

Bible History and Interpretation—NT

RL 1123 A

Instructor

Robert Lee Foster, PhD

Contact Points

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Course Website

<http://tinyurl.com/rfoster>

Office Hours

Maddox Center 105

Specific office hours are posted on my door but I am generally in my office from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Communication

Students must use their WBU e-mail address for this course. This address will be used to make contact with students as need arises related to course work, attendance, etc. Students are responsible to check their email between each class. If you need to contact me, please do so personally or use one of the contact points mentioned above.

Course Overview

A study of the historical background of the New Testament, including the intertestamental period, the life of Christ, and the early church.

Course Objectives

The following objectives will serve as a summary of the content of the course. The learning activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the “Institutional Academic Goals” of Williams Baptist University (Catalog).

1. The student will understand the basic history, geography, and culture of the first century Mediterranean world.
2. The student will gain a knowledge of the major events and teachings of the following Biblical books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, 1 Corinthians, Titus, Hebrews, James, and Revelation.
3. The student will be able to describe and discuss the character and person of Jesus and Paul including their mission, primary teaching, and narrative.
4. The student will be able to write an outline of the New Testament narrative.
5. The student will be able to discuss how the New Testament can be used in the making of personal moral, ethical, and spiritual decisions.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the college’s “Academic Honesty Policy” (catalog). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

Required Texts

A modern translation of the Bible such as NKJV, NASB, ESV, NRSV, etc.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Learning Activities

Note Bene

Turning in an assignment is no guarantee of receiving full point value. Only assignments done in a professional, error-free manner with excellence in thought and organization will receive full point value.

Late Assignments

Worksheets and exams may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where noted otherwise. The grade received on any assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 10% for each class session it is late.

Class Attendance (25 points)

Students are expected to attend every class session. Class begins at the appointed time. Students are expected to be in their seats ready to take notes at the appointed hour.

Students who miss one week's worth of class will be notified by the professor. Absences equal to two weeks of classes may result in removal from the class. No excused absences are allowed. Students who are involved in college required activities such as Williams Singers, The Cast, Athletic Competitions, etc. will not be counted absent when the student submits a note (email is acceptable) to the professor including their name, the date and reason for the absence. These notes should be submitted within one week of the absence, preferably prior to the absence. Please see the current Academic College Catalog for additional information.

Students will lose 10 points from their Attendance and Participation grade for each absence beginning with their second absence. Students will lose 5 points for any late arrivals or early departures beginning with their second late arrival or early departure. If a student loses 20 points because of late arrivals, they will be required to meet with the professor. If a student loses more than 25 points, the additional forfeiture will be subtracted from her/his total points in the class.

If a student completes the course with perfect attendance (no absences and no late arrivals/early departures), they will receive 10 bonus points. These points will be added to the total points for the course.

Worksheets (25 points each, 75 total points)

Worksheets are located in the online classroom. Worksheets should be printed out and submitted in class. Due dates for the worksheets are located in the course schedule below.

Quizzes (5 points each, 50 total points)

Quizzes will cover lecture material and reading assignments. The quizzes are located in the online classroom. Please refer to the online classroom for due dates and times. Quizzes will consist of 5 objective questions. Twelve quizzes will be given and the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Reading (50 points)

Each student will be asked to read the following biblical books during the semester: Luke, John, Acts, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, James, and Revelation. Students are required to keep a contemporaneous log of their readings and to confirm they have completed their reading near the end of the course (see due date on course schedule). As each chapter is read, the student should date it on the reading log which is provided on the class website, i.e., read a chapter, log it, read another chapter (if so desired), log it, etc. If your reading log becomes damaged or lost during the course of the semester, please bring it to the professor and ask for instructions. Failure to keep the log as instructed will result in the loss of points.

Exams (100 points each, 300 total points)

Exams will cover both the lecture material and reading assignments. All exams will be unit specific, not comprehensive. The students will be asked to write the entire outline of the New Testament narrative on the final exam. This outline is located on the course website. All exams must be completed in black or blue ink.

Final Course Grade

Accuracy of Grades

All grades for the class are recorded in the Vcamp grade book. Vcamp, however, is not used to calculate final grades, only to record individual assignment grades. Students should routinely check their grades. Any questions about the grades should be directed to the professor by the last day of class. All grades for the course (except the final exam) will be considered final the last day of class. The final exam grade will be considered final if the student does not contact the professor within one week of the posting of the grade. This procedure is intended to involve the student in the accuracy of their grade in a timely manner.

Grading Scale

Class Attendance	25	A	90-100%
Worksheets	75	B	80-89.9%
Quizzes	50	C	70-79.9%
Reading	50	D	60-69.9%
Exams	<u>300</u>	F	0-59.9%
TOTAL POINTS:	500		

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. All requests for special accommodations must be approved in consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor after consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. The student is responsible to initiate any request for accommodations in advance of their need. Documentation will be required.

Course Schedule

DATE	LECTURE	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
August	Introduction to the Course		
22	Intertestamental and NT Historical Background	Gundry 17-42	
27	The Mundane Settings of the NT	Syllabus Gundry 45-65	
29	The Religious and Philosophical Settings of the NT	Gundry 66-98	
September	Labor Day – No Class		
3			
5	(continued)		Geography Worksheet Due
10	The Canon and Text of the NT	Gundry 99-112	
12			FIRST EXAM
17	An Introductory Overview of Jesus' Public Life and Ministry	Gundry 134-146	

19	The Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1—2; Luke 1—2 Gundry 194-198; 235-248	
24	(continued)		
26	The Announcement of the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry	Luke 3:1—4:13 Gundry 249-250	
October 1	The Galilean Ministry	Luke 4:14—6:49 Gundry 250-254	
3	(continued)	Luke 7:1—9:50 Gundry 254-258	
8	The Journey to Jerusalem	Luke 9:51—10:42; 15:1-32; 18:1-30 Gundry 258-264	
10	(continued)	Luke 9:1-50; 18:31-43 Gundry 265-272	
15	Fall Break – No Class		
17	The Jerusalem Ministry	Luke 19:28—21:38 Gundry 272-273	Inductive Bible Study Due
22	The Passion Narrative	Luke 22—23 Gundry 273-279	
24	The Passion Narrative (Continued) The Ascension	Luke 24:1-53 Gundry 279-283	
29	The Study of Jesus' Life	Gundry 114-133	
31	(continued)		
November 5			SECOND EXAM
7	The Ascension Witnesses in Jerusalem	Acts 1:1—6:7 Gundry 331-343	
12	Witnesses in Judea and Samaria	Acts 6:8—11:18; 12:1-25 Gundry 343-349	
14	The First Missionary Journey	Acts 11:19-29; 13:1—14:28 Gundry 349-356	
19	The Jerusalem Council	Acts 15:1-35	

	The Second Missionary Journey	Gundry 356-358 Acts 15:36–16:5; 17:16-34 Gundry 358-365	
21	Thanksgiving Break	No Class	
26	The Third Missionary Journey Paul's Arrest and Trials	Acts 18:22-23; 19:23–20:1; 23:1-35 Gundry 365-379	
28	Paul's Arrest and Trials: The Letter Writing Ministry	Acts 28:11-31 1 Corinthians 1:1–4:7; 8:1-13 Titus 1:1–3:15 Gundry 383-387; 411-419; 481-486; 490	Inductive Bible Study Due
December 3	The Christian Diaspora	Hebrews 1:1—5:10; 11:1-19 Gundry 498-513	Reading Log Due
5	(continued)	James 1:1–2:26 Gundry 514-522; 541	
	The Roman Persecution of Christianity	Revelation 1:1–4:11 Gundry 546-570	
FINAL EXAM			