

New Testament Studies

The purpose of New Testament Studies is to give you a greater appreciation of the Word of God as spoken through the New Testament apostles, to learn proper techniques of Biblical study, and to hopefully begin or further your relationship with Jesus Christ. While there are many ways to accomplish these goals, they are not conducive to academic grading.

Instead of having daily assignments, you will choose your own path to your final grade. Each week, you will choose the types of assignments that you want to complete. Since each assignment is worth a different number of points, you will be able to decide how many assignments you wish to complete each week.

The Details

These are the assignments you may choose from:

1. Journal Entries - 5 points each/3 entries per week
A journal entry is a one-half page or more response to a class discussion, class lecture, passage of Scripture, or any other material shared in class. When journaling, you will want to answer the following questions:
Why is this important? What does it remind me of? Do I agree disagree with this? Do I have any experiences related to this?
2. Responses to blog posts - 5 points each/maximum of 20 points per week
Each week I will post thoughts and questions to my online blog, found at <http://charlesmaxwell.blogspot.com/>.
3. Current Issues in New Testament Studies - 15 points/one per week
You may find a story on the Internet or hear of a story on the news that you think is relevant to our class discussion. In a one-page response, summarize the article/story, tell how it is related to our class, and tell what your response/opinion on the topic is.
4. Reading Responses - 10 points/maximum two per week
There are a couple books that I think will add to your learning experience this semester. If you wish, you may read these short books and respond to your weekly reading. We will also use these books in class periodically.
5. Other assignments - point value to be determined
As you or I come across other interesting readings or thoughts for assignments, we can discuss the possibility of earning points for those activities. These may include group and individual assignments.

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How does this work?

Quarter Grading Scale:

- A - 360+ Points (40 points per week X 9 weeks)
- B - 315-359 Points (35 points per week X 9)
- C - 288-314 Points (32 points per week X 9)
- D - 261-287 Points (29 points per week X 9)
- F - 260 Points or less

Semester Grading Scale:

- A - 720+ Points (40 points per week X 18 weeks = 760)
- B - 630-719 Points (35 points per week X 18 weeks = 665)
- C - 576-629 Points (32 points per week X 18 weeks = 608)
- D - 522-575 Points (29 points per week X 18 weeks = 551)
- F - 521 Points or less

- Progress report letter grades will be earned at the same weekly point rates above:
 - ✓ Progress reports are issued every six weeks.
- You may earn a maximum of 45 points in any calendar week.
- You must write three journal entries per week; if you do not, your maximum points possible for that week is 32)
- You must write three journal entries per week even if you have "finished" for the semester

Examples of how you might earn points each week:

Example 1 - Least number of assignments

3 journal entries = 15 points
1 current event = 15 points
1 Reading response = 10 points
Total Points = 40 points

Example 2 - "Easiest" assignments

5 journal entries = 15 points
5 blog posts = 15 points
1 reading response = 10 points
Total Points = 40 points

Some Friendly Advice

1. All assignments you turn in must show effort, thought, and thoroughness. Include support for your claims: reasons for your beliefs, and concrete examples to back up your doubts. Points will be deducted if your thoughts and opinions are not sufficiently supported.
2. Just as in any other class, you may not always receive 100% just for completing an assignment. Therefore, it might be wise for you to do extra work each week.

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3. I strongly suggest that you do not aim to complete the "bare minimum." Grades will be issued at the end of the quarter and semester based upon the grading scale above. You do not want to fall short!