

## **MISSION TRAINING CENTER**

Bronxville, NY

Winter, 2009

### I. Course Title The Literature and History of the New Testament

### II. Catalog Description

The life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the origins, growth, and progression of the Christian message within the Apostolic Church and the society of the first century in the Christian era.

### III. Credit Hours: 3

### IV. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able:

- to identify the occasions, authors, contents and main themes of the New Testament books;
- to read and interpret portions of the New Testament applying general hermeneutical principles used by mainstream Christian churches;
- to identify and explain the teachings of Jesus relating to sin, judgment and grace;
- to identify specific incidents of Jesus' ministry and to show how the Christian church has related these to Old Testament prophecy;
- to use the concept of genre to achieve a better understanding of given portions of the New Testament;
- to describe the influence of Greco-Roman and Semitic religious, social, and political forces on the life of Jesus and the apostolic church;
- to trace the major steps in the progression of the Gospel from its origin in the Palestinian Jewish community to major centers of the Gentile world;
- to compare contemporary worship with that of the church in the apostolic age and to give examples and chief points of apostolic preaching
- to describe the church's preservation of its sacred writings, the development of a canon of Scripture and the development of translations through the centuries; and
- to demonstrate basic levels of proficiency in using Biblical research tools such as dictionaries, concordances, atlases, encyclopedias, commentaries, wordbooks and synopses.

## V. Required Course Texts

Hoerber, Robert, Horace Hummel, Walter Roehrs, and Dean Wenthe, eds. The Concordia Self Study Bible: New International Version. St. Louis: Concordia, 1986. (Preferred, but other study Bibles are acceptable.)

Drane, John William. Introducing the New Testament. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.  
*This text is mildly critical in its approach, but gives both sides of the argument. It is very readable and has some excellent side articles included. My own presentation will come from a more conservative/traditional stand point, so this will be a helpful look at the arguments from the "other side."*

*Other worthwhile NT Introductions:*

Franzmann, Martin. The Word of the Lord Grows. St. Louis: Concordia, 1963. (Conservative)

Carson, D. A, Douglas Moo, and Leon Morris. An Introduction to the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. (Conservative)

Metzger, Bruce The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content. 2<sup>nd</sup> enlarged ed. New York: Oxford, 1983. (Mildly critical.)

## VI. Attendance Policy

Since we only have three class sessions, your attendance is extremely important. If an emergency arises and you cannot attend class, please let me know. The class will be archived and a link will be sent out so you can download it.

## VII. Papers

*For non-credit students*

There will be two papers required for this class. Papers should be double spaced, no more than 12 point. Your name and topic should be centered at the top of the first page.

***Do not use other sources without giving proper credit. If you plagiarize anything for this course you will automatically fail regardless of how well you've done on anything else.***

First paper: A devotion based on one of Jesus' parables.

Second paper: A five page book review on a book dealing with New Testament culture or the life of a particular New Testament person. Here are some suggestions:

Bruce, F. F. Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977.

Maier, Paul. In the Fullness of Time. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2001.

Yancey, Philip. The Jesus I Never Knew. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

*If you are taking this course for college credit, the instructor will give you the details for your third paper.*

Papers and quizzes are due on **April 19**. I seriously doubt I will have time to grade much until after Easter.

## VIII. Grading Procedure

The grades will be based on:

Devotion on parable	100 points
Book Review	100 points
3 Quizzes @ 33 points each	<u>100 points</u>
	300 points total

## IX. Contacting the instructor

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## INTRODUCTION

The course, syllabus, questions, etc.

### UNIT I

*The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ...*

The Inter-testamental Period

*Drane, Chapter 1;  
Article: Jews and Judaism in the Roman Empire*

400 silent years in just a few minutes  
Greco-Roman World  
Judaism and its divisions

Which Gospel Came First?

*Drane, Chapters 10 and 12*

Features in the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Birth narratives

*Drane, Article, "When Was Jesus Born?" pp. 47ff.*

Parables

*Drane, Chapter 7; Article "Why Did Jesus Teach in Parables?"*

Miracles

*Drane, Chapter 8*

Jesus' Passion and Resurrection

*Drane, Chapters 4 and 5, include the articles on pp. 88 – 97*

A Brief look at features and uniqueness of the four Gospels

*Drane, Chapter 11*

### UNIT II

*To the Ends of the Earth*

Early Christianity in Jerusalem

*Drane, Chapter, 13*

Introducing St. Paul

*Drane, Chapter 14, pp. 266-274; Chapter 15; Article, "What Happened After Paul's Conversion?"*

Paul's First Missionary Journey;

*Drane, Chapter 16*

The Jerusalem Council; Galatians and James

*Drane, Chapter 23, pp. 412-417; Articles "The Letter of James" and "'Faith' and 'works' in Paul and James"*

Paul's Second Missionary Journey; Thessalonians

*Drane, Chapter 17; include articles*

Paul's Third Missionary Journey, Corinthians and Romans

*Drane, Chapter 18*

### Unit III

*Come, Lord Jesus, Come Quickly!*

Paul's imprisonment in Rome; the Prison Epistles and the Pastoral Epistles

*Drane, Chapter 19; include all articles*

Hebrews and 1 Peter

*Drane, Chapter 23, pp. 417-438; articles: "Hebrews: author, readers and date" and "Who wrote 1 Peter?"*

C. John's letters, 2 Peter, and Jude

*Drane, Chapter 24; include all articles*

D. Revelation

*Drane, Chapter 23, p. 438-445; include article on p. 445.*