



蘇州大學
Soochow University

PHL 132 The New Testament: An Analytical Study

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course delves into the profound philosophical and theological aspects of this influential text. Through rigorous analysis, students explore its implications for fundamental questions about existence, morality, and reality. Drawing on philosophical frameworks spanning antiquity to modernity, discussions encompass topics such as free will, ethics, metaphysics, and the problem of evil. By adopting a philosophical lens, students gain deeper insights into the text's enduring relevance and are encouraged to think critically and articulate their own perspectives.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand New Testament themes and their philosophical implications;
2. Analyze philosophical issues like free will and ethics in the New Testament;
3. Explore philosophical frameworks used in interpreting the New Testament;
4. Develop critical thinking to articulate personal views on New Testament topics;
5. Connect New Testament insights to contemporary philosophical discussions.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
4 Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
2 Papers	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Bart D. Ehrman, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 4th Edition, Non Basic Stock Line, 2007.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Historical Context of the New Testament Topic 2: Authorship and Dating of New Testament Texts Topic 3: Textual Criticism and Manuscript Transmission Topic 4: Synoptic Problem: Gospel Parallels and Differences Assessments: Quiz#1
Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Jesus as Historical Figure vs. Theological Construct Topic 6: The Kingdom of God in the New Testament Topic 7: Ethics and Morality in the Teachings of Jesus Topic 8: Pauline Theology and Letters Assessments:



	Quiz#2 Paper#1
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Apocalypticism in the New Testament Topic 10: The Role of Women in Early Christianity Topic 11: Miracles and Supernatural Elements in the Gospels Topic 12: Christology: Views of Jesus' Nature and Identity Assessments: Quiz#3 Midterm#1 Paper#2
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Salvation and Atonement in New Testament Theology Topic 14: Ecclesiology: Formation of Early Christian Communities Topic 15: Jewish-Christian Relations in the New Testament Topic 16: Interpretation and Hermeneutics in Early Christianity Assessments: Quiz#4 Midterm#2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: The Influence of Greco-Roman Culture on the New Testament Topic 18: Eschatology: End-Times Beliefs in the New Testament Topic 19: Reception History of the New Testament Topic 20: Contemporary Issues in New Testament Scholarship Assessments: Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed



the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for



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access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.