

Syllabus for  
**GBIB 571—New Testament Synthesis - ONLINE**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2013

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the content of documents in the New Testament canon, a collection of texts that possesses unity and diversity of message. Each text is carefully studied by examining its cultural and historical background.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to understand the message of the New Testament in its original context and to learn that, after the themes of the various New Testament writings are understood within their historical milieu, the message of the New Testament can be applied to contemporary issues of Christian faith and practice.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Discuss the historical and cultural context of nascent Christianity in the first century.
- B. Examine and present the main issues of modern scholarship in order to achieve a greater understanding of the message of the New Testament literature in the richness of its witness to the faith.
- C. Discuss the importance of interpreting the texts of the various New Testament writings within the historical context.
- D. Explain the unity and the diversity of the New Testament and discuss the importance of achieving a synthesis comprehension of its message.
- E. Discuss the message of the text to the original audience and how it applies to the contemporary church.
- F. Articulate a formational knowledge of the historical/theological content of the New Testament with application to selected contemporary situations.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament* (SNT). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. ISBN: 9780310238256

DeSilva, David. *New Testament Themes*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001. ISBN: 0827225113.

Watson, Edward. *NT Course Supplement*, 2013.

2. Other  
None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks  
None
2. Other  
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
2. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
3. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
4. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.

- b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
  
- B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures
  - 1. **Completion of Assignments**  
 Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
  - 2. **Incompletes**
    - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
    - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.
  - 3. **Examinations**
    - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
    - b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
    - c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
    - d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
  - 4. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to [www.studentresources.oru.edu](http://www.studentresources.oru.edu).
  
- A. Course Policies and Procedures
  - 1. Evaluation Procedures

- a. Grading:
 

Gundry assignments (2% each)	36%
Research paper on John	32%
Sermon outline and manuscript	32%
  - b. Grading scale:
    - A=100-90%
    - B=89-80%
    - C=79-70%
    - D=69-60%
    - F=59-0%
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
  - b. WPA requirements for this class
    - (1) All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the Research Paper for GBIB 571 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
    - (2) Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change.
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
- a. Each assignment is to be completed in one week. A week begins on Monday and ends at midnight Sunday night (Central Standard Time).
  - b. See D2L for weekly assignments.
  - d. Contacting the Professor: E-mail: [ewatson@oru.edu](mailto:ewatson@oru.edu)

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR

### **Week Reading**

- 1 Read Gundry, Chapters 1 and 2  
Read Supplement A Historical Information
- 2 Read Gundry Chapters 3 and 4  
Read Supplement F -- Faith and Academics
- 3 Read Gundry chapters 5 and 6  
Read Supplements J -- Why Four Gospels?, K -- Literary Relationships of the Synoptic Gospels and M -- Life of Jesus
- 4 Read Gundry, chapter 7  
Read Supplements C -- Introduction to Mark and L -- Priority of Mark
- 5 Read Gundry chapter 8  
Read Supplements B -- Introduction to Matthew and I -- Genealogy of Jesus

<b>Week</b>	<b>Reading</b>
6	Read Gundry chapter 9 Read Supplements D -- Introduction to Luke and U -- Distinctives in Luke
7	Read Gundry chapter 10 Read Supplements E -- Introduction to John and N -- Healings and Miracles <b>Research Paper due</b>
8	Read Gundry Chapter 11 Read Supplements Q -- Influences on Paul and X -- Summary of Paul's Life
9	Read Gundry chapter 12 Read Supplement S -- Notes on Paul's Letters
10	Read Gundry chapter 13
11	Read Gundry 14
12	Read Gundry chapter 15
13	Read Gundry chapters 16 and 17 Read Supplement T -- Notes on Hebrews and the General Epistles
14	Read Gundry chapter 22 Read Supplement R – Revelation <b>Sermon Outline and Manuscript Due</b>

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

**Master of Arts in Practical Theology**

**GBIB 571—New Testament Synthesis  
Fall 2013**

**Dr. Edward Watson, Instructor**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Arts in Practical Theology degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution**—Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution**—Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Foundational Knowledge of Old Testament/New Testament Scripture</b>			
Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context.	X			
<b>2</b>	<b>Basic Methods of Biblical Interpretation</b>			
Exhibit competence and understanding in the Word of God by utilizing basic methods of biblical interpretation.	X			
<b>3</b>	<b>Theology and Christian Doctrines</b>			
Analyze and apply basic Christian doctrines.		X		
<b>4</b>	<b>History of Christianity</b>			
Research and synthesize historical Christian themes.		X		
<b>5</b>	<b>Communication Through Preaching/Teaching</b>			
Effectively communicate the message of Christianity through the medium of preaching or teaching.			X	
<b>6</b>	<b>Supervised Practice in Ministry Context</b>			
Demonstrate understanding and skills for contemporary ministry contexts.				X