

# RELS212

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

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## Course Summary

**Course :** RELS212 **Title :** Introduction to the New Testament

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

**Course Description:** This course provides a detailed exploration of the historical and religious context, literary styles and theological themes of each of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, and offers an overview of current New Testament studies.

### Course Scope:

An eight-week study of the historical context, development, literary styles, and theological themes of each of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. We will explore the text

from both historical-critical and literary perspectives, observing the strengths and weakness of each approach.

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## Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the cultural, political, and religious background of each New Testament book.
  2. Describe the historical development and intended purpose of each book.
  3. Identify and assess the various critical approaches to studying the New Testament.
  4. Identify and explain the central themes of each book as well as the themes running through the New Testament as a whole.
  5. Discuss the influence of the New Testament in both the early and modern Church.
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## Outline

### Week 1: Historical Context

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Topics

## Jewish Culture and the Roman World

- Identify the various historical sources for the context of the Gospels and Acts.
- Describe the cultural and political characteristics of second temple Judaism.
- Describe the theological beliefs of the central Jewish sects.
- Identify the genre of the Gospels.
- Compare and contrast the Gospels with other types of literature.
- Describe the major critical methods involved in studying the Gospels.

### Required Readings

Wenham, chapters 1-2

Marshall, chapter 1

Matthew 1-7

### Assignments

Self-Introduction/Replies

Forum 1 and Replies

Quiz 1

## **Week 2: The Synoptic Gospels**

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### Topics

Matthew, Mark, and Luke

### **Students will be able to:**

- Define the major approaches to reading ancient (and modern) literature,
- Describe the steps involved in exegeting a Biblical text,
- Discuss the current issues surrounding the historicity of the Gospels.
- Identify and explain various quests for the historical Jesus,
- Describe Jesus' view of himself,
- Define the term/concept "Kingdom of God", and
- Discuss Jesus' view of the Jewish Torah.

### Required Readings

Wenham, chapters 4, 9,10, and 11

Mark 10-16

Luke 1, 15-24

### Assignments

Forum 2 and Replies

Reflection Paper 1

Quiz 2

## **Week 3: The Gospel of John**

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Topics

Life and Teaching of Jesus

**Students will be able to:**

- Identify and describe the literary structures of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John
- Summarize the background of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, and
- Discuss the key themes of both Mark, Matthew, Luke and John.

Required Readings

Wenham, chapters 8 and 12

The Gospel of John

Assignments

Forum 3 and Replies

Quiz 3

#### **Week 4: The Early Church and the Life and Letters of Paul**

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Topics

The Book of Acts

**Students will be able to:**

- Describe the historical development of Acts,
- Describe Paul's approach to "mission",
- Identify and discuss the central theological themes within Acts.
- Identify and describe the key elements from the first century world that had an impact upon Paul and his writings,
- Summarize the nature of ancient letter writing,
- Describe the sources of information regarding the life of Paul, and
- Discuss the nature of Paul's conversion experience.

Required Readings

Wenham, chapter 13

Marshall, chapters 2

The Book of Acts

Assignments

Forum 4 and Replies

Reflection Paper 2

Quiz 4

#### **Week 5: Galatians, Thessalonians, and Corinthians**

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Topics

Galatians, Thessalonians, and Corinthians

**Students will be able to:**

- Summarize the historical background of Galatians, Thessalonians, and 1 and 2 Corinthians
- Identify and explain the key terms/themes in each book, and
- Articulate the central argument of each book.

Required Readings

Marshall, chapters 4-6

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians

Assignments

Forum 5 and Replies

Research Paper Topic (submit in assignments area)

Quiz 5

**Week 6: Romans, Philippians, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Timothy, and Titus**

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Topics:

Romans, Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus

**Students will be able to:**

- Summarize the historical background of Romans, Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus
- Identify and explain the key terms/themes in each book, and
- Articulate the central argument of each book.

Required Readings

Marshall, chapters 8-13

Ephesians, Philippians, 1 Timothy

Assignments

Forum 6 and Replies

Reflection Paper 3

Quiz 6

**Week 7: Theology of Paul, New Testament Letters, Hebrews, James, Peter, and Jude**

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Topics:

The General Epistles, Hebrews

**Students will be able to:**

- Identify and summarize Paul's central theological teachings,
- Identify and describe the principles involved in interpreting the letters of the New Testament.

- Summarize the historical background of Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter and Jude,
- Identify and explain the key terms/themes in each book, and
- Articulate the central argument of each book.

#### Required Readings

Marshall, chapters 14-19

James, Jude, 1 John

#### Assignments

Forum 7 and replies

Research Paper

### **Week 8: John and the Revelation**

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#### Topics

John and Revelations

#### **Students will be able to:**

- Summarize the historical background of John's 3 brief letters and of Revelation,
- Identify and explain the key terms/themes in each book, and
- Articulate the central argument of each book.

#### Required Readings

Marshall, chapters 20-21

Revelation

#### Assignments

Forum 8 and Replies

Quiz 7

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## **Evaluation**

#### **Grading:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade %</b>
Forum Questions	45.00 %
Week 1 Introduction	5.00 %
Week 1	5.00 %
Week 2	5.00 %
Week 3	5.00 %
Week 4	5.00 %
Week 5	5.00 %
Week 6	5.00 %
Week 7	5.00 %
Week 8	5.00 %

Quizzes	15.00 %
Week 1 - Quiz 1	2.14 %
Week 2 - Quiz 2	2.14 %
Week 3 - Quiz 3	2.14 %
Week 4 - Quiz 4	2.14 %
Week 5 - Quiz 5	2.14 %
Week 6 - Quiz 6	2.14 %
Week 8 - Quiz 7	2.14 %
Reflection Papers	25.00 %
Week 5--Submit Paper Topic for week 7 research essay	6.25 %
Week 2 - Reflection Paper 1	6.25 %
Week 4 - Reflection Paper 2	6.25 %
Week 6 - Reflection Paper 3	6.25 %
Research Paper	15.00 %
Week 7 - Research Paper	15.00 %

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## Materials

**Book Title:** Exploring the New Testament, Volume 1, 2nd ed. - eBook available in the APUS Online Library

**Author:** WENHAM

**Publication Info:** Intervarsity Press

**ISBN:** 9780830825394

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**Book Title:** Exploring the New Testament, Volume 2: A Guide to the Letters & Revelation, 2nd ed. - eBook available in the APUS Online Library

**Author:** Marshall

**Publication Info:** Intervarsity Press

**ISBN:** 9780830825400

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**Book Title:** Students need a copy of the Bible in a translation that they readily understand-Available online at <http://bible.com>

**Author:** N/A

**Publication Info:** N/A

**ISBN:** N/A

Important: To access any e-books that are required for this course, please refer to the Online Library, the Resources section in the classroom, and this Electronic Course Material FAQ document:

<http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=http://ebooks.apus.edu/E-bookFAQs.docx>

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# Course Guidelines

## Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow MLA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework to the Humanities Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

## Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

## Late Assignments

### School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

## Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

## Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

## Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

## Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

## Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.
- The main response to the forum is due mid-week – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations. Late main response posts to a forum may not be accepted without prior instructor approval.
- Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week may not be graded.

## Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your quiz. Weekly quizzes must be submitted by midnight Eastern Time, Day 7 of the assigned week. Late quizzes or exams will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

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## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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