Mission: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning and service to God and humankind.

Instructor: Dr. Nathan J. Barnes  
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website: www.nathanbarnes.us  
Office hours: I respond to emails. I am better available after 9:00am and no later than 2am CST in the evening / morning.  
Please contact me via email – nathan.j.barnes@wayland.wbu.edu; (secondary contact just in case) nathanjohnbarnes@gmail.com

Course Number and Title: RLGN 1302.VC07, New Testament History

Class Time and Location: Virtual Campus February 25 - May 18

Catalog Description: An introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the background and origins of Christian beliefs and practices, and to the life of Jesus Christ and the early Christian community.

Prerequisite: None

Resources

- **Other Resources:** The professor will provide additional word documents, articles, websites, and videos posted on Blackboard for you to review throughout the course of the term.
Course Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the New Testament world.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in New Testament studies.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the New Testament and its main teachings (theological content).
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical process producing a more complete understanding of the New Testament.

Course Requirements: All weekly assignments are due on Sundays 11:59pm CST.
1. Most weeks have assigned readings in Metzger and/or the New Testament.
2. There is a short Reading Review (half page max) on the reading each week.
3. We will take advantage of the forums by discussing questions submitted by the professor and topics started by students. Each week, students are required to respond to at least three other student posts.
4. There will be a midterm and a final exam covering the material in the lecture videos and readings.
5. A Blog Entry (minimum 100 words). Students are encouraged to read each other’s blogs and are welcome to make comments.

Internet Access
All Virtual Campus students are required to have access to the Internet, an e-mail account, and access to a computer with Microsoft word processing capability. All information exchanges, homework assignments, exams, and other requirements for this course will be conducted via Wayland Baptist University’s Blackboard, e-mail/email attachment(s), and proctored examinations. Use of anti-virus software for computer is highly recommended. If you have not activated your Wayland email account this is a good time to do so. Important announcements and other information can be emailed to your Wayland account directly from Blackboard.

Attendance Policy and Assignments
This is a Virtual Campus course. Attendance will not be taken; however, students must participate in the course every week. Students must complete assignments and exams on or before the due date to receive full credit. Students have the ability to enhance the online learning environment through discussion and interaction with one another. This requires involvement throughout the week to make the most of this learning opportunity.

Students are expected and required to meet deadlines. You are personally accountable for anticipating unforeseen delays.
Services for the Disabled

It is university policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. The Dean of Students serves the University as coordinator or activities for the handicapped and should be contacted concerning initial contact with the Dean of Student's office as soon as possible before registration to ensure adequate time for assistance.

Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade)

University Grading System

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**A grade of incomplete is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10-15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the “I” is converted to a grade of “F”. An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student's permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F) by the date specified in the official University calendar of the next regular term. An incomplete grade will be indicated by the notation I/grade on the student transcript. A grade of "CR" indicates that credit in semester hours was granted but no grade or grade points were recorded.

Procedure for computations of final grade:

1. Reading Reviews Average 20%
2. Blog Postings Average 20%
3. Discussion Postings Average 20%
4. Midterm 20%
5. Final Exam 20%

Late assignments will not be accepted. The online course is a living thing. When your work is late, the class has already moved on to other topics. There will be opportunities for extra credit.

Academic Honesty (Plagiarism): University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with penalties associates with plagiarism stated in the catalog.
Week 1  2/25—3/3
Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to the course, investigate New Testament history and backgrounds

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Required reading in text: Metzger, *Political and Social Background of Palestinian Judaism* and *Appendix I & II.*
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture about NT history and backgrounds
3. Complete the Reading Review - your reflections on Metzger
4. Check the Discussion section of week 1 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give a your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number one.

Resources online: [www.kchanson.com](http://www.kchanson.com) and the Perseus Project - [http://www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

All assignments for week 1 are due by 3/3

Week 2  3/4—3/10
Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to the Gospels and the life and ministry of Jesus

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Required reading in text: Metzger, *Sources of our Knowledge of the Life and Teachings of Christ;* The Gospel of Mark in the NIV
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture about NT history and backgrounds
3. Complete Reading Review on Metzger and the Gospel of Mark
4. Check the Discussion section of week 2 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number two.

Resources online: Google image search “New Testament Papyri” and “New Testament Codex”

All assignments for week 2 are due by 3/10

March 11-15   Spring Break

Week 3  3/18—3/24
Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to the Gospels and the life and ministry of Jesus, part 2

Learning tasks to be completed:
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture about the Gospels and the life and ministry of Jesus, part 2
4. Check the Discussion section of week 3 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number three.


All assignments for week 3 are due by 3/24

**Week 4 3/25—3/31**

**Learning Objective:** Students will be introduced to the Gospels and the life and ministry of Jesus, part 3

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Reading in text: The Gospel of John in the NIV
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture about the Gospels and the life and ministry of Jesus, part 3
3. Complete Reading Review: your short response to the Gospel of John
4. Check the Discussion section of week 4 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number four

Resources online: watch and review a YouTube video, Bart Ehrman - Jesus and Contradictions in the Bible
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_EHDMVLXGw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_EHDMVLXGw)

All Assignments for week 4 are due by 3/31

**Week 5 4/1—4/7**

**Learning Objectives:** Students will review the history of earliest Christianity

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Reading in text: Metzger *The Sources and Chronology of the Apostolic Age*; Acts of the Apostles in the NIV
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture about the history of earliest Christianity
3. Complete the Reading Review: your thoughts on Acts
4. Check the Discussion section of week 5 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number five
Week 6  4/8—4/14
Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to the writings of Paul

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Required reading in text: Metzger *Paul’s Letters to Churches and Individuals*; Epistle to the Galatians, 1-2 Thessalonians in the NIV
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture introducing Paul and his writings
3. Complete your Reading Review on Metzger and Paul’s writings
4. Check the Discussion section of week 6 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number six

Resources Online: [www.justinmeggitt.info](http://www.justinmeggitt.info/) and Google image search “Gallio Stone” and “Celsus Library”

All assignments for week 6 are due by 4/14

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Week 7  4/15—4/21
Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to the writings of Paul, part 2

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Required reading in text: Epistle to the Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture introducing Paul and his writings, part 2
3. Complete a Reading Review on Romans and 1 and 2 Corinthians
4. Check the Discussion section of week 7 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number 7

Resources Online: N. T. Wright, [http://ntwrightpage.com](http://ntwrightpage.com/) and Google image search “Appian Way”

All assignments for week 7 are due by 4/21

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Week 8  4/22—4/28
Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to the writings of Paul, part 3

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Required reading in text (shorter epistles): Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
2. Listen to and take personal notes over the lecture introducing Paul and his writings, part 3
3. Complete Reading Review on this week’s reading
4. Check the Discussion section of week 8 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number 8

Resources Online: Google image search “Philippi” and “Ephesus”

All Assignments for week 8 are due by 4/28

Week 9  4/29—5/5
Learning Objective: Students will be introduced to Hebrews, James, and 1-2 Peter

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Required reading in text: Metzger, The General Letters and Revelation; Epistle to the Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter
2. Listen to and take personal notes introducing Hebrews, James, and 1-2 Peter
3. Complete Reading Review on this week’s reading
4. Check the Discussion section of week 9 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number 9

Resources online: search Wikipedia for Codex Sinaiticus

All Assignments for week 9 are due by 5/5

Week 10  5/6—5/12
Learning objective: Students will be introduced to the letters of John and the Apocalypse of John
Required reading in text:

Learning tasks to be completed:
1. Required reading in text: 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation
2. Listen to and take personal notes introducing 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation
3. Complete Reading Review on the epistles of John and Revelation
4. Check the Discussion section of week 10 Assignments in Blackboard. Select a question and give your Student Response with a minimum of 100 words in a single post.
5. Thoughtfully respond to at least three of your classmates’ postings.
6. Complete blog entry number 10

Resources online: search Wikipedia for Codex Sinaiticus

All Assignments for week 10 are due by 5/12

Week 11  2/04-2/16  Final Exam Due by Sunday 11:59PM CST 5/18