

REL 1020 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT



Daniel C. Browning, Jr.

Office: Lawrence Hall 115 ☎: (601) 318-6156

✉: browning@wmcarey.edu 🌐: <http://www.wmcarey.edu/browning>

Office Hours will be posted on door

THIS COURSE

This course is required for every student of William Carey University, as an integral part of a well-rounded educational experience. As primary literature for Christianity, the New Testament has greatly influenced the development of western civilization, and its study is necessary for a complete understanding of western thought and values. This course should enable students to think intelligently about the New Testament and its place in their lives.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Descriptions: An introduction to the history, literature, and theology of the New Testament.

Upon completing the course, the student will:

1. be able to describe the history of the New Testament including the historical storyline of the New Testament and the cultural, political, and geographical backgrounds of the New Testament world,
2. be able to describe the literary structure of the New Testament including genre, canon, and basic literary content of each book, and
3. be able to describe the theology of the New Testament including the identification of the main themes of each book and specific theological subjects that are normative and distinctive in New Testament studies.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Class format is primarily lecture, and the student is expected to maintain careful notes; a synopsis of the lecture material is available online (see above address) to assist the student in organizing his/her notes
- Daily reading assignments, subject to quizzes, appear on the class schedule below
- Class participation through discussion and questions, both in and out of class, are strongly encouraged
- Audiovisual materials and archaeological artifacts will be used whenever possible
- Class communication, study helps, and the like will be disseminated through the University's online learning system, **D2L** ("Desire 2 Learn"); it is therefore essential that all students utilize it by registering and logging in regularly

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE

Students with disabilities who are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and require special accommodations, should contact Ms. Brenda Waldrip at 601-318-6188. Ms. Waldrip is located in the Student Services Office in Lawrence Hall.

TEXTBOOKS

- The main text is the New Testament itself. Please have a modern version (translated within the last one hundred years) in class; if you have questions about the various translations available, please see the instructor.
- Extensive readings are assigned from the supplementary text: C. K. Barrett, ed., *The New Testament Background*, Rev. ed. (New York: Harper, 1989). ISBN: 0-06-060881-1.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

- **Class format** is primarily lecture, and the student is expected to maintain careful notes; a synopsis of the lecture material is available online (see above address) to assist the student in organizing his/her notes
- **Class participation** through discussion and questions is strongly encouraged, both in class and on the University's online learning system, **D2L**
- **Reading quizzes:** Daily reading assignments will be subject to random and unannounced reading quizzes. The number of these quizzes will be determined by the instructor. Missed quizzes may not be made up, but *at least 20%* of the lowest quiz scores will be dropped (e.g., the 10 best quiz scores would be counted out of 13). **Some quizzes may be administered using D2L with prior notice.**
- **Grading System:** grades will be determined according to the following items and percentages:

Assignment	Weight
Reading Quizzes	20%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	20%
Final Exam (minimally comprehensive)	20%

- **Grading Scale:** The student's final letter grade will be assigned from his/her average according to a *ten-point grading scale*; i.e.: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; < 60 = F
- Extra credit work will not be assigned; the grading system and/or class schedule may be modified for the benefit of the class as the instructor sees fit. Any changes will be accompanied by written notification
- The instructor retains—at his sole discretion—the right to assign a grade of 'F' to individual students in cases of flagrant or repeated violations of "Attendance and Classroom Policies" outlined in the section below

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University Statement: William Carey University seeks to create an environment that encourages continued growth of moral and ethical values, which include personal honesty and mutual trust. The University places the highest value on academic integrity and regards any act of academic dishonesty as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty is considered unethical and in violation of William Carey University's academic standards and Christian commitment. If such an incident occurs, students, faculty, and/or staff are obligated to initiate appropriate action. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, sanctions could include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, and could lead to suspension or dismissal from the University. A full explanation of the procedures for responding to instances of academic dishonesty is contained in the University's *Policies and Procedures Manual* and in the student handbook, *The Red Book*.

INSTRUCTOR'S POLICY: ALL incidents of academic dishonesty (whether involving in-class exercises or plagiarizing of written work) will be considered as the most serious offense; ANY cases will result in immediate failure of the course and possible further actions according to University policy.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

It is far preferable to teach and learn in an atmosphere in which students are eager to learn and display mutual respect for instructors and other students alike. Unfortunately, recent trends in student behavior, specific actions by certain students, and results of those acts make this section necessary.

General Classroom Policies

- The instructor is the final authority in matters of class decorum; if any student is deemed to be disruptive to the learning environment, the instructor—at his sole discretion—may dismiss that student and assign an absence for the period
- Class begins at the specified time; quizzes or quiz questions missed as a result of tardiness may not be made up
- Getting up to leave temporarily during class is not acceptable, except in cases of severe distress; students must regulate their bodily functions like adults (go to the potty before class!)
- **Cell phones and pagers are not allowed in class**, for voice *or text* communication; if a cell phone rings, the student in possession will be dismissed from the class and assessed an absence
- Recording of class sessions is not allowed except by special permission

Attendance

- The William Carey University catalog states, “students must attend 75% of the class meetings in order to receive credit for the course;” this policy will be enforced with the following additions
- NO distinction is made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences for attendance reporting; if you are not in class—*for any reason*—you are considered absent, plain and simple; this means:
 - 1) absences for school activities count as regular absences and the student is responsible for keeping their total absences within the limits specified by the University catalog (above), and
 - 2) doctor’s excuses are not needed and will have no bearing on attendance reporting
- If a student adds the course late and misses classes, those absences *will be* recorded as absences
- If a student is not present when attendance is determined (either by roll call or by work performed in class), the student will be considered absent (there will be no “tardy” category)
- If a student leaves class early, they will be assessed an absence and will not receive credit for work completed in the class; for example, students will not be given credit for a quiz if they leave class during the period in which the quiz was administered

Examination Policy

- Students must be present for all sectional exams (each designated “Exam” on the course schedule); absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero, unless *prior* arrangements have been made with and approved by the instructor
- Makeup exams will be given only under extreme circumstances or in cases of absence for school sponsored programs, and only by *prior* approval from the instructor; **it is the student’s responsibility** to request such arrangements

DISASTER CONTINGENCY

In the event of closure or cancellations due to natural disaster or other emergency causes, general information will be forwarded to local media, posted on the WCU website <http://wmcarey.edu>, and sent via automated process to your WCU student e-mail address. Specific information regarding the continuation of coursework will be posted on the university’s course management system at <https://elearning.wmcarey.edu>. For up-to-the-minute alerts regarding emergency situations, sign up to receive notifications through *Sader Watch*, the WCU emergency text message service. Sign up instructions can be found under current students on the WCU homepage.