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### RELS 107.01: Introduction to New Testament Studies

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RELS 107  
Section 01 (CRN 73571)  
Fall Semester 2002  
3 Credits  
TTh 9:40-11 AM  
Room: ED 312

Dr. Thomas R. Lee  
Office: LA 159  
Office Hours: T 11AM-1PM  
W 10-11 AM  
Other times by appointment  
721-5347 (study--may leave messages)

## INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

This course will examine (1) the history of early Christianity, (2) the literature produced by the early church, and (3) the methodology used by modern biblical scholarship in studying ancient texts. As we work our way through the New Testament text, we will employ the tools of literary and historical criticism. Emphasis will be on studying what the text "meant" in its original context and not on what it may "mean" for particular religious traditions today. Given the pluralistic context of a public university, this course will approach the New Testament from a non-sectarian, non-denominational perspective.

### Course Requirements

Class members will be graded on the basis of two one-hour examinations (October 3 and November 7), the final examination (Monday, December 16), and class participation. Regular class attendance is expected, even though the instructor will not routinely take roll. Students, if they desire, may take this course on a P/NP basis. If so, the last day to change from a letter grade to P/NP, or vice versa, is October 14. An examination average of 70 or above is required to pass this course under the P/NP option.

Students who may miss an examination due to illness or a family emergency should consult with the instructor about making up the exam and/or writing a term paper in place of the missed exam. Also, students should consult with the instructor regarding whether or not taking an incomplete in the course is possible. (Note: the university policy on incompletes is on page 21 of the current UM catalogue.)

### Required Texts

Achtmeier, Paul J.; Green, Joel B.; and Thompson, Marianne Meye. Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.

The Bible: Old and New Testaments with Apocrypha. Any modern translation (but not a paraphrase) is acceptable. Preferred translations include the NRSV, RSV, NEB, NIV or NAB. The bookstore has a supply of the Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha (which uses the NRSV translation), if you need to purchase a bible for this course.

### Class Schedule and Reading Requirements

September 3	Introduction to the course: the New Testament as Literature from Another Time and Another Place
September 5	The New Testament: Scripture and Canon <b>Read:</b> Achtmeier, pp. 1-13, 589-608

- September 10      The World of the New Testament: Its Jewish and Roman Contexts  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 15-51; selections from the Old Testament and Old Testament Apocrypha (assignment to be handed out)
- September 12      The World of the Old Testament (continued)  
 Slides of Jerusalem and the Cities of the Decapolis  
**Read:** see September 10 reading assignment
- September 17      Introduction to the Gospels  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 53-87  
 Selections from "Q" and the Gospel of Thomas (to be handed out)
- September 19      Introduction to the Gospels (continued)  
 Video presentation from the PBS series: "From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians"
- September 23      (Monday) Last Day to Drop Course and Receive Full Refund
- September 24      The Gospel of Mark  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 123-147; and in the bible: Mark, chapters 1-16
- September 26      The Gospel of Matthew  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 89-121; and in the bible, Matthew, chapters 1-28
- October 1            The Gospel of Luke  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 149-174; and in the bible, Luke, chapters 1-24
- October 3            **One Hour Examination**
- October 8            The Acts of the Apostles  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 245-269; and in the bible, Acts, chapters 1-28
- October 10          The Gospel of John  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 175-205; and in the bible, John, chapters 1-21
- October 14          (Monday) Last Day to Drop Course; Last Day to Change Grading Option
- October 15          The Johannine Tradition  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 535-553; and in the bible, the letters of John (1, 2 and 3 John)
- October 17          The Quest for the Historical Jesus-  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 207-244
- October 22          Introduction to Paul and the Letters of the New Testament  
 Slides on Early Christianity in Syria  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 271-281 and pp. 283-297
- October 24          Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 427-446; and in the bible, 1 & 2 Thessalonians

- October 29 Paul's Letter to the Galatians and Philippians  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 355-375, 391-405; and in the bible, Galatians and Philippians
- October 31 Paul's Letters to the Corinthians  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 327-354
- November 5 No Class--Election Day
- November 7 **One Hour Examination**
- November 12 Paul's Letter to the Romans  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 299-326; and in the bible, Romans, chaps. 1-16
- November 14 Paul and the Pauline Tradition  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 377-389, 407-426; and in the bible, Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon
- November 19 The Pastorals  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 447-464; and in the bible, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus
- November 21 Guest lecture by Jean Larson on feminist and other perspectives on the New Testament
- November 26 Feminist and other perspectives on the New Testament (continued)
- December 3 Letter to the Hebrews  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 465-490; and in the bible, Hebrews, chaps. 1-13
- December 5 The Catholic Epistles  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 491-534; and in the bible, James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude
- December 10 The Book of Revelation  
**Read:** Achtemeier, pp. 555-588; and in the bible, Revelation, chaps. 1-22
- December 12 The Book of Revelation (continued)  
 Review for Final Examination
- December 16 **Final Examination:** Monday, 10:10 AM-12:10 PM, ED 312