

LIDLAW COLLEGE
Te Wananga Amorangi

140.515 New Testament: Introduction
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Christchurch
Lecturer: Richard Neville

Semester 1, 2015
NQF Level: 5, 15 credits

CONTENT OUTLINE

Week	Lecture
Week 1	Introduction to the course, and Mark's Gospel (1)
Week 2	The Historical Context of the New Testament (1), Mark's Gospel (2), and Gospel criticism
Week 3	Historical Context of the New Testament (2), and Matthew's Gospel (1)
Week 4	Geography of the New Testament (1), Orality and Aurality and the NT Text, and Matthew's Gospel (2)
Week 5	Jewish voices of the first century, the Gospels of Luke and John
Week 6	Traditions and sources in the NT, and the book of Acts
Week 7	Kingdom of God, Geography of the New Testament (2)
Week 8	Paul, his life and writings (1)
Week 9	Paul, his life and writings (2)
Week 10	The General Epistles (1)
Week 11	The General Epistles (2)
Week 12	Revelation and Canon

ASSESSMENT TASKS, DUE DATES AND LEARNING HOURS

140.515 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. In this assessment track the assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows:

Task	Weight	Hours
Core class periods (12 x 3 hours)		36 hours
Reading and reflection		24 hours
Content tests	15%	18 hours
New Testament Survey	40%	32 hours
Essay	45%	40 hours
	100%	150 hours

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

Assessment tasks involve the following:

1. Content tests

In each of these three weeks you will be assigned a portion of the New Testament to read that will form the basis of the content test for that week. The tests are open Bible, multi-choice and completed on Moodle. You may sit the tests as often as you like, with the best score being recorded in the gradebook.

Due dates: End of week 5 (11.55pm Saturday 28th March)
 End of week 9 (11.55pm Saturday 16th May)
 End of week 12 (11.55pm Saturday 6th June)

Weighting: 15%
Time allocation: 18 hours
Learning outcomes: 1

2. New Testament survey

The New Testament survey consists of two assignments that should each take about 16 hours to complete. The assignments are based on your observation of the text. Each assignment requires you to examine the overview and structure of the book by yourself and then reflect on the book in light of the textbook. The key is for you to analyse the text yourself before turning to the commentators. You are not required to give an in depth analysis of the book, instead you should outline the content and themes of the book. The instructions below outline the steps you need to take as you work through the assignment.

Overview of the Book

1. Read through or listen to the book in one sitting and record your first impressions. What is the purpose of the book? What are its major themes? **(150 words)**

Examine the Structure of the Book

2. Read through the book again, dividing the book up into sections. Don't be limited by chapter/verse divisions or headings. They are not inspired. Think about how one section relates to another. Look out for structural markers. Diagram or list your divisions, making sure you highlight the key structural markers. **(1 page)**

3. Read through the book again, highlighting keywords and phrases. What patterns did you notice? What are the themes running through the book? Briefly write up your findings. **(100 words)**. If you diagram or scan the highlighting and pattern analysis this should take up no more than **2 pages** in addition to the 100 word explanation.

4. Read each section again, summarising the content into a single statement capturing the essence of the section (up to **50** words for each section). How do the sections relate to each other? What ideas are being built up throughout the book? **(200 words)**

5. Identify the key text(s) for the book. This could be a text or texts that sum up the book, gives structure to the book or creates a pivot around which the whole book turns. Remember not every book has a key text, so don't try to force it. Include the text or texts in your submission and then explain why it/they function as key text(s) **(50 words for the explanation)**

6. Create a title that sums up the book. Feel free to be creative. **Use this title as the heading for your submission.**

7. Read the relevant section of the text book and then reflect on your preceding work. What new insights did you gain? What part of the text challenged your thinking? Why? Record your thoughts, making sure you reference correctly (about **300** words).

8. Letting what you have read in the text book inform and fine-tune your own previous findings, present your analysis in a creative way. This need not take a very high word count. You could create a diagram, brainstorm, a flow chart, an analytical layout, a mind-map, or just about anything that communicates what the book is all about. Think themes and how the book hangs together (NB: avoid exhaustive tables or detailing everything that happens in the book – it is important to show your understanding of themes and sections). In the first week of lectures we will look at examples from previous years to get your creative juices flowing.

9. Provide an explanation of your presentation, demonstrating how your presentation reflects the book (about **300** words).

Due dates: End of Week 3 (11.55pm Saturday 14th March): Ephesians

End of Week 7 (11.55pm Saturday 2nd May): James

Length: 1,100 words plus section summaries (step 4)

Weighting: 40%

Time allocation: 40 hours

Learning outcomes: 1, 3

Grading criteria

- Reflection on the biblical text
- Themes identified and developed
- Engagement with textbook

3. Essay

Choose one of the following topics.

1. Using Mark's Gospel as the primary point of reference explain what Jesus meant by the 'Kingdom of God', how his life and ministry fitted into the notion, and briefly suggest implications for today.

2. Choose one of these Pauline epistles and explain its message with reference to its historical setting and any relevant critical issues. Briefly outline lessons that today's church can learn from this epistle. You can choose from one of the following: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians, Colossians.

3. Explore and explain the nature of Revelation and the different approaches adopted to its interpretation. In summary form, show how your chosen perspective is worked out in the structure

of Revelation. Briefly explain the implication your preferred approach might have for our understanding of eschatology?

You will be given detailed instructions for the essay. An annotated bibliography can be found below.

Note also the helpful “Laidlaw Study Guide” on the Moodle website. To navigate there, go to your Moodle page and click on ‘Study help’, then click on ‘Assignments and Research’.

Due date: End of Study Week One (11.55pm Saturday 13th June)

Length: 2,500 words

Weighting: 45%

Time allocation: 40 hours

Learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4

Grading criteria:

- The topic/questions has been directly addressed
- Critical skill
- Reading and research
- Application
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
- Communication and Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

TEXTBOOKS

Required Text:

Gary M. Burge, Lynn H. Cohick and Gene L. Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

This volume will serve as the basis for regular class discussions.

Other useful resources we will use from time to time are:

- David A. DeSilva. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*, Downers Grove: IVP, 2004
- D.A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*, Leicester: Apollos, 1992
- Donald A Hagner. *The New Testament. A Historical and Theological Introduction*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012
- Mark Allan Powell. *Introducing the New Testament*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

Copies of all of these will be on restricted loan in the Laidlaw Library.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE ESSAY

1. Using Mark's Gospel as the primary point of reference explain what Jesus meant by the 'Kingdom of God', how his life and ministry fitted into the notion, and briefly suggest implications for today.

Achtemeier, Paul J. et al, *Introducing the New Testament*, 214-223.

Beasley-Murray, *Jesus and the Kingdom of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Caragounis C.C. 'Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven' in Green, J.B. et al. (eds), *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, 417-430.

Drane, J. *Introducing the New Testament*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986, 1999, 111-166 (Ch's 6-9).

Garland, D. *Mark. From Biblical Text... To Contemporary Life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Marshall, C.D. *Kingdom Come*. Auckland: Impetus, 1993.

Marshall, C.D. 'Kingdom of God', *Reality* 64

Marshall, I. H. *A Theology of the New Testament. Many Witnesses, One Gospel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

Stanton, G., *The Gospels and Jesus*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989, 203-217 (Ch 12).

Wright, N.T. *Mark for Everyone*. London: SPCK, 2001.

Ladd, G.E. *The Kingdom and the Church in A Theology of the New Testament*.

Cambridge: Lutterworth Press, 1974, 115-119.

Wenham, D. and S. Walton, *Exploring the New Testament. Volume 1. The Gospel and Acts*. London: SPCK, 2001, 155-186 (Ch 8).

Young, Brad H. *Jesus*, Chapter 5-11, 18 (49-128, 197-205).

2. Choose one of these Pauline epistles and explain its message with reference to its historical setting and any relevant critical issues. Briefly outline lessons that today's church can learn from this epistle. You can choose from one of the following: Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Colossians.

The first point of reference is epistle itself. Your answer should interact dynamically and critically with the text as the primary source. Where you work with the text, consult key commentaries to enhance your work with critical insight. You should also consult the article on the chosen epistle from one of these dictionaries:

Hawthorne, G.F. et al (eds.) *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

Martin, R.P. et al (eds). *Dictionary of the later New Testament and its Developments*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1997).

The relevant article in The Anchor Bible Dictionary.

Also read the relevant chapter in standard NT Introductions and theologies e.g. Carson, D & D. Moo, *An Introduction the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992, 2005.

Achtemeier, P.J; Green, J.B; Thompson, M.M. *Introducing the New Testament. Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Ladd, G.E. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Cambridge: Lutterworth, 1974.

Marshall, I. H. *A Theology of the New Testament. Many Witnesses, One Gospel*.

Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

You should also consult key commentaries or works and especially their *introductions* for the epistle chosen. Here are some helps:

Romans

Introductory Level

Bruce, F.F. *The Epistle of Paul to Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*. TBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

Moo, D. *Romans. From Biblical Text... To Contemporary Life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Morris, L. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Leicester: IVP, 1988.

Stott, J. *The Message of Romans. God's Good News for the World*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1994.

Wright, N.T. *Paul for Everyone: Romans*. London: Westminster, 2004.

Others

Byrne, B. *Romans*. SP. Collegeville MN: Liturgical Press, 1996. Cranfield, C. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary*. 2 Vols. Edinburgh: T&T. Clark, 1975, 79.

Dunn, J.D.G. *The Epistle to the Romans*. 2 Vols. WBC 38A and B. Dallas: Word, 1988.

Jewett, R. *Romans: A Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.

Moo, D. *The Epistle to the Romans*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Schreiner, T.R. *Romans*. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

1 Corinthians

Introductory Level

Blomberg, C. *1 Corinthians. From biblical text... to contemporary life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Dunn, J.D.G. *1 Corinthians*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.

Hays, R.B. *First Corinthians*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.

Keown, M. *Lecture Notes for Epistles*. Auckland: BCNZ, 2008 (on reserve).

Marshall, C.D. *Paul and Corinthian Christianity*. Auckland: BCNZ, 1995.

Morris, L. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*. TBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

Prior, D. *The Message of 1 Corinthians: Life in the Local Church*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1993.

Wright, N.T. *Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians*. London: SPCK, 2003.

Others

- Fee, G.D. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. NINTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
Thistelton, A. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Ephesians

Introductory Level

- Foulkes, F. *The Epistle of Paul to Ephesians: An Introduction and Commentary*. TBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
Snodgrass, K. *Ephesians. From Biblical Text... To Contemporary Life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
Stott, J. *The Message of Ephesians: God's New Society*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1979.
Wright, N.T. *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon*. London: SPCK, 2003.

Others

- Best, E. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Ephesians*. ICC. Edinburgh: T&T. Clark, 1998.
Bruce, F.F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
Lincoln, A.T. *Ephesians*. WBC 42. Dallas: Word, 1990.
Martin, R.P. *Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon*. Interpretation. Atlanta: John Knox, 1991.
O'Brien, P.T. *The Letter to the Ephesians*. Pillar NTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Philippians

Introductory Level

- Fowl, S. *Philippians*. THNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
Keown, M. *Congregational Evangelism in Philippians*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2008, Ch2 & conclusion.
Marshall, I.H. *The Epistle to the Philippians*. Epworth Commentaries. London: Epworth, 1992.
Martin, R. *The Epistle of Paul to Philippians: An Introduction and Commentary*. TBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
Melick, R. *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.
Motyer, A. Prior, D. *The Message of Philippians. Jesus Our Joy*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1984.
Thielman, F. *Philippians. From Biblical Text... To Contemporary Life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
Witherington, B. *Friendship and Finances. The Letter of Paul to the Philippians*. Valley Forge: Trinity, 1994.
Wright, N.T. *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon*. London: SPCK, 2003.

Others

- Bockmuehl, M. *The Epistle to the Philippians*. BNTC. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1998.
- Fee, G. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- O'Brien, P.T. *The Epistle to the Philippians: a commentary on the Greek Text*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Colossians

Introductory Level

- Garland, D. *Colossians, Philemon. From Biblical Text... To Contemporary Life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Lucas, D. *Fullness and Freedom: The Message of Colossians and Philemon*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1993.
- Melick, R. *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*. NAC. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.
- Stott, J. *The Message of Ephesians: God's New Society*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1979.
- Thompson, M. *Colossians & Philemon*. THNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Wright, N.T. *Colossians & Philemon*. TBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- Wright, N.T. *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon*. London: SPCK, 2003.

Others

- Bruce, F.F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Dunn, J.D.G. *The Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon: a Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Martin, R.P. *Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon*. Interpretation. Atlanta: John Knox, 1991.
- O'Brien, P.T. *Colossians, Philemon*. WBC 44. Waco: Word, 1982.

1 Thessalonians

Introductory Level

- Holmes, M. *1 and 2 Thessalonians. From Biblical Text... To Contemporary Life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Marshall, I.H. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. NCBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Morris, L. *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*. NIC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Stott, J. *The Message of Thessalonians*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1991.
- Wright, N.T. *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians*. London: SPCK, 2003.

Others

- Best, E. *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*. BNTC. London: Black, 1972.
- Bruce, F.F. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. WBC 45. Waco: Word, 1982.
- Richard, E.J. *First and Second Thessalonians*. SP 11. Collegeville, Minn.: The Liturgical Press, 1995.
- Wannamaker, C. *The Epistles to the Thessalonians: a commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

3. Explore and explain the nature of Revelation and the different approaches adopted to its interpretation. In summary form, show how your chosen perspective is worked out in the structure of Revelation. Briefly explain the implication your preferred approach might have for our understanding of eschatology?

Standard Introductions and Theologies to the NT give good outlines.

- Carson, D et al. *An Introduction the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992, 2005.
- Achtemeier, P.J; Green, J.B; Thompson, M.M. *Introducing the New Testament. Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Ladd, G.E. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Cambridge: Lutterworth, 1974.
- Marshall, I. H. *A Theology of the New Testament. Many Witnesses, One Gospel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

Standard Commentary Introductions

Introductory Level

- Gregg, S. *Revelation, Four views: A Parallel Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997.
- Hughes, P.E. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary*. Leicester: IVP, 1990.
- Keener, C. *Revelation. From Biblical Text... To Contemporary Life*. NIVACS. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Morris, L. *The Book of Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary*. TBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
- Wilcock, M. *Essential Vision: The Message of Revelation*. BST. Leicester: IVP, 1989.

Others

- Aune, D.E. *Revelation 1-5*. WBC. Dallas: Word, 1997.
- Aune, D.E. *Revelation 17-22*. Dallas: Word, 1998.
- Aune, D.E. *Revelation 6-16*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.
- Beasley-Murray. G.R. *The Book of Revelation*. NCC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
- Beale, G.K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

- Boring, M.E. *Revelation*. Interpretation. Louisville: John Knox, 1989.
- Johnson, A.F. *Revelation*. BSC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Ladd, G.E. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Michaels, J.R. *Revelation*. Downers Grove (Ill): IVP, 1997.
- Mounce, R.H. *The Book of Revelation*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.
- Mounce, R.H. *What Are We Waiting For? A Commentary on Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Reddish, M.G. *Revelation*. Macon (GA): Smyth and Helwys, 2001.
- Strelan, John G. *Where Earth Meets Heaven: A Commentary on Revelation*. Adelaide: Openbook, 1994.
- Trafton, J.L. *Reading Revelation: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon (GA): Smyth & Helwys, 2005
- Wall, R.W. *Revelation*. NIBC. Peabody (MA): Hendrickson, 1991.
- Thomas, R.L. *Revelation 1-7: An Exegetical Commentary*. Chicago: Moody, 1992.
- Thomas, R.L. *Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary*. Chicago: Moody, 1995.
- Weinrich, W.C. *Revelation*. Downers Grove (Ill): IVP, 2005.
- Giblin, C.H. *The Book of Revelation: The Open Book of Prophecy*. Collegeville (Minn): Liturgical Press, 1991.
- Hindson, E.E. & Couch, M. *The Book of Revelation: Unlocking the Future*. Chattanooga (TN): AMG Publishers, 2002.

Other Works on Revelation

- Barr, D.L. *Reading the Book of Revelation: A Resource for Students*. Atlanta (GA): SBL, 2003.
- Bauckham, R. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: CUP, 1993.
- Bewes, R. *The Lamb Wins! A Guided Tour Through the Book of Revelation*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2000.
- Eller, V. *The Most Revealing Book of the Bible: Making Sense Out of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Metzger, B.M. *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- Ellul, J. *Apocalypse: The Book of Revelation*. New York: Seabury Press, 1977.
- Fleming, D.C. *Bridge Bible Handbooks: Explaining the Books of the Bible for the People of Today's World*. Brisbane: Bridgeway, 1988.
- Gilbertson, M. *God and History in the Book of Revelation: New Testament Studies in Dialogue with Pannenberg and Moltmann*. Cambridge: CUP, 2003.
- Keck, L. *The New Interpreter's Bible: General Articles & Introduction, Commentary & Reflections for Each Book of the Bible Including the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books in Twelve Volumes*. Volume 12. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994-2002.
- Malina, B.J. and Pilch, J.J. *Social Science Commentary on the Book of Revelation*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000.

- Michaels, J.R. *Interpreting the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Pate, C. Marvin. *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Paul, Ian. *How to Read the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: Grove, 2003.
- Poythress, V.S. *The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation*. Phillipsburg (NJ): P&R, 2000.
- Rossing, B.L. *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*. Boulder (Co): Westview Press, 2004.
- Spilsbury, P. *The Throne, the Lamb and the Dragon: A Readers' Guide to the Book of Revelation*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.