

## New Testament Theology Online NT 710Z

*Elective. Three credit hours*

### Course Description

This course examines the New Testament as a collection of theological writings, with an emphasis upon the theological diversity of the New Testament and its theological unity.

### Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the study of New Testament theology by addressing the following issues: the history of New Testament theology, the theological unity of the New Testament, the distinctive theological form of the various types of writings (Gospels, Epistles, etc.), the unique theological expression of individual writings, and the practical relevance of New Testament theology for ministry.

### Course Objectives

The Seminary Mission Statement maintains: "The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian church."

**More specifically, by the end of this course, the student should be able:**

1. To introduce the study of New Testament theology so that the student can recognize the distinctive theological unity of the New Testament.
2. To enable the student to master the distinctive theological character of individual New Testament writings.
3. To help the student to wrestle critically with basic methodological issues associated with the study of New Testament theology.
4. To challenge the student to develop constructs of the material which are faithful to the inherent theological nature of the New Testament, conversant with scholarly literature, and appropriate to various settings.
5. To empower the student to recognize and utilize theological interrelationships among the New Testament writings.

6. To lead the student to apply the study of New Testament theology to his/her ministry context.

## Resources

Students continue to be responsible for securing their own required textbooks. As a convenience, there is a bookstore on the seminary's home page. To access this site and its information, locate textbooks, and compare prices, go to <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

The online bookstore will be a portal with links to Amazon, CBD, Barnes & Noble, the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and perhaps others. A limited number of copies of each textbook may be available from the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and copies may be ordered through that Bookstore.

### REQUIRED READING

***A Theology of the New Testament***, George Eldon Ladd, Eerdmans (see “**Bibliography**” for complete citation)

“**Rescuing Theology from the Theologians**,” in ***Themelios***, Gerald Bray (see “**Bibliography**” for complete citation)

### RECOMMENDED READING

***New Testament Theology***, Donald Guthrie (see “**Bibliography**” for complete citation)

***Paul: An Outline of His Theology***, Herman Ridderbos (see “**Bibliography**” for complete citation)

***Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments***, Gerhardus Vos (see “**Bibliography**” for complete citation)

## Grading Criteria and Scale

The following grading scale, from the Seminary catalog is used to assign a numeric value to each completed assignment. All scores are weighted equally. Your final grade is the average of each grade received. A letter grade will be computed on the basis of your average raw score using the following grade scale recently adopted by the Seminary faculty:

- A Level Work = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can

demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.

C Level Work = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.

D Level Work = Inadequate mastery of basic facts and information presented in the course; insufficient or inappropriate use of common terms and language indicating an inadequate grasp of the material; and an inferior ability to analyze and judge proposals, ideas or concepts.

**Erskine Seminary Grading Scale:**

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

**Course Components**

**FAQ's**

1. It is strongly recommended that all assignments be submitted via electronic mail unless otherwise notified.
2. Please use Microsoft Word.
3. All assignments should be clearly marked with name, assignment number and date. Failure to include this information will result in a returned assignment.

**COURSE PLATFORM**

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, "Institutions shall ensure that distance education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program." It is with this stipulation that EDEN has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences. The learning platform is Moodle and according to their website, "Moodle is a course management system designed to help educators who want to create quality online courses . . . and create effective online learning communities." You will be provided with additional information concerning online classroom tutorials, site information,

and the peer mentoring program. In order to meet the online discussion component of this course, you will need:

- A computer (or access to a computer)
- Access to the Internet

### **E-Lecture Outline**

Prolegomena  
Introduction to Synoptic Gospels & Acts  
Matthew; Mark  
Luke, Acts  
Introduction to Pauline Epistles  
Romans  
Galatians; 1, 2 Corinthians  
1, 2 Thessalonians; 1, 2 Timothy & Titus  
Introduction to Prison Epistles; Philippians  
Philemon; Ephesians ; Colossians  
Introduction to Hebrews & Catholic Epistles  
Hebrews; James  
1 Peter; 2 Peter ; Jude  
John; 1, 2, 3 John  
Revelation

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through four learning components.

The first is the **Lecture Component**. The student's own mastery of the material is accomplished by listening to the required e-lectures. The lectures will enable the student to meet this requirement.

The second is the **Reading Component**. The student will complete the reading of the required textbook (Ladd) and journal article (Bray), maintain a Reading Log, and prepare Reflection Memos. Students will build on their e-lectures by completing the required reading and the Memos.

The third is the **Integration Component**. The student will prepare a Theological Analysis Paper on a single book of the New Testament using a prescribed format. This component will challenge the student to integrate the course material by applying it to the theological study of an individual New Testament writing.

The fourth is the **Ministry Component**. The student will prepare a Ministry Paper using a prescribed format. In this paper the student will explore and formulate ways in which the course material can be used in the practice of ministry.

These four components will provide a well-rounded learning experience for the thoughtful student. **The total hourly commitment is expected to be approximately 120 hours per student for the course.**

**Please note:** Successful completion of this distance learning course will require that you set your own schedule and discipline yourself to stay on the schedule. I recommend that you begin the course by listening to the taped lectures, answer the questions for each lecture, do the required reading (keeping notes as you read), maintain a Reading Log, prepare the Reflection Memos, do the Theological Analysis Paper, and prepare the Ministry Paper. If you devote two hours per day to course assignments you can complete this course in approximately two months.

### **SUGGESTED STEPS TO COURSE COMPLETION**

1. Listen to the e-lectures seeking to gain a foundational knowledge and overview of the course. Listen attentively and actively while taking notes either electronically or by hand. Seek to grasp a deeper level of comprehension of the subject matter presented in the lectures. Have on hand a Bible and a Greek New Testament (could be helpful occasional for Greek students).
2. Do the required reading for your course. Begin by reading any introductory sections (preface, introduction, foreword). Note the flow of the text and the subjects that will be covered. Read any background or biographical material that may be on a dust cover. Break your reading into manageable chunks. Avoid trying to read the textbook in one session or in protracted reading binges. Optimal learning takes place when reading is done in smaller segments with short breaks between reading sessions. Highlight important sections or words with colored markers so that you can easily find them when you return to the text at a later time. You may find that determining the book's total number of pages and dividing by 30 will give you an ideal number of pages to read per day over a month thus providing smaller segments to read. If you wish to read the textbook at a faster rate, simply substitute a lower number in place of the 30-day figure used above.
3. Keep a Reading Log noting date, pages read, and time invested in each reading session. Review of this Log will enable you to determine whether or not you were maximizing your learning by reading in smaller segments with brief breaks of not more than one or two days between readings.

4. Using your reading notes, identify one issue or topic of importance or significance to you as you read the required textbook and journal article. Take this topic or theme and expand upon it in your Reflection Memos.
5. Begin preparing your Theological Analysis Paper. Consider sending a rough outline of the Paper to the professor in the early stages to ensure that you have understood the assignment correctly.
6. Begin preparing your Ministry Paper. Consider sending a rough outline of the Ministry Paper to the professor in the early stages to ensure that you have understood the assignment correctly.

Grades for the course will be processed as quickly as possible. If you have not received written notification of your final grade for the course after a month has elapsed, please contact me using one of the communication means identified at the beginning of the syllabus.

## Course Assignments

### ASSIGNMENT ONE: E-Lectures

Master the content of course lectures by listening to and watching all e-lectures. Listen attentively and actively while taking notes either electronically or by hand. Seek to grasp a deeper level of comprehension of the subject matter presented in the lectures. Also, have on hand a Bible, a Greek New Testament (for Greek students). Maintain a written log of the lectures for purposes of maintaining the .

*Completing this assignment will count 20% of your final course grade. The total estimated time required for successful completion of this assignment is 20 hours.*

### ASSIGNMENT TWO: Required Reading

Read the required texts. While you read keep a notepad (hard copy or electronic) handy to write down thoughts or ideas that come to your mind, comments or reactions, questions that are raised while reading, areas of confusion or insights that strike you as significant. When you are finished reading each book, use your notations to write a one page (minimum) "Reflection Memo." **Identify at least one key thought** or issue that made a significant impression on your thinking while reading the text. Expound upon and explore that one thought or issue. The one page Memo should be single-spaced with one inch margins all around. The main criteria for grading your Memo will be how cogently and succinctly you can react to what you have read. Some recommended starter phrases for your Memo are:

- After I've had more time to think about it . . .
- Now that I have read this book, it seems to me that . . .
- What strikes me is that . . .
- As I understand it . . .

*Completing this assignment will count 20% of your final course grade. Total estimated time required for successful completion of this assignment: 25 hours.*

## **ASSIGNMENT THREE: Theological Analysis**

Prepare a Theological Analysis Paper on one book of the New Testament.

1. The student must prepare a 15-20 page Theological Analysis Paper on **one** of the following books of the New Testament:
  - a) Matthew
  - b) Acts
  - c) Romans
  - d) Hebrews
  - e) Revelation
2. The Paper must adhere to the following format:
  - a) **Section 1:** A graphic and detailed presentation of the literary structure of the book accompanied by an in-depth analysis of the theological significance of the literary structure.
  - b) **Section 2:** A glossary of the book's distinctive theological vocabulary, defining the theological words and expressions characteristic of the book.
  - c) **Section 3:** An in-depth analysis of the book's explicit and implicit portrayals of 1) Jesus Christ (christology), 2) discipleship (ethics), and 3) the church (ecclesiology).
  - d) **Section 4:** A theological comparison of the book to other books of the New Testament, with a focus upon theological interrelationships.
  - e) **Section 5:** A summary of the book's distinctive contribution to the theology of the New Testament.
3. The following criteria will guide the evaluation of the Theological Analysis Paper:
  - a) Thorough coverage of the book
  - b) Theological mastery of the book
  - c) Integration of course material (lectures, required reading, etc.)
  - d) Logical coherence
  - e) Clarity, grammar, spelling
  - f) Neatness and conformity to format.

Mail a hard copy of your Theological Analysis Paper (or email) to the professor. ***Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your graded work to be returned to you.*** The Theological Analysis will count as 40% of the final grade.

*Total estimated time required for successful completion of this assignment: 35 hours.*

## **ASSIGNMENT FOUR: Ministry Paper**

Prepare a Ministry Paper.

1. The student must prepare an 8-10 page Ministry Paper, in accordance with the following format:
  - a) **Section 1:** Description of the student's current ministry situation or projected future ministry situation.
  - b) **Section 2:** Discussion of how this course has affected the student's approach to ministry.
  - c) **Section 3:** Exploration of concrete ways in which the student might apply what he/she has learned to the actual practice of ministry.
2. The following criteria will guide the evaluation of the Ministry Paper:
  - a) Application of New Testament theology to ministry
  - b) Logical coherence
  - c) Clarity, grammar, spelling
  - d) Neatness and conformity to format.

Mail a hard copy of your Ministry Paper (or email) to the professor (309 Fawnbrook Dr., Greenwood, SC 29646). ***Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your graded work to be returned to you.*** The Ministry Paper will count as 30% of the final grade.

*Total estimated time required for successful completion of this assignment: 15 hours.*

### Course Schedule

The following outline provides you with a schedule of assignments.

Week	Lectures to View	Assignments Due
1	Lectures 1a – 2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take notes of e-lectures</li> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Begin reading textbooks</li> <li>• Maintain Reading Log</li> </ul>
2	Lectures 3a-4b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take notes of e-lectures</li> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Continue reading textbooks</li> <li>• Maintain Reading Log</li> <li>• Begin working on Assignment 2</li> </ul>
3	Lectures 5a-6b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take notes of e-lectures</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Continue reading textbooks</li> <li>• Maintain Reading Log</li> <li>• Begin working on Assignment 2</li> </ul>
4	Lectures 7a-8b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take notes of e-lectures</li> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Finish reading textbooks</li> <li>• Maintain Reading Log</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 2 due</b></li> </ul>
5	Lectures 9a-10b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take notes of e-lectures</li> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Begin working on Assignment 3</li> </ul>
6	Lectures 11a-12b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take notes of e-lectures</li> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Continue working on Assignment 3</li> </ul>
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Continue working on Assignment 3</li> </ul>
8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 3 due</b></li> </ul>
9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Begin working on Assignment 4</li> </ul>
10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Begin working on Assignment 4</li> </ul>
11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Begin working on Assignment 4</li> </ul>
12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board posting</li> <li>• Use this week to complete all course work and assignments.</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 4 due</b></li> </ul>

## WRITING THEOLOGICAL PAPERS

The seminary has produced a *Writing Theological Papers* document that guides a student through the process of producing a high quality theological paper. It is included on your CD-ROM for this course and is part of your student handbook provided by the seminary.

Please edit your paper for typographical errors, misspelled words, stylistic miscues, and grammatical mistakes. The paper should be double-spaced and constitute original work written for this course only and cannot include material previously used in another course or for another purpose. Please read over the notation regarding the seminary policy on plagiarism included at the end of this syllabus. Your use of the work or thoughts of another without proper citation and acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. **Content found at an Internet web site is construed to be copyrighted material written and produced by another person.** Undocumented wholesale use of words from an Internet web site passed off as the student's own work in a research paper of this sort constitutes plagiarism and will be considered a violation of the seminary plagiarism policy. Students who are determined to have violated the seminary's policy on plagiarism will receive a grade of zero for the paper, will not be allowed to re-submit another paper, and will have a written record of the violation added to their permanent student record. Further violations of the seminary's plagiarism policy could result in temporary or permanent dismissal from the seminary.

Please visit these websites for more information about plagiarism:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)

<http://www.georgetown.edu/honor/plagiarism.html>

### RELEVANT INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

1. From the Seminary Catalog, "the grade of 'I' or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" normally is given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing all course requirements. If a grade of "I" is given for a course the remaining course work must be submitted for grading prior to the final date established in the current Seminary Catalog. Otherwise, the grade of "I" automatically becomes a grade of "F." For further details, please read the current Seminary Catalog.
2. Any late assignment will be automatically reduced by one letter grade regardless of reason. *Please make this class a high priority and keep ahead of assignments in order to compensate for the exigencies of ministry.*
3. Inclusive Language Policy. The Seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.
4. Once you have completed, signed, and submitted a registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a BINDING CONTRACT, and business office billing will be based on this registration. If you decide not to take this class, a drop/add form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.

**Plagiarism, defined as the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise, is a clear violation of the Erskine Seminary Honor Code as set forth in the [Student Handbook](#) and *Seminary Catalog*. It is also a clear violation of the will of God in regard to taking something that belongs to someone else without his/her permission. The penalty for an infraction of the plagiarism policy is severe and may potentially result in the permanent dismissal of a student from the seminary. If you have any questions concerning the appropriate use of referenced sources, please contact me prior to submitting your work for grading.**

## A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

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## New Testament & Biblical Theologies

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