

New Testament Introduction (NTL 710)  
Front Range Bible Institute



Professor Tim Dane  
Fall 2018

# Syllabus for New Testament Introduction (NTL 710)

## Professor Timothy L. Dane

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## I. Course Description

New Testament Introduction (NTI) deals primarily with the origin of the NT. This topic includes two major realms of discussion: textual criticism and Bible Introduction. The former has often been known by the expression “lower criticism,” while the latter has often been known by the expression “higher criticism.”

Textual criticism focuses upon the transmission of the text. This includes studies of manuscript evidence, early translations, and early quotations, and what kinds of tangible evidence there is concerning the transmission of the text from the first century to the present.

Bible Introduction (Higher Criticism) looks at the origin of the writings themselves and deals with issues of authorship. Bible Introduction also deals with issues of historical and cultural background that formed the background for when these writings came to men from God. Higher Criticism includes the broad look at the origin of the Bible (General Introduction) as well the narrow book by book focus (Special Introduction).

This course will also deal with liberal forms of Higher Criticism known generally by the expression Historical Criticism (hereafter HC). The focus in this regard will be for helping students become generally familiar with the presuppositions and methods of HC so that he will be equipped for recognizing and refuting false claims.

## II. Course Objectives

- A. To have the knowledge and skill for analyzing textual variants within the NT and choose which readings best represent original readings.
- B. To be able to articulate in general terms the nature of Scripture.
- C. To be able to explain the background and manner in which God gave Scripture through human vessels.
- D. To be able to explain the manner in which God providentially brought the NT books together into a recognized canon.
- E. To be able to recognize and refute the false claims of Higher Critical methods.

## III. Required Course Materials

### A. Resources:

- i. Professor’s notes on NTI
- ii. Norman Geisler, *A General Introduction to the Bible*.
- iii. Norman Geisler, *Inerrancy* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980).

- iv. Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction*, Rev. edition. Downers Grove: IVP, 1990. (this will be a resource for your future use. We will not be reading it during the class)
- v. F. F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*.
- vi. Bruce Metzger, *The Text of the New Testament, Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Enlarged Edition. New York: Oxford, 1992.
- vii. Robert L. Thomas, *A Harmony of the Gospels*. (this will be a resource for your future use. We will not be reading it during the class)
- viii. Robert L. Thomas and David Farnell, *The Jesus Crisis*.
- ix. Robert L. Thomas, *Three Views of the Synoptic Problem*. (this will be a resource for your future use. We will not be reading it during the class)

B. All students: Your own computer or at least access to a computer

- i. Class presentations should be on Microsoft Word, although the hard copies of your project do not necessarily have to be done on this program. Using the same program may be helpful when it comes to questions about style and formatting.
- ii. It is recommended (though not required) that you see if you could employ Power Point in your teaching.
- iii. You do not need to have a laptop in class, but you may use one for note-taking if you prefer.

C. Logos Libronix Bible Software Program (highly **recommended** as a personal study tool, but not required for the class. Group discount may be possible through FBI).

## IV. Course Requirements

A. Attend all classes (if a student must miss a class, he must obtain a DVD)

B. All students:

- i. Read appendices in the professor's class notes (97-238, 141pp.)
- ii. Read Geisler: *Inerrancy* (502pp.)
- iii. Read Geisler: *A General Introduction to the Bible* (455pp.)
- iv. Read Bruce: *The Canon of Scripture* (334pp.)
- v. Read Metzger: *The Text of the New Testament* (297pp.)
- vi. Read Thomas: *The Jesus Crisis* (386pp.)
- vii. Future Resource that is not required reading during this course: Guthrie: *New Testament Introduction* (28-985, 957pp.)

Total Reading: 2115

Reading allocation @ 3 minutes per page:

Appx. 6600 minutes

Appx. 100 hours

Appx. 16 hours per week for six weeks

Appx. 2 ½ hours per day

Recommendation: grow in your discipline to speed up your reading and toward 2 to 2 ½ minutes per page.

Remember this reading is taking the place of other outside course requirements

- C. All students: take notes as appropriate
- D. All students: take quizzes

## V. Course Grading Criteria

- A. 10% Perfect class attendance
- B. 20% Quizzes averaged (drop lowest grade)
- C. 30% Mandatory for all: read 100% of Geisler *Inerrancy* and *A General Introduction*
- D. 20% Mandatory for all: Read Bruce: *Canon of the Scripture*
- E. 10% Read appendices in professor's notes
- F. 5% Read Metzger *The Text of the New Testament*
- G. 5% Read Thomas *The Jesus Crisis*

## VI. Course Schedule

|   | Date    | Topic (subject to change based on progress)   | Reading:   | Assignments |
|---|---------|---|--|-------------|
| 1 | Sep. 6  | Introduction, Fundamental Presuppositions, Textual Criticism (TC)   | Geisler: <i>Inerrancy</i> (502pp.)                         |             |
| 2 | Sep. 13 | TC continued  | Read Metzger <i>The Text of the New Testament</i> (297pp.) |             |
| 3 | Sep. 20 | General Introduction: NT History, The Canon: definition, production, correct view, collection, recognition, reading |  |             |
| 4 | Sep. 27 | General Introduction, The Canon: collection, circulation, tests, affirmation, cessation, Special Introduction:      | Geisler: <i>A General Introduction</i> (455 pp.)           |             |

|    |         |   |  |  |
|----|---------|---|--|--|
|    |         | overview of NT books                      |  |  |
| 5  | Oct. 4  | Special Introduction: book-by-book review |  |  |
| 6  | Oct. 11 | Special Introduction: book-by-book review | Read Bruce: <i>The Canon of the Scripture</i> (334pp.) |  |
| 7  | Oct. 18 | Special Introduction: book-by-book review |  |  |
| 8  | Oct. 25 | Historical Criticism                      | Read Thomas <i>The Jesus Crisis</i> (386pp.)           |  |
| 9  | Nov. 1  | Historical Criticism                      |  |  |
| 10 | Nov. 8  | Historical Criticism                      | Read appendices in professor's notes (141pp.)          |  |
| 11 | Nov. 15 | Historical Criticism                      |  |  |
|    |         |   |  |  |

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The New Testament is the second part of the Christian biblical canon, the first being the Old Testament. The New Testament discusses the teachings and person of Jesus, as well as events in first-century Christianity. Christians regard both the Old and New Testaments together as sacred scripture. The New Testament is a collection of Christian texts originally written in the Koine Greek language, at different times by various different authors. While the Old Testament canon varies somewhat between Introduction to the Old Testament, Third Edition by J. Alberto Soggin. Jewish Wisdom in the Hellenistic Age by John J. Collins. Old Testament Theology, Volume I by Horst Dietrich Preuss. This book of Jeremiah offers a remarkable range of literature, including prose, poetry, homilies, oracles, and proverbs. This commentary understands the book as a work of religious literature, to be examined in its final form, yet with careful attention to the historical contexts of writing and development through which the text took shape. He has written several titles including A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction, Prophecy in Ancient Israel, and Late Israelite Prophecy. Exile and Restoration. Author: Peter R. Ackroyd. NTE710 Exposition of Galatians Syllabus Coming Soon Thursdays 8:00PM Instructor Dr. Tim Dane. NTE502 NT Survey II Syllabus Coming Soon Wednesdays 5:45PM Instructor Peter Wise. I became a pastor a few years ago while studying at Front Range Bible Institute. I can confidently say that God has used Front Range to influence my personal life and make me a better servant. FRBI has been such a blessing to Grace Bible Church. We have long desired more formal equipping of the saints for the ministry, & Front Range has been the answer to our prayers. Sunday School teachers, missionaries, future chaplains, saints from all walks of life have benefited from local training that allows them to continue living in Colorado Springs and remain serving in our local church.