

BL 151 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY I A, B
Boyce College Fall Semester, 2008
Monday, (A) 11:30 AM--2:15 PM, (B) 6:30-9:15 PM
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Course Description:

A study of the Gospels, including a survey of the historical background of the New Testament.

Course Objectives:

The first four books of the New Testament--the Gospels--are rightly placed among the most important literature of humanity. They give us a portrait of Jesus and they tell of the events that led to the foundation of the Christian church. And yet, this portrait of Jesus has been interpreted in several different ways, from being very accurate to being very inaccurate

Through this course, we will examine the life of Jesus, the setting in which He lived, and the four accounts of His life. This will enable the student to understand further the life and times of Jesus, and make important critical and personal decisions concerning Him.

The four objectives of this class are:

1. To present the background of the New Testament times and writings as a whole, and the four Gospels in particular.
2. To present and contrast the portrayals of Jesus in the four Gospels.
3. To examine the events related to the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus as presented in the four Gospels.
4. To examine different critical approaches to a study of the Gospels and the historical Jesus.

Textbooks:

Bible

Blomberg, Craig L. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997). ISBN 0805410589

Hammond World Atlas Corporation. *Atlas of the Bible Lands* (New Ed., Hammond World Atlas Corporation, 2007). ISBN 0843709839

NOTE: You may use the older version of this atlas: Frank, Harry Thomas, ed. *Atlas of the Bible Lands* (Rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1990). ISBN 0843770554

Bring your Bible and Atlas to class every session.

Course Requirements:

1. Three tests. Note: Your tests will be on your class notes, not on your reading.
2. **GOSPELS** "Questions for Review." See attached sheet.
3. Map quiz. Students will be given a list of places referred to in the Gospels that they need to locate on a map.
4. During the semester in which this course is taken, students are required to read the section of the Old or New Testament which this course covers. Students will be asked to affirm on the final exam that they have read this section. Students who fail to do so will be given one month to complete the reading requirement. Students who have not finished it by that time will receive a "C" for the course. Students who have earned a "C" or lower in the course will have their grades lowered by one letter grade. Students have until November 27, 2007, to complete the reading requirement. When they have completed it, they need to send the professor an email or a written note letting him know.

Grading:

3 tests	60 %	
Map Quiz	5 %	
Class participation	5 %	(talk, sleep, other assignments, cell phone, passing notes, printed Bible, taking notes)
Questions for Review	<u>30 %</u>	
Total	100 %	

Grading Scale:

A+ 100-99	B+ 93-91	C+ 85-83	D+ 77-75
A 98-96	B 90-89	C 82-81	D 74-73
A- 95-94	B- 88-86	C- 80-78	D- 72-70

Attendance:

- Each student needs to be present in class. Attendance will be checked at each class session. A student who is absent 1/4 of the time will forfeit credit for the class and will receive an "F."
This means that students may miss all or part of three class sessions. Any absences beyond that may result in a failing grade. Being late to class four times counts as an absence.
If a student has a legitimate reason for missing class for an extended period of time (such as an illness or accident) it is the student's responsibility to notify the professor
- If a student is absent when an assignment is due, it will be marked late unless the student informs the instructor there is an excused reason for the absence.
- Students may make up tests only if they have an excused reason for missing class at the time of the test. Missed tests must be made up within one week, unless arrangements are made in advance. Failure to do so will result in at least 10 points being subtracted from the final grade, and could result in a grade of zero.

Classroom Policies:

- Male students are not to wear hats or facial jewelry in class. Women may wear earrings but no additional facial jewelry.
- No food or drinks are allowed in class, except water.
- In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
- For instructional purposes the professor may employ the use of film, readings, and outside guests, however, this use does not constitute an endorsement by Boyce College of these sources.

CLASS SCHEDULE

August 11	Introduction to the Course Historical Setting of the Gospels
August 18	Historical Setting of the Gospels Preparation: Read Blomberg, 1-27 <i>Assignment due:</i> Blomberg, "Questions for Review, Part 1," Chapter 1
August 25	Historical Setting of the Gospels Preparation: None <i>Assignment due:</i> None
September 1	No class

BL 151 New Testament Survey I

Jesus and the Gospels by Craig L. Blomberg

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

- 1. See Class Schedule for date assignments are due. All assignments must be typed and double spaced.
2. Note: Starting with the second paper, points will be deducted if the correct form is not followed.
3. Staple the assignments in the upper left hand corner. If more than one chapter is due, staple all the chapters together. Do not use folders.
4. Fold your paper in half. Put name and box number (or write, "No Mailbox") on outside.
5. Do not use a separate title sheet. At the top of the first page, type your Name, Box Number (or write "No Mailbox) and Date.
6. At the top of the first page, type the assignment name (i.e., "Questions for Review, Part 1," Questions for Review, Part 2," etc.).
7. Your assignment is to answer the questions listed below for each chapter assigned. (Note: Many of these questions are similar to those at the end of each chapter in the book. Answer the questions on this sheet, though, and not those in the book.)
8. Type out the chapter number and title at the top of the first page.
9. Type out and underline the question (the questions may be single spaced), then type your answer.
10. There is no minimum or maximum length for your answer. Be complete in your answers, and answer each part of the question.
11. Your answers must summarize what is presented in the book. You may add to the book, but don't leave the book out. Also, don't copy from the book, but summarize its content.
12. Answer the questions in complete sentences. Don't use one word answers unless called for.
13. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period they are assigned. They may not be turned in more than one class session late. Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade. You may not make up missed assignments There will be no opportunity to earn "extra credit" at the end of the semester.
14. If you fail to turn in one paper, your final grade will be lowered by 6%. If you miss more than one paper you cannot pass the course. It is your responsibility to contact the professor if extenuating circumstances keep you from completing an assignment.
15. Note: Do not copy, in whole or in part, the work of any current or former student. Doing so constitutes plagiarism, and could result in forfeiture of credit for the assignment and/or for the course.
16. If you work together with another person, you each must write out your work independently of the other. You may in no way copy or paraphrase the work that another person has done; doing so constitutes plagiarism.
17. Use the following form for each chapter:

Your Name
Box Number (or write "No Mailbox")
Date

Questions for Review, Part 1

Chapter 1 Political Background--An Overview of the Intertestamental Period

- 1. List the sources we have for reconstructing the intertestamental period. Discuss the reliability of each.

The sources we have for reconstructing the intertestamental period are

- 2. A. Beginning in 424 BC, what are the six major sections of time into which this period may be broken? (Note: Divide "Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Period" [pp. 9-15] into three sections.)
B. What key dates and events occurred to mark the beginning of each section?
C. For one of these sections, name and explain briefly five events that occurred or developments that took place.

A. The six major sections of time into which this period may be broken are as follows:

And so on.

Chapter 1 Political Background--An Overview of the Intertestamental Period

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C. For one of these sections, name and explain briefly five events that occurred or developments that took place.

Chapter 2 Religious Background--Hellenistic and Jewish Religion

1. Give a brief synopsis (1-2 paragraphs) of each of these seven major religious alternatives in the first century.
 - A. Traditional Mythology
 - B. Philosophies: Stoicism, Epicureanism, Cynicism, Skepticism
 - C. Mystery Religions
 - D. Magic
 - E. Gnosticism
 - F. Emperor Worship
 - G. Judaism: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots
2. According to the author, what are the general characteristics of Judaism in the time of Christ? Describe each briefly.

Chapter 18 The Historical Trustworthiness of the Gospels

1. Name and illustrate three different ways that archaeology can be used to confirm and enlighten our understanding of the New Testament. Discuss one significant archaeological find as it relates to the New Testament.
2. A. Name the three categories of "Other Ancient Sources" given by the author.
B. For each of them, name two persons and sources and what they say about Jesus.
3. In what ways does the rest of the New Testament testify to the historicity of the Gospels. Discuss Paul's specific contributions.

Chapter 6 The Gospel of Mark

1. According to the textbook, state the evidence for who wrote this Gospel, when, where, to whom, and under what circumstances?
2. A. List 4 theological distinctives of this Gospel.
B. Write at least a one sentence summary of each distinctive.
3. Given the probable circumstances of this Gospel, in what settings in modern Christian living could it be relevant?

Chapter 7 The Gospel of Matthew

1. According to the textbook, state the evidence for who wrote this Gospel, when, where, to whom, and under what circumstances?
2. A. List 4 theological distinctives of this Gospel.
B. Write at least a one sentence summary of each distinctive.
3. Given the probable circumstances of this Gospel, in what settings in modern Christian living could it be relevant?

Chapter 8 The Gospel of Luke

1. According to the textbook, state the evidence for who wrote this Gospel, when, where, to whom, and under what circumstances.
2. A. List 4 theological distinctives of this Gospel.
B. Write at least a one sentence summary of each distinctive.
3. Given the probable circumstances of this Gospel, in what settings in modern Christian living could it be relevant?

Chapter 9 The Gospel of John

1. According to the textbook, state the evidence for who wrote this Gospel, when, where, to whom, and under what circumstances.
2. A. List 4 theological distinctives of this Gospel.
B. Write at least a one sentence summary of each distinctive.
3. List and discuss five of the reasons the author gives as to why John is so different from the other Gospels.
4. Given the probable circumstances of this Gospel, in what settings in modern Christian living could it be relevant?

Chapter 11 The Birth and Childhood of Jesus

1. Name the women listed in Jesus' genealogy. Why is this significant?
2. A. What three kinds of prophetic fulfillments of the Old Testament occur in Matthew 1-2 (Note: the third type is a combination of the first two types)?
B. Give an example of each.
3. In one or two paragraphs each, discuss the historicity and theology of the virgin birth.

Chapter 12 The Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry

1. Summarize the author's comments on the message of John the Baptist from Mark's Gospel.
2. The author divides the incident of the baptism of Jesus into four sections. Identify and summarize each of the sections.
3. A. Contrast Jesus' encounters with Nicodemus and with the Samaritan woman.
B. What application concerning the relevance of the gospel can you draw from that contrast?

Chapter 13 Jesus' Galilean Ministry--Earlier Stages

1. Summarize the author's understanding of the "kingdom of God."
2. A. What is a pronouncement story?
B. Summarize one of the stories and indicate how it fits this definition.
3. What is the preferred approach to interpreting the Sermon on the Mount adopted in this book? Explain this view.

Chapter 14 Jesus' Galilean Ministry--Later Stages

1. Describe the method that the author advocates for interpreting Jesus' parables. Give one example of how this method might work.
2. A. How do Jesus' "nature miracles" compare to other similar claims from the time?
B. What is the purpose of these nature miracles?
3. What is the main point of Peter's "confession"? How does he still not understand?

Chapter 17 Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection

1. Into what two divisions does John 15:1-17 divide? Summarize the author's comments on both of these sections.
2. The author mentions "Jesus' seven last words." What are they? Summarize the author's interpretation of the fourth.
3. What objections have been raised to the historicity of the account of the resurrection of Jesus? What response can be made to these objections?