. Have a growing understanding of the theology, structure, themes, and historical context of each New Testament book.
2. Appreciate the overall narrative and theology of the New Testament as the continuing story of the Old Testament and as the story we live today.

### **B. Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, you will...

*Cognitive (Head) – After completing this course you will...*

1. Read the New Testament with increasing comprehension through a greater awareness of genre, the first-century context, and narrative context.
2. Hear with greater clarity the distinct emphases of each New Testament book.
3. Be able to situate the books of the New Testament in the overarching narrative and themes of the Bible.

*Affective (Heart) – After completing this course you will...*

1. Desire to understand God's Word more.

2. Recognize the value of careful biblical interpretation with reliance on the Holy Spirit.
3. Long for the reign of God to come in all its fullness, being captivated by Jesus's good news.

*Conative (Hands) – After completing this course you will...*

1. Interpret the New Testament faithfully and prayerfully with attention to its historical and theological contexts and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. Respond in obedience to what God is communicating through the New Testament, living as a Spirit-filled disciple who longs for Jesus's return.

### **III. Course Content**

#### **1. Exploring the World of the New Testament**

- 1.1 Introducing the New Testament
- 1.2 Our Authoritative Story: The Big Narrative of Scripture
- 1.3 Understanding the New Testament World
- 1.4 Jewish Expectations in the Time of Jesus
- 1.5 Mark 1:1–15: Who is Jesus?

#### **2. Exploring the Gospels and Acts**

- 2.1 Genre: How to read the gospels
- 2.2 Matthew
- 2.3 Mark
- 2.4 Luke
- 2.5 John
- 2.6 Acts

#### **3. Exploring the Pauline Epistles, Part 1**

- 3.1 Introducing the Pauline Epistles
- 3.2 Romans
- 3.3 1 Corinthians
- 3.4 2 Corinthians
- 3.5 Galatians

#### **4. Exploring the Pauline Epistles, Part 2**

- 4.1. The Prison Epistles & Ephesians
- 4.2 Philippians
- 4.3 Colossians
- 4.4 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- 4.5 1 & 2 Timothy
- 4.6 Titus Overview
- 4.7 Philemon

## 5. Exploring Hebrews, the General Epistles and Revelation

- 5.1 Hebrews
- 5.2 Intro to the General Epistles
- 5.3 James
- 5.4 1 & 2 Peter
- 5.5 Johannine Epistles
- 5.6 Jude
- 5.7 Revelation
- 5.8 New Creation: Where Our Story Is Going (Rev 21:1–22:5)

## V. Course Evaluation

A. To complete this course for credit with ACOP’s credentialing, or for the sake of Eston College’s future accreditation, complete the following assignments:

### B. Assignments

#### 1. Exploring the Epistles: Imagining the First Century (25%)

Imagine that you are a first century believer in Asia Minor. Choose one of Paul’s letters and respond to it in the style of *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* by writing a 2-page letter to the apostle Paul.

#### 2. Engaging the Gospels: Discipleship

As you’ve studied the gospels and the world at the time of Jesus, is there something that surprised or delighted you? Something that helped you understand Jesus and his ministry in a deeper way? Share this insight in a real ministry context: a Bible study, a children’s lesson, a social media video, or even a sermon. Submit a 2-page summary of your notes. Please include a description of the ministry context and assessment of how it went.

### B. Time Investment:

Online Instruction	5 hours of video plus 5 hours of interaction
Textbook Reading	12 hours
Exploring the Epistles	4 hours
Engaging the Gospels	4 hours
<b>Total:</b>	<b>30 hours</b>

Please build a chart that displays the above information at a glance:

Assignment Name	Hours	Percentage
Complete Online Curriculum	10	25%

Textbook Reading	12	25%
Exploring the Epistles	4	25%
Engaging the Gospels	4	25%

## IX. Bibliography

Required Textbooks (when possible we choose books from the [Scribd library](#)):

The Bible

[Longenecker, Bruce W. \*The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World\*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.](#)

Recommended Resources:

- Brown, Jeanine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids, MI: BakerAcademic, 2007.
- Dawn, Marva J. *Joy in Our Weakness: A Gift of Hope from the Book of Revelation*. Revised ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Evans, Craig A., and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.
- Fee, Gordon D. *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus the Lord according to Paul the Apostle: A Concise Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: BakerAcademic, 2018.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.
- Fisk, Bruce N. *A Hitchhiker's Guide to Jesus: Reading the Gospels on the Ground*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992.
- McKnight, Scot. *The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
- Peterson, Eugene H. *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John & the Praying Imagination*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1988.
- Wright, N.T. and Michael F. Bird. *The New Testament in Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of First Christians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.