

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
March 3, 2011 – May 5, 2011 (Spring 2011 Block Course)

COURSE NUMBER: REL 212 (50)

INSTRUCTOR: Brian W. Busch, Ph.D.

COURSE TITLE: Intro to the New Testament

OFFICE NO: NA

CREDIT HOURS: 3

OFFICE HOURS: Email Instructor

CONTACT HRS/WK: 6

PHONE NO: Contact Dr. Broughton (252)789-0246

PREREQUISITES: None

FAX: (252)792-0826

COREQUISITES: None

E-MAIL: bbusch@mcc.martincc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of the literature of first-century Christianity with readings from the gospels, Acts, and the Pauline and pastoral letters. Topics include the literary structure, audience, and religious perspective of the writings, as well as the historical and cultural context of the early Christian community. Upon completion, students should be able to use the tools of critical analysis to read and understand New Testament literature. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.*

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem solving.
2. Use appropriate technology.
3. Exhibit effective oral and written communication skills.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the historical and cultural background of the New Testament
2. Identify the themes of the individual books of the New Testament
3. Recognize the process of the writing and organization of the New Testament

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

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES: The course will require some readings from the Bible. Any published Bible version will suffice though I suggest the following versions: the New International Version, the Living Bible, the New Living Bible, or The Message. Students will probably find one of these translations/paraphrases easier to read and understand than some more traditional ones like the King James Version. Note that some writing assignments may be drawn from the Bible readings. Students will also be expected to make use of resources found in MCC's Library and at NC Live in preparing some assignments. Orientation to the Library resources will be provided by the Library staff.

LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS: Reading Assignments, Outside Reading Assignments, Online Class Discussion, Individual Projects, and Blackboard Online Assignments

ASSESSMENTS:

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| 1. Tests (2) | (30%) |
| 2. Quizzes (6) | (25%) |
| 3. Writing Assignments/Essays (3) | (25%) |
| 4. Discussion Boards/Class Participation (weekly) | (10%) |
| 5. Outside Reading Assignments (weekly) | (10%) |

GRADING: This course will use a 10-point grading scale.

A	90 or greater
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

This course is approved for transfer through the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement between the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System. In addition to the sixteen UNC schools, many private colleges and universities honor the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement. **A grade of “C” or better will satisfy the admitting College’s/University’s requirements.**

ABOUT BLOCK COURSES: A block course is not a semester course. REL 212 (50) Intro to the New Testament is a three (3) hour credit block course. As such, our class assignments are required to equal six (6) contact hours per week. The same amount of material must be covered in half the time. You must begin studying hard IMMEDIATELY. Otherwise, you may quickly fall behind in the completion of your assignments and your comprehension of the material (and it may prove difficult to do well in the remainder of the course).

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY AND WITHDRAWALS: Online students must respond to an online class within seven (7) days after classes begin. An assignment will be posted to which the student must respond. **Online students who do not respond to an online class within seven (7) after classes begin will be administratively withdrawn by the instructor.** To enter section 50 [Internet] courses, students must first complete a technology assessment located on the Blackboard login page.

Students who fail to submit any assignments over a two (2) week consecutive period may be removed from the class. Likewise, students who fail to submit five (5) or more complete assignments during the course may be removed. It is important that you complete each of your weekly assignments *on time*. Late assignments are not accepted—any length of time past the due date is considered late. Withdrawals occur at the discretion of the instructor.

In such cases as described above, students will be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor and given a grade of “WF.” The “WF” will be equivalent to an “F” when calculated into the student’s GPA. Students may remove a “WF” by submitting appropriate paperwork for an official withdrawal *by the last day* to officially withdraw without receiving an “F.” **The official withdrawal date for this block course is March 14, 2011.**

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: The general rule for our course is as follows: LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. In some limited circumstances, the instructor may choose to accept a late assignment; this will be at the discretion of the instructor. In some cases, students may be asked to provide evidence/documentation showing the legitimacy for missing an assignment due date. A grade of zero will be given for late assignments. If an assignment is due at 11:59 p.m., then assignments submitted at 12:01 a.m. the following morning are late.

QUIZZES AND TESTS: A note regarding the nature of these assignments: **Quizzes are not cumulative.** For example, week two will draw from material read during week two assignments; week two quiz will not draw from material read during week one. **Tests are cumulative.** Test questions will draw from current and prior week’s assignments.

On quizzes and tests students will be allowed to use their books as a resource. In such cases where students must respond with a sentence or paragraph, students are *not* allowed to copy portions of the text and submit that material. Students should always provide an answer “in their own words.” On occasions when it is appropriate to quote a source, place quotation marks before and after the quotation.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS/ESSAYS: Students are expected to write well (proper grammar, spelling, complete sentences, etc.). **Written assignments should be completed in a newer version of MS WORD and saved with the *.doc filename.** If you do not possess a newer version of MS WORD, you may purchase the product at the college bookstore. Computers in the college's labs are equipped with MS WORD. It is important to use the software mentioned here as your instructor may make comments to you using the *Tracking* feature in the software. To see this item, open the *Review* folder in MS WORD. For all assignments you will use **Times New Roman, 12 pt. font and one inch margins.**

DISCUSSION BOARDS/CLASS PARTICIPATION: Each student will post two short discussions and two responses (to other students) throughout the week. Students will comment on an item they have learned from their reading(s). Students will also provide a short response to discussions posted by their fellow students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: CLASSROOM ETHICS: Plagiarism (taking ideas from another and passing them off as your own) or dishonesty of any form will result in an F in the course. Work submitted from students should be their own. Students are not allowed outside help unless such help is permitted by the instructor. Students should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for a college classroom. Language (both spoken and written) and behavior should show respect and sensitivity for others. Disrespectful behavior toward faculty or students will not be tolerated and may constitute grounds for dismissal from the course.

REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: In compliance with G.S. 115D-5, MCC policy permits a student to be excused, with the opportunity to make-up any test or other missed work, a minimum of two excused absences per academic year for religious observances required by the student's faith. The policy limits the excused absences to a maximum of two days per academic year.

Students who wish to be excused for a Religious Observance required by their faith must complete and submit a request form to the instructor(s) prior to the census date of each class. The ***Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances*** form can be picked up from Student Services. This does not supersede the college-wide attendance policy as outlined in the college catalog or syllabus, with the exception of a reasonable accommodation for the make-up of missed course work.

CONTACT: If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services at 252-789-0246 or 252-789-0247 by phone, pbroughton@martincc.edu by e-mail, or in person at her office in Building 2, Room 33.

COLLEGE CATALOG: To access the Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to www.martincc.edu.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: If you have a need for a disability-related accommodation, please notify the Student Services counselor at (252) 789-0293.

COURSE OUTLINE (See below): *(Subject to change. SEE BLACKBOARD FOR SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS!)*

Week 1 Politics & Culture	March 3-15 (Spring Break)	Read textbook chapters 1 – 3 (76 pages)	Quiz	Outside Reading Assignment(s): Mark	Discussion Board
Week 2 The Canon & Overview	March 16-22	Read textbook chapters 4 – 6 (80 pages)	Quiz	Outside Reading Assignment(s): Matthew	Discussion Board
Week 3 The Gospel of Mark	March 23-29	Read textbook chapters 7 (34 pages)	Quiz; Essay #1	Outside Reading Assignment(s): Luke	Discussion Board
Week 4 The Gospels of Matthew & Luke	March 30- April 5	Read textbook chapters 8 – 9 (96 pages)	Test	Outside Reading Assignment(s): John	Discussion Board
Week 5 The Gospel of John & Acts	April 6-12	Read textbook chapters 10 – 11 (92 pages)	Quiz; Essay #2	Outside Reading Assignment(s): Acts	Discussion Board
Week 6 Letters of Paul	April 13-19	Read textbook chapters 12 – 13 (66 pages)	Quiz	Outside Reading Assignment(s): 1 Corinthians	Discussion Board
Week 7 Hebrews & Catholic Letters	April 20-26	Read textbook chapter s 14 – 17 (92 pages)	Quiz; Essay #3	Outside Reading Assignment(s): Hebrews & James	Discussion Board
Week 8 Revelation	April 27-May 3	Read textbook chapter 18. (26 pages)	Test	Outside Reading Assignment(s): The Revelation	Discussion Board