**ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE**

REL 1240 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY 3 credit hours

(2976) (On-Line Fall Course)

|  |
| --- |
| Instructor and Contact Information  Professor: Dr. John A. Venturella  Email: [Venturella.John@spcollege.edu](mailto:Venturella.John@spcollege.edu)  Office Phone: (727) 531-7538  Fax: (727) 723-4481 |

**Required Textbook Information:**

Encountering the New Testament, Third Edition (Baker Academic). ISBN: 978-0-8010-3964-5

A copy of the New Testament

A. Course Description:

This course is designed to give the student an overview of New Testament religious perspectives as reflected in the geographical, historical, thematic development, and cultural influences of the biblical text. The study will include an examination of the issues of text integrity, content problems, higher criticism, and theological insights. Attention will be given to the background of the New Testament as a whole, and to the setting, theme, purpose, and general content of the individual books of the New Testament, as well as to the message of its principal writers. As part of the course, the entire New Testament will be read. 47 contact hours.

B. Major Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student will:

1. Have greater understanding of the world from which the New Testament literature emerges.

2. Read and study each of the New Testament books in its historical context.

3. Better understand genres in the New Testament: gospels, epistles, the apocalyptic, as well as parallel documents from among the non-canonical literature of earliest Christianity.

4. Explore tools to help bridge the past of ancient Christian texts to the present-day concerns of faith.

C. Course Objectives Stated in Performance Terms:

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Identify the literary structure of the New Testament.

2. Identify the genre and basic thrust of each New Testament book.

3. Order chronologically the significant events and persons of the New Testament.

4. Describe the impact of the historical background of the New Testament on the message of Paul.

5. Identify the significant elements of the message of Paul.

6. Summarize the significant life events of Paul.

7. Identify and describe the major theological concepts of the New Testament.

8. Summarize the significant life events of Jesus.

9. Identify the significant elements of the message of Jesus.

10. Describe the impact of the historical background of the New Testament on the message of Jesus.

1. Criteria Performance Standard:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will, with a minimum of 70% accuracy, demonstrate mastery of each of the above stated objectives through classroom measures developed by individual course instructors.

COURSE GRADING

Your final grade in this class will be based on the following:

A = 90-100%      B = 80-89%       C = 70-79%       D = 60-69% (“D” is not a passing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Possible Points |
| Quiz 1 | 20 |
| Quiz 2 | 20 |
| Quiz 3 | 20 |
| Quiz 4 | 20 |
| Textbook Writing Assns. | 100 |
| Discussion Forum 1 | 25 |
| Discussion Forum 2 | 25 |
| Discussion Forum 3 | 25 |
| Reflection Paper | 45 |
| Midterm Examination | 100 |
| Final Examination | 100 |
| Total | 500 |

Attendance Requirement of First TWO Textbook Writing Assignments

Textbook Writing Assignments with questions from various chapters will be assigned (see syllabus). One of the first TWO MUST be completed for you to stay activated in the course. It is imperative that you answer ALL of the questions. This is an excellent way for you to evaluate your understanding of each chapter and prepare for the midterm and final exam. ***Be sure to include the page number from the textbook where you found each answer or two points will be detracted. See IMPORTANT INFORMATION directly below for further information on grading! Remember to include the text pages where you found the answers as 2 points will be deducted if any page number is missing. Keep in mind that only 2 points can be deducted for missing text pages for any one Textbook Writing Assignment.***

**Calendar** in ANGEL:

All of the assignments and activities for the course can be found in the CALENDAR under the LESSONS Tab in ANGEL.

Please review the entire calendar at the start of the course (August to December) so you can pace yourself accordingly taking into account your other work and personal commitments. Assignments generally open ONE week before they are due. This is not true in all cases so please refer to the calendar often throughout the semester.

Discussion Forums:

You will be responding to the question or assignment given and you will also be responding to each other’s' comments in the Discussion Forums in the weeks ahead. The grading system is as follows:

If you WRITE:  
  
4 worthwhile comments = ( you will receive) 25 points   
3 worthwhile comments = 22 points    
2 worthwhile comments = 19 points    
1 worthwhile comments = 16 points

This means that if you make ONE Meaningful POST (be it a response to someone else or your original comment on the question asked) you get 16 points, TWO POSTS, you get 19 points etc.   
ALL assignments should be completed using full sentences and in proper English. All assignments should be done completely.

If you have not used ANGEL or are unfamiliar with how to use an assignment drop box, review these tutorials: <http://it.spcollege.edu:8500/edtech/trainingCentral/angel/stututorials/tutorialPage.cfm?subTopic_id=20>

<http://it.spcollege.edu/edtech/trainingCentral/angel/stututorials/index.cfm>

Keep this link handy for future reference as it outlines nicely the information to help you navigate through the various TABS in the course.

<http://it.spcollege.edu:8500/edtech/trainingCentral/angel/stututorials/index.cfm>

**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION FOR THIS CLASS:**

Students will submit the first two TEXTBOOK WRITING ASSIGNMENTS in weeks ONE AND TWO. Failure to do at least ONE of them will result in removal from the course at the end of the second week due to lack of participation in the course (as per College policy). Thereafter, active class participation for this course is defined as having (1) completed Textbook Writing Assignment 3, 4 and 5 completed before the withdrawal date (absolute MUST), and (2) completed the majority of other assignments given before the withdrawal date. Textbook Writing Assignments not done after the 60% mark will result in loss of points.

**IMPORTANT DATES:  (See CALENDAR in ANGEL)**

**Source:**[**http://www.spcollege.edu/calendar/**](http://www.spcollege.edu/calendar/)

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. If you miss a deadline, the assignment can be made up only with special permission of the professor. Thereafter, points will be deducted for each day late.
2. Textbook Written Assignments that are late will be given a ZERO and cannot be made-up.
3. Discussion Forums cannot be submitted late and will also receive a ZERO if not submitted on time.
4. Quizzes may be made up only for VERY serious reasons as deemed so by the professor in consultation with the student. The professor reserves the right to make the final determination.
5. The Mid-term and Final Examination MUST be taken to pass the course on the assigned days. Misreading the syllabus, having other pressing engagements or the like, are not acceptable excuses to miss the examination. Failure to take the exam for such reasons will result in a ZERO for the examination unless an exception has been requested and approved by the professor prior to the testing time.
6. Textbook Writing Assignments should be done in the drop box and NOT as an attachment. Attachments will NOT be read or graded.
7. Please keep in mind that Safari does not work well with Angel, and those students using Mac computers should use the Mozilla FireFox internet browser to ensure their assignments are submitted properly.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

► “While composing my assignment, I was “cut off” and now I can’t find it.  How do I locate it?”

You cannot locate it if you have not saved it.  It is a good idea to compose all of your work in WORD, and then copy/paste it into the html editor where you can manipulate the layout.”

►How do I contact the instructor?    
Use the on-board email system in ANGEL.  NEVER use my personal college e-mail as I do not intend to use it for this course. In an emergency, call me at the number in this syllabus or use ANGEL.

►”I was notified by the instructor that he was unable to open or to read my work and it looked fine to me.”

If the instructor cannot open or read your work it is considered not complete and a failing grade quite likely will be assigned.  It is best to use Microsoft Word, or an office program that can be posted within ANGEL and read by everyone.  If you do not use Word, you are advised to contact the SPC Help Desk.

--Textbook Writing Assignments are located in the COURSE CONTENT TAB UNDER **CALENDAR**

**THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE AMENDED OR CHANGED AT ANY TIME BY THE INSTRUCTOR.**

**Please not that it is the responsibility of the student to visit all the URL addresses in this syllabus.**

**SYLLABUS ADDENDUM**

***In the event that topics listed in this addendum also appear in your syllabus, please note that you should rely on the addendum information as this information is the most current. More important, the addendum on the college website is actually the most current (and could change) and should be consulted periodically as it is the one to which you will be ultimately held accountable.***

**IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICY REGARDING COURSE DROP ADD PERIOD AND AUDIT INFORMATION**

Students **CANNOT** add a course following the 1st day the class meets. Students **CAN** drop a course during the 1st week of class and be eligible for a refund. (See a counselor/advisor to finalize your schedule, so you won't be left without the classes you want or need). Students may not change from credit to audit status after the end of the first week of classes. Online classes may be added through the standard drop – add period for that course.

**GRADING AND REPEAT COURSE POLICIES**

State policy specifies that students may not repeat a college credit course for which a grade of “C” or higher has been earned except by appeal to the campus associate provost. Students may repeat a college credit course one time without penalty. At the third attempt, students will pay the full cost of instruction. The full cost of instruction rate for 2009-2010 is $280.39 per credit hour. In addition, at the third attempt students may NOT receive a grade of “I,” “W,” or “X,” but must receive the letter grade earned. This grade will be averaged into the overall grade point average .

**ATTENDANCE/ACTIVE PARTICIPATION/WITHDRAWAL POLICIES**

Each instructor must exercise professional judgment to determine if a student is actively participating in class.   Faculty will publish their own personal participation/attendance policies in their syllabi. This policy will be used to determine grades. Students who are not actively participating in class as defined in an instructor's syllabus will be reported to the Administration during the week following the voluntary withdrawal date.

Instructors will verify that students are in attendance during the first two weeks of class. Students classified as “No Show” for both of the first two weeks will be administratively withdrawn for any class which they are not in attendance. Their financial aid will be adjusted based on the updated enrollment status.

Immediately following the 60% point of the term, each instructor will verify which students are actively participating in class as defined in the course syllabus. Students classified as not meeting the criteria for active class participation will be administratively withdrawn with a “WF.” Students will be able to withdraw themselves at any time during the term. However, requests submitted after the 60% deadline will result in a “WF.” Students and instructors will automatically receive an email notification through their SPC email address whenever a withdrawal occurs.

Withdrawing after the “Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of ‘W'” (see link to Academic Calendar below) can have serious consequences. If the student withdraws from a class after the deadline posted in the academic calendar, the student will receive a final grade of ‘WF,' which has the same impact on the student's GPA as a final grade of ‘F.' A ‘WF' grade also could impact the student's financial aid and cause the student to repay some of their financial assistance. If the student is thinking about withdrawing from a class now, the student should consult with an academic advisor or financial assistance counselor first to be sure they understand all the possible outcomes of this decision.

[**Return to top**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm#top#top)

**FEDERAL GUIDELINES RELATED TO FINANCIAL AID AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COLLEGE** [**http://www.spcollege.edu/central/SSFA/HomePage/hdiasbs.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/SSFA/HomePage/hdiasbs.htm)

The U.S. Department of Education requires students who completely withdraw prior to the 60% point of the term from all classes who have received Federal financial aid, i.e., Federal Pell Grant, Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal Stafford Loan, and/or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant(SEOG) to repay a portion of their financial aid.

The law requires the college to refund to the Department of Education the percentage of financial aid which is determined the student did not earn based on the Return of Title IV (R2T4) formula. The student may also be required to repay funds to the College if they are identified as not actively participating in all of their classes, or if they do not receive at least one final passing grade (D or higher) for the term . **Students considering a withdrawal from all classes before the published withdrawal date** should consult a financial assistance counselor to understand their options and the consequences of the total withdrawal. For further information regarding this policy and other financial assistance policies we encourage you to visit our website at: [**www.spcollege.edu/getfunds**](http://www.spcollege.edu/getfunds)

[**Return to top**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm#top#top)

**COLLEGE LEVEL ACADEMIC SKILLS TEST (CLAST) CHANGES**

During the 2009 legislative session, the Legislature repealed the Florida Statutes relating to the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) and eliminated funding for the test. As of July 1, 2009, students will no longer be required to take the CLAST. But to earn an A.A. degree or transfer to or graduate from a bachelor's program, you must still demonstrate college-level proficiency in English language skills, reading, writing/essay and computation skills.

If you have passed any of the CLAST subtests before July 1, 2009, you have met the requirements in those designated areas. If you have not previously passed the CLAST subtests see the following link for alternatives: [**http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/CLAST.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/CLAST.htm) **.**

**DUAL ENROLLMENT, EARLY ADMISSIONS, & EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS**

A Dual Enrollment, Early Admissions, or Early College student may not withdraw from any college level course without consultation with the Early College/Dual Enrollment office. Withdrawal from a course may jeopardize the student's graduation from high school. The Dual Enrollment office can be reached at 727 712-5281 (TS), 727 791-5970 (CL) or 727 394-6000 (SE). [**http://www.spcollege.edu/central/de/index.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/de/index.htm)

[**Return to top**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm#top#top)

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations.  There is no tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on a specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly the ideas are someone else's so you still have to cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy, and fabrication are defined in Board Rule 6Hx23-4.461. Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior. [**http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/catalog/current/stu\_affairs\_honesty.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/catalog/current/stu_affairs_honesty.htm)

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

All electronic devices such as cell phones, beepers, pagers, and related devices are to be silenced prior to entering the classroom, library, and laboratories to avoid disruption. Use of any device in these areas is a violation of College Policy and subject to disciplinary action.

College computers are intended for academic work. Inappropriate use of computers during class time is prohibited. Students should understand that they may be required to use the Internet for some courses. Furthermore, students may be required to have discussions of class assignments and share papers and other class materials with instructors and classmates via chat rooms and other mechanisms. Therefore, Internet users may be able to access students' work whether the access is secured or unsecured. The College cannot protect students from the type of materials on the Internet or the potential piracy of students' materials. [**Return to top**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm#top#top)

Each student's behavior in the classroom or online is expected to contribute to a positive learning/teaching environment, respecting the rights of others and their opportunity to learn. No student has the right to interfere with the teaching/learning process, including the posting of inappropriate materials on chatroom or Web page sites.

The instructor has the authority to ask a disruptive student to leave the classroom, lab, or delete posts or materials from an online or blended class and to file disciplinary action if disruptive behavior continues.   
  
[**Return to top**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm#top#top)

**ONLINE STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND CONDUCT GUIDELINES**

•  The practices of courtesy and respect that apply in the on campus classroom also apply online.

•  Any discriminatory, derogatory, or inappropriate comments are unacceptable and subject to the same disciplinary action applied in courses offered on campus.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (for students attending classes on campus)**

In the event that a hurricane or other natural disaster causes significant damage to St. Petersburg College facilities, you may be provided the opportunity to complete your course work online.  Following the event, please visit the college Web site for an announcement of the College's plan to resume operations.

Students should familiarize themselves with the emergency procedures and evacuation routes located in the buildings they use frequently.

Located in each classroom is an Emergency Response Guide (flip-chart) that contains information for proper actions in response to emergencies.  Students should be prepared to assess situations quickly and use good judgment in determining a course of action.  Students should evacuate to assembly areas in an orderly manner when an alarm sounds or when directed to do so by college faculty or staff or emergency services personnel.  Students may access additional emergency information by going to [**www.spcollege.edu/security**](http://www.spcollege.edu/security) . In face to face courses your instructor will review the specific campus plans for emergency events.   
  
[**Return to top**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm#top#top)

**CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURIT Y**

For information on campus safety and security policies please contact **727 791-2560** . If there are questions or concerns regarding personal safety, please contact the Provost, Associate Provost, Campus Security Officer, or Site Administrator on your campus. [**http://www.spcollege.edu/tsc/security.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/tsc/security.htm)

**SEXUAL PREDATOR INFORMATION**

Federal and State law requires a person designated as a “sexual predator or offender” to register with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The FDLE is then required to notify the local law enforcement agency where the registrant resides, attends, or is employed by an institution of higher learning. Information regarding sexual predators or offenders attending or employed by an institution of higher learning may be obtained from the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction for the particular campus by calling the FDLE hotline (1-888-FL-PREDATOR) or (1-888-357-7332), or by visiting the FDLE website at [**http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do**](http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do)[**Return to top**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm#top#top)

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**  
If you wish to request accommodations as a student with a **documented** disability, please make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus. If you will need assistance during an emergency classroom evacuation, please contact your campus learning specialist immediately about arrangements for your safety. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL and EPI), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6289 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), 341-3721 (HEC) or 341-4532 (AC), 341-7965 (DT). [**http://www.spcollege.edu/central/ossd**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/ossd)

**OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES:**

**COLLEGE CALENDAR**

[**http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/dates.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/dates.htm)

**M.M. BENNETT LIBRARIES**

[**http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/)

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

[**http://www.spcollege.edu/Central/Career/OCDS/index.shtm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/Central/Career/OCDS/index.shtm)

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES**  
[**http://www.spcollege.edu/central/international/**](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/international/)

**LEARNING SUPPORT CENTERS (Tutorial Services)**

[**http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/resource/supplemental.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/resource/supplemental.htm)

**DOWNTOWN LEARNING SUPPORT CENTER and STUDY HALL**

[**http://www.spcollege.edu/downtown/services-tutoring.htm**](http://www.spcollege.edu/downtown/services-tutoring.htm)