
Course Lecturer: Craig L. Blomberg, Ph.D.
Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary

Course Description

Welcome to New Testament Survey: Epistles and Revelation, an online graduate-level course designed to expand your understanding of issues, content, and application of concepts and passages from New Testament writings.

All meetings for this course will be conducted online. In terms of academic credit, this is a semester-length course, but it is offered in an intensive 8-week format.

Course Objectives

Correct theology is inseparable from correct living. The New Testament epistles reinforce this concept as they demonstrate both the why and how of kingdom living. This course surveys the New Testament epistles and the book of Revelation, examining both the introductory issues and the basic content of each book. You will wrestle with significant and challenging passages by exploring the major issues and then interacting with specific passages through inductive Bible study. The goal of the course is to gain an increased commitment to and capacity for applying these portions of God’s Word to the world and Christian living today.

Upon completion of your study, you should be able to do the following:

• Exhibit an understanding of the contents of the biblical books studied, including identification of each book’s outlines, chronology of events, major teachings, sequence of topics, and most theologically significant chapters.
• Summarize the most important items of historical background for each book studied.
• Understand and evaluate the major critical views concerning introductory questions (i.e., authorship, date, settings, etc.) for each book.
• Appreciate the complexities of the more exegetically and theologically controversial passages surveyed (a) by discussion of the major held views and arguments for each, and (b) by wrestling with one such passage through an inductive Bible study.
• Identify key issues addressed in the epistles to various first-century congregations.
• Be encouraged to persevere in your faith even in light of trials and persecution.
• Look forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ to bring to conclusion His plan for human history.

View CUGN Academic Policies
www.cugn.org
• Apply these portions of God’s Word in a fair and relevant manner to the world and to Christian living today.

Accessibility

If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

Course Lecturer

Dr. Craig L. Blomberg joined the faculty of Denver Seminary in 1986 where he is currently a Distinguished Professor of New Testament. Dr. Blomberg completed his Ph.D. in New Testament, specializing in the parables and the writings of Luke-Acts, at Aberdeen University in Scotland. He received an M.A. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a B.A. from Augustana College. Before joining the faculty of Denver Seminary, he taught at Palm Beach Atlantic College and was a research fellow in Cambridge, England, with Tyndale House.

In addition to writing numerous articles in professional journals, multiauthor works, and dictionaries or encyclopedias, he has authored or edited numerous books, including the following:

- The Historical Reliability of the Gospels, revised, 2008.
- Interpreting the Parables, IVP, 1990.
- Preaching the Parables: From Responsible Interpretation to Powerful Proclamation, 2004.
- Contagious Holiness: Jesus’ Meals with Sinners, 2005.
- From Pentecost to Patmos: An Introduction to Acts through Revelation, 2006.

Education:

- Augustana College, B.A.
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, M.A.
- University of Aberdeen, Scotland, Ph.D.

Other CUGN courses by this professor:

- NT217-NT228 New Testament Survey
- NT505 The Parables of Jesus
Online Professor

CUGN will assign one of its faculty members as its online professor for this course. Your professor will be introduced the first week of the course and will guide you and the other students through the 8-week study. Your online professor will be available to you by email and, at set times, by chat room or other real-time technology. The following will be done by the online professor in order to stimulate student involvement and to facilitate effective learning:

- Post discussion questions for the online forum
- Interact with students in all discussions
- Evaluate student papers and/or assignments as they are submitted
- Provide assistance with technological problems that may occur
- Issue the students’ final grades

For additional help as you work through this course, please read Succeeding in Your Online Course, which is provided at the end of this syllabus.

Course Texts

Required:

Recommended, but not required:

To order your textbooks, you may use the CUGN online store available on our website. Shipping is available to international students, but please place your order early enough to allow adequate time for delivery. When available, you may also consider downloading the textbooks to an eReader.

Academic Honesty

At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.
Plagiarism: If a student’s work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the CUGN Academic Catalog for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar’s Office at registrar@cugn.org or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students, and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed, listened to, and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- Audio-based teaching
  The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in audio format. We also provide the option of reading the lesson from a transcript of the audio lecture (found in the course Audio Lecture section).

- Multisensory learning
  Because the primary teaching information is provided in audio and PDF text documents, students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

- Readings and other media
  Reading from the required textbooks will be assigned to students each week.

Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

Discussion Forum

This forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors and to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

Reflection

Through blogging, CUGN provides many opportunities for students to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and where they are challenged. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth and transformation.
Course Requirements

This course consists of a mentor relationship, readings, audio lectures, videos, online group discussions, a creative research project, quizzes, and blogging. The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

Mentor
This course requires that you seek out a mentor in your community with whom you can communicate by e-mail and/or telephone and with whom you can meet face-to-face at least twice during the course. The purpose of this mentoring relationship is to enable you to assimilate the teaching in this course into your life and ministry. Further definition of the mentor's role in this course can be found in the mentor requirements document available in the Course Introduction in the Before You Begin section of the course.

Reading
Study assignments covered in this course should be read in the context of the lesson in which they are assigned. In addition to the required textbooks, you may be asked to read supplementary materials as well.

Audio Lectures
Each of the lessons in this course features an audio lecture of approximately 45 minutes in length delivered by Dr. Craig L. Blomberg, a leading New Testament scholar. These instructional lectures are required and can be listened to as many times as needed. The written text of the lecture as well as a guided outline to assist in note taking are made available in PDF format. There are 24 lectures in this course; therefore, three lectures will be presented and discussed each week.

Discussion Forums
Discussion questions related to each week's lectures are integrated into the weekly course requirements. The Discussion Forum for each week will begin on Monday at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), and your required posts must be submitted prior to the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST. You must visit the Discussion Forum at least three times during each week of the course and your attendance will be validated by your posts. You are required to post responses to the questions as noted in the lesson requirements and to respond to at least two of the posts presented by other students each week. Each response should consist of a well-conceived short paragraph or two. In addition, your course professor may comment on your posts, and you should be prepared to respond to those comments as well.

Video Presentations
There are six video presentations related to this course that are required viewing. You will note them in the assignment section for the weeks to which they are relevant.

Creative Research Project
You will develop a creative research project on a topic of interest related to the subject matter of this course. Upon completion of the project, you will submit a paper describing the project along with any related documentation. More guidance concerning the project will be provided by your course professor during the first week of the course, and you may also download the ideas document from the Additional Assignments found in Week 1 of the course.
The topic for your research project must be submitted to your professor for preapproval prior to beginning your research. Projects may be posted online to be read and commented on by other students. All projects and related writing are due at the end of Week 5. Remember, each week begins on a Monday and ends the following Sunday; therefore, the Creative Research Project is due on the Sunday of Week 5 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

**Quizzes**

You will take a 10-question, multiple choice and/or true/false quiz at the end of each lecture. There is a “remediation” feature built into all quiz questions that allows you to review questions you missed and locate the specific section of the lecture or reading from which the question was drawn. Once you have reviewed the question again, you can attempt to answer a second time. If you are correct, you will receive half of the normal credit for that question. If you do not attempt to answer the second time, you will not receive credit for that question. You will be given only one attempt to take each quiz. All quizzes are timed (20 minutes) and will be graded automatically.

**Reflection**

You will be required to keep a blog during the 8 weeks of this course, posting *at least once per week*. Blog entries can be viewed only by you and your online professor. The purpose of the blog is to help you reflect on what you are learning, what you believe, and where you may be challenged in your thinking and your life by what is studied in this course. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth. See the *Personal Reflection and Evaluation* section on p. 9-10 of the syllabus for blogging guidelines.

**Due Dates**

Each week of the course begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. EST and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST. Unless noted otherwise, all assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. EST on the Sunday of the week in which the assignment is due. For example, if an assignment is due during Week 2, you must complete and submit it by 11:59 p.m. EST on Sunday, the last day of Week 2. It is at your online professor’s discretion to penalize late work.

**Course Grading**

All coursework must be completed and turned in to your online professor within five days of the end of Week 8. Please note that it is at your online professor’s discretion to penalize late work.

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Research Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor Meetings</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course.
Weekly Topics and Assignments

Week 1:

- Take the Moodle tutorial for online instruction.
- Post introduction of yourself in the Student Introductions discussion forum.
- Listen to the following lectures:
  #1: Introduction and Galatians: The Charter of Christian Liberty
  #2: I Thessalonians: Christ is Coming Soon
  #3: I & II Thessalonians: But Not That Soon!
- Read the following:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapters 7, 10, 14
  Blomberg: Inductive Bible Study Paper
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete quizzes 1, 2, and 3.
- Identify and contact your mentor.
- Submit topic for Creative Research Project.

Week 2:

- Listen to the following lectures:
  #4: I & II Thessalonians: Application; I Corinthians: Countering Misguided Views about Christian Maturity, Part I
  #5: I Corinthians: Countering Misguided Views about Christian Maturity, Part II
  #6: I Corinthians: The Aftermath of the Letter
- Read the following:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapter 9
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete quizzes 4, 5, and 6.
- Have first meeting with your mentor.

Week 3:

- Listen to the following lectures:
  #7: II Corinthians: Countering Misguided Views about Christian Maturity, Part III
  #8: II Corinthians: Paul’s Travels/Introduction to Romans
  #9: Romans: The Most Systematic Exposition of Paul’s Gospel, Part I
- View the videos Romans: The Book that Changed the World, Parts I and III
• Read the following:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapter 8
• Participate in the Discussion Forum.
• Complete quizzes 7, 8, and 9.

Week 4:
• Listen to the following lectures:
  #10: Romans: The Most Systematic Exposition of Paul’s Gospel, Part II
  #11: Philemon and Colossians: Response to Slavery/Christ as Lord
  #12: Ephesians: A Call to Unity in Diversity for All Believers
• View the videos The Land of the Seven Churches: Ephesus and Romans: The Book that Changed the World, Part IV
• Read the following:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapters 11, 13, and 16
• Participate in the Discussion Forum.
• Complete quizzes 10, 11, and 12.

Week 5:
• Listen to the following lectures:
  #13: Philippians and Titus: Rejoice in All Circumstances
  #14: Titus and I & II Timothy: A Manual on Church Order/Pastoring a Church
  #15: Gender Roles at Home and Church
• Read the following:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapters 12 and 15
• Participate in the Discussion Forum.
• Complete quizzes 13, 14, and 15.
• Submit Creative Research Project.

Week 6:
• Listen to the following lectures:
  #16: James: Faith without Works Is Dead
  #17: Hebrews: The Superiority of Christ, Part I
  #18: Hebrews: The Superiority of Christ, Part II
• Read the following:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapters 17 and 18)
• Participate in the Discussion Forum.
• Complete quizzes 16, 17, and 18.
• Read and comment on Creative Research Projects.
Week 7:

- Listen to the following lectures:
  #19: *1 Peter: Perseverance despite Persecution*
  #20: *Jude and II Peter: Contend for the Faith/Where Is the Promise of His Coming?*
  #21: *I John: The Tests of Life, Part I*
- View the video *Peter: A Fragile Stone, Part III*
- Read the following from the course texts:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapters 19, 20, and 2
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete quizzes 19, 20, and 21.
- Read and comment on Creative Research Projects.

Week 8:

- Listen to the following lectures:
  #22: *II and III John – The Tests of Life, Part II*
  #23: *Revelation: God’s Plans for Cosmic History, Part I*
  #24: *Revelation: God’s Plans for Cosmic History, Part II*
- View the video *The Land of the Seven Churches: The Overcomers*
- Read the following from the course texts:
  Carson, Moo, Morris: Chapters 21 and 23
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete quizzes 22, 23, and 24.
- Read and comment on Creative Research Projects.
- Have final meeting with your mentor.

Week 8 Follow-Up:

- Complete the mentor form and submit it to your online professor.
- Complete and post all blog entries.
- Complete Discussion Participation, Reading Completion, and Mentor Meetings Validations.
- Complete and submit course survey form.

**Personal Reflection and Evaluation**

_The following guidelines may be of help to you as you prepare to make blog entries throughout the course._

To integrate academic studies with the walk of faith, you are asked to reflect on the content of the course and evaluate
your life in light of what has been learned. These questions may help to guide your reflection process.

Step 1: Review
Think about the material you have studied in the course. Then ask these questions: What are two things you learned that you did not know before this study? What, if anything, in the course made you look at the church or something in the Bible in a new way?

Step 2: Assess
Think about your life, both past and present. Given the insights or understanding that you gained in this course, what changes do you need to make in the way you think or behave?

Step 3: Apply
What specific steps will you take in order to put these positive changes (from Step 2) into practice in your life?

Step 4: Record
Write your responses to the above reflections in your blog.

Course Contributors

CUGN utilizes the radio and television teams of RBC Ministries to enhance the students’ educational experience. This course uses five videos from the Day of Discovery television program. The expert contributors to these programs are listed as follows:

- Bastian Van Elderen, Th.D. (Pacific School of Religion, The University of California), Professor of New Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary

- Patrick Cate, Ph.D. (Hartford Seminary Foundation), Ambassador at Large and President Emeritus of Christar

- Michael Card, M.A. (Western Kentucky University), Christian author and songwriter

- Mart De Haan, Litt.D. (Cornerstone University), President RBC Ministries

- Jimmy DeYoung, Ph.D. (Louisiana Baptist University), Journalist and Conference Speaker

- Meno Kalisher, C.B. (Philadelphia Biblical University), Author and Pastor of Jerusalem Assembly House of Redemption, Israel

- Paul Maier, Ph.D. (University of Basel), Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University

- Douglas Moo, Ph.D. (University of Saint Andrews, Scotland), Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College

- Corrado Primavera, Ph.D. (Roma la SaPienza), Director of SEFOVAN Seminary in Italy
Notes Regarding This Syllabus

This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. CUGN will provide specific instructions related to assignments for each lesson, specific discussion question postings, and interactive involvement with all students.

Succeeding in Your Online Course

1. Remember that this is a full semester’s study completed in eight weeks. Therefore, expect that there will be a significant time commitment needed in order to complete all the requirements.

2. If you have any questions about the Moodle program, the course requirements, schedule, or assignments, please contact the online professor who is ready and willing to help you have a successful online learning experience.

3. Technological problems may occur. Be sure to have a back-up plan in case of computer failure or late arrival of textbooks.

4. The satisfaction you get from this course will, in large part, depend on relationships you develop with other participants. So interact honestly, thoughtfully, considerately, and often. Lively discussion challenges the mind and energizes the soul!

5. Before you post a comment or a response to another student’s comment, be sure you have read the material and listened to the lectures related to the topic under discussion.

6. Think about how you can promote additional discussion by the comments you post.

7. When you post, respond directly to the question under consideration and express your points clearly and concisely, making only one main point per post.

8. Participate in the threaded discussion at least three different times during each week.

9. Engage fellow students and the professor in dialogue, responding to comments made to your posts.

10. If you find sources related to the topic being discussed, please share them with the class. By the end of the course, we may be able to build a bibliography of books, articles, and Internet sources related to our topic.

11. Practice good “netiquette”: Disagree respectfully, stay on point, and don’t post anything that is derogatory or inflammatory.

12. Enjoy, learn, challenge, and be challenged!