











RELB 112 Introduction to the New Testament Fall 2025

## **RELB 112 Intro to the New Testament**

## **Global Campus**

### **Interactive Online Format**

This course follows an interactive online format and has Thursday deadlines. You are expected to login regularly during the course to participate in the online discussions. Please plan accordingly. Please review the Dates & Deadlines widget on the right side of your course in LearningHub for the last day to withdraw for a full refund.

#### **Instructor Contact**

Please refer to the course in LearningHub for the teacher's contact information.

#### Communication with the Instructor

It is important to remember that while the Internet is available 24 hours a day, your instructor is not. You can expect that your instructor will respond to e-mail messages within 2 business days during the week and may not be available to respond on weekends.

### **Other Assistance**

Department	Email	Phone	Text
Username and Password Assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016	
Technical Assistance with Online Courses	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960	
Exam Requests and Online Proctoring	onlineexams@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6566	(269) 397-4477
Distance Student Services - Any Other Questions	onlinestudents@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6566	(269) 397-4477

### **Part 1: Course Information**

### **Course Description**

This course offers an introduction to the scholarly study of the New Testament. Our primary focus throughout the course will be a literary and historical analysis of the 27 writings of the New Testament. Questions such as the authorship, purpose, structure, date, and occasion of each of these documents are considered insofar as they aid our understanding of the New Testament and contribute to our grasp of the theology of each of these documents. These writings, which proclaim the good news of the Messiah Jesus, will be studied in their historical context, beginning with important thinking about the study of the New Testament.

### **Required Text/Material**

Required texts are essential for learning and understanding the course material. Textbooks are not included in the course cost unless specified otherwise. You can purchase your textbook from <a href="mailto:bookstore.andrews.edu">bookstore.andrews.edu</a>, <a href="mailto:vitalsource.com">vitalsource.com</a>, or any other textbook supplier. For financial aid payment, contact your financial advisor at the university where you are completing your degree.

An English Bible of your own preference

(a literal translation [NRSV, NASV, NIV, etc.] rather than a paraphrasing translation [Clear Word, The Message, etc.]; Quizzes are based on the NKJV)

Norman L. Geisler, A Popular Survey of New Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2007). ISBN: 9780801016615

### **Optional Textbook/Material:**

David A. DeSilva, An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formations. (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2005).

### **Credit Hour and Commitment**

This course is offered for 3 semester credits; therefore, it is expected that you will spend 2-3 total hours on this course. This translates to a steady 6-9 hours each week. You'll spend your time reading, accessing instructional materials, interacting with your instructor and classmates, and completing homework in preparation for the quizzes and exams scheduled in the class.

A recommended weekly schedule to divide your time is provided:

Readings: 3 hours Lectures: 1 hours

Interactive Discussions: 1 hour

Quizzes: 1 hour

Studying for Upcoming Exams: 3 hours

#### **Institutional Outcomes**

 Develop the ability to think critically, observe accurately, analyze quantitatively, draw reasonable inferences, perceive relationships, and show the ability to discriminate among alternatives and design creative strategies to solve problems.
 [S2]

- 2. Exhibit compassionate behavior towards other individuals and show respect for the dignity of all people, affirming the Biblical view of all persons being created in the image of God who in Christ wants all human beings to be one, independent of gender or ethnic background. [A4]
- 3. Evaluate one's interpersonal effectiveness, including the ability to work in groups while maintaining the ability to think for oneself, and strive to enlarge the scope of all personal abilities. [C2]

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

### PO 1: Foundational Knowledge

Document foundational knowledge in the areas of Bible, history, and theology from an SDA perspective.

### PO 3: Effectively Communicate Mission

**BA Theology:** In the context of present society, history, theology, be able to articulate the Seventh-day Adventist view of life both orally and in writing.

**BA Religion:** Effectively communicate the global mission, beliefs, and heritage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

- 1. To familiarize the student with the content of the New Testament.
- 2. To acquaint the student with the issues regarding authorship, date, circumstances/purpose of writing a book, and the audience of the different genres of the New Testament books.
- 3. A survey of the issues in recent scholarship with regard to the individual books.
- 4. A limited introduction to the historical, religious, and social context of the Roman Empire in the first and second centuries.
- 5. An overview of early Christian communities' relationships with Jews and pagans.

### **Mental Health Support**

Andrews University seeks to foster belonging and care. It is not uncommon for students to face challenges that hinder academic progress, like academic stress, sleep disturbances, managing multiple responsibilities, relationship issues, anxiety, or feelings

of despair or depression. If you or someone you know is grappling with any of these concerns, we urge you to seek assistance. The university offers valuable, free resources that can help address these problems effectively.

- If you are struggling with this class, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible.
- Contact your academic advisor if you are struggling in multiple classes, are unsure whether you are making the most of your time, or are unsure what academic resources are available at Andrews University
- Students in the U.S., access <u>Andrews Telehealth</u> for new medical, counseling therapy, psychiatry, and diet & nutrition support to <u>schedule a consultation</u>.
- If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, contact Academic Live Care 24/7 remote crisis services at 1-866-349-5575.
- Contact 911 for life threatening emergencies.

Additional information and resources are on the <u>Global Campus Student Wellbeing</u> <u>webpage</u>.

## **Part 2: Course Methods and Delivery**

### **Methods of Instruction**

Methods of instruction include assigned readings from the New Testament and the textbook. Content Bible book quizzes on the assigned NT book(s) for the week will be given, and two exams. One of the exams is the midterm exam (approximately half of the content of the lectures and textbook readings) and the other exam will be the final exam (the remaining content of the lectures and textbook readings). Regular participation in the course is essential to good performance.

### **Technical Requirements**

- Computer: PC (Win 10 or newer) or MAC (10.14 or better)
- A webcam with microphone, and speakers (or plug in headset)
- Internet: 2.4 Mbps or faster DSL, cable or Wi-Fi connection
- Browser: Current version of Chrome or Firefox
- Software: Office 2013 or newer (Office 365 available here)

### **LearningHub Access**

This course is delivered online through LearningHub at <a href="http://learninghub.andrews.edu">http://learninghub.andrews.edu</a>

Your username and password are your Andrews username and password. You need to activate your username and password to access LearningHub. Please do this online here: <u>Username Activation</u>, if you haven't already. If you need assistance, call or email us: (269) 471-6016 or helpdesk@andrews.edu.

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub, please email <u>dlit@andrews.edu</u> or call (269) 471-3960.

## **Part 3: Course Requirements**

**Important Note**: This online class is **not** self-paced. You can arrange your schedule flexibly during each week, but you MUST participate each week. You are expected to "show up" to class by interacting in the discussion forums a minimum of two times per week. In addition, assignments are due regularly each week. Adequate Internet access during the duration of the course is critical for your participation. To be successful, plan to spend time daily on the course.

### **Assessment Descriptions**

### Bible quizzes - 30%

The quizzes cover the New Testament book/books scheduled for the week. Each quiz will have about 10-28 questions, depending on the length of the book. Please think of one question per Bible book chapter. No Bible in any format allowed during the quiz. This is on your honor, and you will sign an academic integrity statement at the beginning of each quiz.

#### **Discussion Forums - 10%**

Discussion forums help you practice explaining accounting concepts in your own words - a skill you'll use regularly when communicating with colleagues and supervisors.

**Format**: You'll engage in online conversations with your instructor and classmates about course topics. These discussions deepen your understanding through dialogue and shared perspectives.

#### Types of Discussions:

- **Formal discussions** require thorough, scholarly responses that meet the same academic standards as papers and exams. Cite any sources using your discipline's style guide (APA, MLA, etc.).
- **Informal discussions** may include introductions, personal experiences, and casual observations about course topics.

Requirements: Unless otherwise noted, you must:

Post an initial response by 11:55 PM Sunday

- Reply to at least two classmates by 11:55 PM Thursday
- Course weeks run Friday through Thursday (after the first week)

A topic/difficult Bible passage will be suggested for a brief (1-2 paragraphs; 50-70 words each paragraph) discussion.

#### Midterm exam - 30%

The midterm exam will cover the material dealt with up to that specific date (Matthew -1 Corinthians) and will contain questions from the lectures and the textbook. More information in the Exams section of the syllabus.

#### Final exam - 30%

The final exam will cover the remaining part of the textbook and the class notes (2 Corinthians -Revelation). More information in the Exams section of the syllabus.

#### **Exams**

There are 2 exams in this course. The Midterm exam covers the textbook reading and class material from the Gospel of Matthew to 1 Corinthians (weeks 1-8), and it is made up of multiple-choice questions, true or false questions, and fill in the blank questions. The midterm exam is worth 30 % of your total grade. You will be allowed 60 minutes to take this exam. The final exam covers the remaining material from 2 Corinthians to Revelation (weeks 9-15), and is made up of multiple-choice questions, true or false questions, and fill in the blank questions. The final exam is worth another 30% of your final grade. You will be allowed 60 minutes to take this exam. Both exams must be taken under the supervision of a proctor. In each module that contains an exam, you will find what to review and what materials are allowed (if any) during the exam.

Please read the important information about taking exams and how online proctoring works at our <u>exams page</u>. Sign up for a date to take the exam as early as possible. You may sign up as early as one month before the last date of the exam window. Spaces fill quickly. Therefore, it is best to sign up as early as possible. Follow the instructions that apply to your situation in the <u>exam request form</u> to set up a proctoring appointment before the exam due date. There will be prompts throughout your course to sign up as well.

Please note that an exam code is never released to the student. All students must present photo identification before each exam session. Exams can only be proctored after a deadline with approval directly from the instructor to the Testing Center. Your instructor must email <a href="mailto:onlineexams@andrews.edu">onlineexams@andrews.edu</a> or call 269-471-6566. No exam is returned to the student for review. To aid in studying for future exams, you may request the instructor to provide summary feedback on an exam.

Page 7

### **Schedule:**

All times in the schedule are for the U.S. Eastern Time Zone. All assignments are due Thursdays in the week assigned unless otherwise noted. **Acadeum students:** You MUST submit academic work by the drop/add date of this course to verify your attendance in this course. That deadline is likely earlier than the deadline for the first assignment.

Week	Lessons	Readings/Videos	Assignments	Outcomes
		(Textbook – A Popular Survey of the New Testament)		Met
Intro  These items will need to be completed before you will	Orientation	Introduce Yourself		
	Course Overview	Student Introductions		
	have access to the rest of the course	Introductions	Academic Integrity Quiz	
		Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity Statement	
1	Lesson 1: Gospel of Matthew	Watch:	Discussion Forum 1: Matthew	SLO 1-3
Aug 25 - 28		Lesson 1: Matthew	Quiz 1: Matthew	
20		Read:		
		Chapter 3: Introduction to the Gospels		
		Chapter 4: The Gospel of Matthew		
		The Book of Matthew in your Bible		
2	Lesson 2: Gospel of Mark	Watch:	Discussion Forum 2: Mark	SLO 1, 2,
Aug 29 -		Lesson 2: Mark	Quiz 2: Mark	& 4
Sept 4		Read:		
		Chapter 5: The Gospel of Mark		
		The Book of Mark in your Bible		
3	Lesson 3: Gospel of Luke	Watch:	Discussion Forum 3: Luke	SLO 1, 2,
Sept 5 - 11		Lesson 3: Luke	Quiz 3: Luke	& 4
		Read:		
		Chapter 6: The Gospel of Luke		
		The Book of Luke in your Bible		
4 Sept 12 -	Lesson 4: Gospel of John	Watch:	Discussion Forum 4: John	SLO 1, 2, & 4
18		Lesson 4: John	Quiz 4: John	α 4
		Read:		
		Chapter 7: The Gospel of John		
_		The Book of John in your Bible	5	
5 Sept 19 -	Lesson 5: Acts	Watch:	Discussion Forum 5: Acts	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
25		Lesson 5: Acts	Quiz 5: Acts	1, & 3
		Read:		
		Chapter 8: The Book of Acts The Book of Acts in your Bible		
		THE BOOK OF ACTS IT! YOUR BIDIE		

Week	Lessons	Readings/Videos (Textbook – A Popular Survey of the New Testament)	Assignments	Outcomes Met
6 Sept 26 - Oct 2	Lesson 6: Romans	Watch: Lesson 6: Romans Read: Chapter 10: Romans The Book of Romans in your Bible	Discussion Forum 6: Romans Quiz 6: Romans	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
7 Oct 3 - 9	Lesson 7: 1 Corinthians	Watch: Lesson 7: 1 Corinthians Read: Chapter 11: 1 Corinthians The Book of 1 Corinthians in your Bible	Discussion Forum 7: 1 Corinthians Quiz 7: 1 Corinthians	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
8 Oct 10 - 16	Lesson 8: Preparation for Midterm Exam.	Review previous lessons, videos, and chapters up to this point.	Midterm Exam: Matthew - 1 Corinthians	SLO 1-5
9 Oct 17 - 23	Lesson 9: 2 Corinthians	Watch: Lesson 9: 2 Corinthians Read: Chapter 12: 2 Corinthians The Book of 2 Corinthians in your Bible	Discussion Forum 8: 2 Corinthians Quiz 8: 2 Corinthians	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
10 Oct 24 - 30	Lesson 10: Galatians and Philippians	Watch: Lesson 10: Galatians and Philippians Read: Chapter 13: Galatians Chapter 15: Philippians The Books of Galatians and Philippians in your Bible	Discussion Forum 9: Galatians and Philippians Quiz 9: Galatians and Philippians	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
11 Oct 31 - Nov 6	Lesson 11: Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians	Watch: Lesson 11: Ephesians, Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians  Read: Chapter 14: Ephesians Chapter 16: Colossians and Philemon Chapter 17: 1 Thessalonians Chapter 18: 2 Thessalonians The Books of Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and Philippians in your Bible	Discussion Forum 10: Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians Quiz 10: Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5

Week	Lessons	Readings/Videos	Assignments	Outcomes Met
		(Textbook – A Popular Survey of the New Testament)		Met
12 Nov 7 - 13	Lesson 12: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon	Watch: Lesson 12: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon  Read: Chapter 19: 1 Timothy Chapter 21: 2 Timothy Chapter 20: Titus Chapter 16: Colossians and Philemon The Books of 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon in your Bible	Discussion Forum 11: 1 & 2Timothy, Titus and Philemon Quiz 11: 1 & 2 Tim. Titus and Philemon	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
13 Nov 14 - 20	Lesson 13: Hebrews and James	Watch: Lesson 13: Hebrews and James Read: Chapter 22: Hebrews Chapter 23: James The Books of Hebrews and James in your Bible	Discussion Forum 12: Hebrews and James Quiz 12: Hebrews and James	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
14 Nov 21 - 27	Lesson 14: 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude	Watch: Lesson 14: 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude  Read: Chapter 24: 1 Peter Chapter 25: 2 Peter Chapter 26: 1 John Chapter 27: 2 John, 3 John, and Jude Read the books of 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, and Jude in your Bible	Discussion Forum 13: 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude Quiz 13: 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude  Due Fri, Nov 28, 5:00pm	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
15 Nov 28 – Dec 4	Lesson 15: Revelation	Watch: Lesson 15: Revelation Read: Chapter 28: Revelation Read the Book of Revelation in your Bible	Discussion Forum 14: Revelation Quiz 14: Revelation	SLO 1, 2, 4, & 5
16 Dec 5 - 11			SLO 1-5	

# **Completing Assignments**

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through LearningHub unless otherwise instructed.

# **Part 4: Grading Policy**

### **Graded Course Activities**

Percent %	Description
30%	Bible Quizzes
10%	Discussion Forum
30%	Midterm Exam
30%	Final Exam
100%	Total Percent Possible

## **Viewing Grades in LearningHub**

- Click into the course.
- Click This Course in the top menu
- Select Grades in the drop-down

### **Letter Grade Assignment**

Letter Grade	Percentage
Α	93-100%
Α-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
В	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
С	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

## **Part 5: Course Policies**

### **Withdrawal and Incomplete Policies**

You can view the current withdrawal policy online on our <u>Withdrawal Page</u>. You can view the Incomplete Policy on our <u>Incomplete Page</u>.

### **Late Work and Discussion Forum Policy**

Due dates for all assignments are clearly listed in both the LearningHub course space and the syllabus. We understand that as adult online learners, you may sometimes face challenges in meeting deadlines. This policy aims to provide flexibility while maintaining course integrity.

#### **Late Submissions**

- Students who anticipate submitting work after the due date must communicate with their instructor prior to the deadline whenever possible.
- Late work may be accepted until the last day of the class, subject to instructor approval.
- Approved late submissions will incur a 10% deduction of the earned points.
- Acceptance of late work without prior communication is at the instructor's discretion.

#### **Communication Process**

- 1. If you need to submit work late, email your instructor as soon as possible before the due date.
- 2. Explain your situation and propose a new submission date.
- 3. Wait for your instructor's response and follow their guidance.

#### **Extenuating Circumstances**

- In cases of unexpected emergencies or extenuating circumstances, contact your instructor as soon as you're able.
- Depending on the situation, the instructor may waive late penalties or grant extensions.

#### **Discussion Forums**

- The participatory nature of forums requires timely engagement for meaningful interaction.
- Late discussion posts will generally not be accepted.
- In rare and exceptional circumstances, instructors may consider accepting a late forum post, but this is at the instructor's discretion.

• If you anticipate being unable to participate in a forum by the deadline, you must communicate with your instructor immediately. However, please note that extensions for forum participation are rarely granted.

We encourage open communication throughout the course. If you're struggling with deadlines or course load, please reach out to your instructor proactively to discuss your options.

### **Maintain Professional Conduct Both in the Classroom and Online**

The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. Your instructor will make every effort to make this environment safe for you to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas, and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication.

Students have the right and privilege to learn in class, free from harassment and disruption.

### **Digital Communication Guidelines**

You'll communicate through discussion forums, email, video calls, and collaborative platforms. Here are essential guidelines for respectful and effective online interaction:

### **Core Principles:**

- 1. **Match your platform to your purpose.** Use forums for course questions, email for private matters, video for complex discussions.
- 2. Write clearly and concisely. Without nonverbal cues, be explicit about your intentions. Use clear subject lines and proofread before sending.
- 3. **Maintain academic professionalism.** Use proper grammar and spelling. Avoid text-speak or overly casual language in academic contexts.
- 4. **Consider tone carefully.** Messages can be easily misunderstood. When uncertain, be more explicit rather than assuming others will understand your intent.
- 5. **Practice digital empathy.** Be patient with technical difficulties and remember there's a person behind each username.
- 6. **Assume permanence.** All digital communications can be saved and shared. Write as if anyone might read your message.
- 7. **Engage constructively.** Focus on ideas, not individuals when disagreeing. Ask questions before making assumptions.
- 8. **Be inclusive.** Use accessible language and remember classmates have diverse backgrounds and abilities.

#### **Quick Platform Tips:**

- **Forums:** Search before posting, use descriptive titles
- Email: Clear subject lines, avoid unnecessary "Reply All"
- Video calls: Test tech beforehand, mute when not speaking
- Shared documents: Use comments for feedback, coordinate editing

Effective digital communication skills extend beyond this course into your professional life.

#### **Academic Accommodations**

Students who require accommodations may request an academic adjustment as follows:

- 1. Read the Andrews University Disability Accommodation information
- 2. Download the <u>Accommodations Request Form here</u>. Email the completed form and disability documentation (if any) to <u>disabilities@andrews.edu</u>.
- 3. Work with the Disability Office to learn what support is available online and be ready to show your disability contract for the current semester to the exam proctor at the start of any exam session, if extra time is allowed.

### **Commitment to Integrity**

As a student in this course, and at the university, you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning, participation in this course, and integrity in your behavior in and out of this online classroom.

### **Commitment to Excellence**

You deserve a standing ovation based on your decision to enroll in, and effectively complete this course. Along with your pledge of "commitment to Integrity" you are expected to adhere to a "commitment to excellence." Andrews University has established high academic standards that will truly enhance your writing and communication skills across the disciplines and in diverse milieu with many discourse communities in the workplace.

### Honesty

Honesty in all academic matters is a vital component of personal integrity. Breaches in academic integrity principles are taken seriously. Acts of academic dishonesty as described in the University <u>Bulletin</u> are subject to incremental disciplinary penalties with redemptive intent. Repeated and/or serious offenses will be referred to the Committee on Academic Integrity for further recommendations on penalties.

### **AI-Generated Work**

Student work may be submitted to AI or plagiarism detection tools in order to ensure that student work product is human-created. The submission of AI-generated work constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the Andrews University academic integrity standards for students.

Copyright © 2025 by Andrews University.

All rights reserved. No part of these course materials may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any form or by any means-electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise-except as may be expressly permitted by the applicable copyright statutes or in writing by Andrews University.