



Williams Baptist College

Bible History and Interpretation, RL 1123 B
Spring 2012, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00–9:15AM, Maddox 201

Robert Lee Foster

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Office Hours: See schedule on door for specific times. I am usually in my office or class from 7:15 AM until 4:00 PM.

Course Catalog Description

A study of the historical background of the New Testament, including the intertestamental period, the life of Christ, and the early church.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the College's "Academic Honesty Policy" (*Catalog*). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

Course Objectives

The following objectives will serve as a summary for the content of the course. The Learning Activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the "Institutional Academic Goals" of Williams Baptist College (*Catalog*).

1. The student will understand the basic history, geography, and culture of the first-century Mediterranean world.

2. The student will gain a knowledge of the major events and teachings of the following Biblical books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, James, and Revelation.
3. The student will be able to describe and discuss the character and person of Jesus and Paul including their missions, primary teachings, and narratives.
4. The student will be able to discuss how the New Testament can be used in the making of personal moral, ethical, and spiritual decisions.

Communication

Students will provide an e-mail address to the professor. He will use this address to make contact with students as need arises related to course work, attendance, etc. Students are responsible to check their e-mail accounts for this information between each class.

Learning Activities and Grading Scale

PLEASE NOTE: Turning in an assignment is no guarantee of receiving full point value. Only assignments done in a professional, error-free manner with excellence in thought and organization will receive full point values.

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Students are expected to attend every class session. Class begins at the appointed time.

Students who miss one week's worth of class will be notified by the professor. Absences equal to two weeks of classes will result in removal from the class. No excused absences are allowed. Students who are involved in college required activities such as Williams Singers, Cast, Athletic Competitions, etc. will not be counted absent when the student submits a note (e-mail is acceptable) to the professor including the date and reason for the absence. Please see the current Academic College Catalog for additional information.

Students will lose 10 points from their Attendance and Participation grade for each absence. Students will lose 5 points for any late arrivals or early departures. If a student loses 20 points because of late arrivals, they will be required to meet with the professor. If a student loses more than 25 points, the additional forfeiture will be subtracted from her/his total points.

Quizzes/Worksheets (100 points)

Quizzes will cover material which is being discussed in class as well as reading assignments. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Three worksheets will be given. Worksheets will be worth 20 points apiece. Worksheets may be made-up according to the late assignment policy below.

Quizzes are usually worth 10 points. Four to six quizzes are generally given during the course of the semester. One quiz grade will be dropped. The remaining points from quizzes and worksheets will be added together and divided by the total possible to generate a score for this composite grade. For example, a student takes the six quizzes and complete the three worksheets during the course of the semester and scores: 10, 8, 10, 9, 2, 7, 19, 20, and 18. The 2 would be dropped and the remaining scored totaled (101). This total, 101, would then be divided by 110 (total possible). The student would receive 91 points of the 100 points possible for quizzes and worksheets in the class.

Exams (300 points, 100 points each)

Exams will cover both the lecture and reading material. All exams will be unit specific, not comprehensive.

Reading (50 points)

Each student will be asked to read the following biblical books during the semester: Luke, John, Acts, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, James, and Revelation. Students will be required to keep a contemporaneous log of their readings and to confirm that they have completed their reading on the antepenultimate class. As each chapter is read, the student should mark it off of the reading log which is provided on the class website, i.e., read a chapter, log it, read another chapter (if so desired), log it, etc. The reading log must be kept as instructed. Failure to do so will result in the loss of points.

Late Assignments

Assignments and exams may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where otherwise noted. The grade received on any regular assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 10% for each class session it is late. Example: An assignment submitted one class period late will receive no more than 90% of its graded value. Assignments more than four class periods late will receive zeros.

Grading Scale

25 points	Attendance and Participation
100 points	Quizzes/Worksheets
300 points	Three Exams (100 points each)
50 points	Reading

475 Total Points Possible

A 100-90%; **B** 89-80%; **C** 79-70%; **D** 69-60%; **F** 59-0%

Please note that the cut off for each letter grade is a whole number. I do not round up when figuring grades, for example, a 89.9 is a “B,” not an “A.” In order to earn an “A” you must average at least 90 %. Obviously, the same principle applies to the other letter grades.

I will update the Moodle grade book after each exam. If you have any additional questions about your grade, please contact me personally or by phone, note left on my office door, or e-mail. These methods of contact will be our acceptable forms of contact.

Required Texts

A modern translation of the bible such as NKJV, NASB, NRSV, NIV, *etc.*

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. All requests for special accommodations must be approved in consultation with the Director of Counseling Service. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor after consultation with the Director of Counseling. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate any request for accommodations. Documentation will be required.

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, content outline, course objectives, grading criteria, activities to be evaluated, major exam dates, policy on absences, course bibliography and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the semester the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that change during the semester.

READING AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<i>J a n u a r y</i>		12 Introduction to the Course The Canon and Text of the New Testament Gundry 78-89
	17 Intertestamental and NT Historical Background Gundry 2-22	19 Intertestamental and NT Historical Background Gundry 2-22
	24 Life in the World of the NT Gundry 24-43 ○ Geography Worksheet DUE	26 Religious and Philosophical Settings of the NT Gundry 44-75
	31 The Four Gospels: Matthew and Mark	2 The Four Gospels: Luke and John
<i>F e b r u a r y</i>	7 ○ FIRST EXAM	9 Life of Jesus: Birth and Childhood Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2 Gundry 167-171; 207-219
	14 Life of Jesus: Baptism and Temptation Gundry 219-222 Luke 3:1-4:13	16 Life of Jesus: Disciples and Healings Luke 4:14-6:19 Gundry 222-224
	21 Life of Jesus: Teaching and Preaching Luke 6:20-8:21 Gundry 224-225; 173-178	23 Life of Jesus: Teaching and Conflict Luke 8:22-18:30 Gundry 225-240 ○ Basic Inductive Bible Study Worksheet DUE
	28 Life of Jesus: Later Judean and Perea Ministry Luke 18:31-21:38 Gundry 240-243	1 Life of Jesus (continued)
<i>M a r c h</i>	6 ○ SECOND EXAM	8 Life of Jesus: With His Disciples Luke 22:1-22:65 Gundry 243-246
	13 Life of Jesus: Trials, Death, Burial Luke 22:66-23:56 Gundry 246-248	15 Life of Jesus: Resurrection, Ascension Luke 24:1-24:53 248-250
	20 <i>SPRING BREAK</i>	22 <i>SPRING BREAK</i>
	27 Acts: Pentecost, Conflict Acts 1:1-6:7 Gundry 299-310	29 Acts: Stephen, Philip, Saul, Peter Luke 6:8-11:18; 12:1-25 Gundry 310-316
<i>A p r i l</i>	3 Acts: First Missionary Journey Acts 11:19-29; 13:1-15:35 Gundry 316-324	5 Acts: Second and Third Missionary Journeys Acts 15:36-21:6 Gundry 324-334
	10 Acts: Second and Third Missionary Journeys (continued)	12 Acts: Paul's Arrest and Trials Acts 21:7-28:31 334-344 ○ Basic Inductive Bible Study Worksheet DUE
	17 Paul's Writings 1 Corinthians 1:1-4:7; 8:1-13 Gundry 347-351, 373-385	19 Paul's Writings Titus 1-3 Gundry 439-444, 447-448, 450-451 ○ READING LOG DUE
	24 The Catholic Epistles Hebrews 1:1-5:10; 11:1-19 James 1-5 Gundry 457-466, 473-480	26 The Revelation Revelation 1-3; 12:1-6 Gundry 505-528
<i>FINAL EXAMS: April 27-May 2</i>		