

# MCS 505 New Testament 1: Gospels and Acts

## Deaf Theological Center

Union University  
International Mission Board, SBC  
Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church

### Course Description

A survey of the Gospels and Acts with more intensive study of selected stories and issues. Included are a survey of New Testament background, evaluation of various critical approaches to the life of Christ, consideration of the historical reliability of the Gospels, and a survey of the central theological themes in the teachings of Jesus, the individual Gospels, the Book of Acts, and the corresponding NT letters.

### General Objectives

That students preparing to serve among the Deaf in cross-cultural settings using a Chronological Bible Storying approach understand the metanarrative of Scripture, especially as it applies to the New Testament, and be prepared to share the story of Scripture with their assigned people group.

### Specific Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Demonstrate a firm grasp of the New Testament as sacred literature of the Christian faith
- Describe the historical background of the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles
- Accurately interpret key stories within their literary and historical contexts
- Recount the metanarrative of the New Testament by memorizing and re-telling selected key stories
- Describe the missiological thread running through the New Testament and discuss its implications for the Church
- Accurately recall the NT timeline in a storying format with placement of the corresponding icons for each story
- Prepare and lead training of assigned NT books as determined by instructors

### Required Text

*The Bible* (in written, video-recorded, or signed versions, as appropriate to the student)

### Supporting Text (Not required)

*Discovering the New Testament: Community and Faith.* Varughese, Dunning, Haun, Neale, Serrao, Spross, and Tashjian.

### Assignments

Daily interaction with the biblical text as assigned. Due to the survey nature of the course, no term papers or other written special projects are required. Instead, emphasis will be placed on daily interaction with the Scriptures, memorized through Chronological Storying techniques.

A required, graduate-level project will consist of research on an assigned New Testament letter (General Epistles or Pauline Epistles) as decided by the instructor. The student will be required to be familiar with the content (text) of the epistle, identify the themes and/or problems that the writer addresses within its message, know the supporting arguments for its authorship and date, and identify the intended recipients of

the letter. The student will make a 30-minute presentation of the research and findings to the rest of the class and be prepared to respond to any questions that the students might have.

In addition there will be an ongoing assigned class training project in which the student must actively participate.

### **Method of Instruction**

Selected passages of the New Testament will be presented by the instructor, and repeated by the students to ingrain a thorough understanding of each story and its place in the metanarrative of the New Testament and Scripture as a whole. Students will achieve the ability to retell each passage accurately and place it within its appropriate context in the metanarrative, without benefit of external resources. In addition to learning the content of the New Testament, the instructor will lead students in daily discussions about the implications of the passages learned, with a focus on the missionary nature of God and the missional responsibility of the Church. Students will be introduced to and emphasize how themes and stories are delivered through a New Testament iconic timeline. American Sign Language will be the language of instruction, class interaction, and evaluation.

### **Attendance and tardiness**

Students will be expected to be in class during the regularly scheduled times and, on occasion, during some extended classroom training that may be needed. Missing 1 day of class will result in the reduction of 1 letter grade. Additional missed classes will result in corresponding reductions of letter grades.

Class will begin at 9:00 am and the expectation is that students will be in their seats and ready to begin at that time. Arriving at class late on more than one occasion will cost  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a letter grade toward the final grading total. Three late arrivals will result in the reduction of 1 letter grade for the course.

### **Attitude and Interaction**

Within the context of the classroom setting the interaction and exchanges between students, and between students and instructors, should be done in a professional way. Course requirements that are determined to meet the criteria of Union University's standards, and their governing bodies, are not open for negotiation. All dialogue within these settings should have a high level of professionalism, respect, and grace.

### **Class Schedule and Assignments**

**Teacher will give this information on the first day of class.**

### **Grading**

**Teacher will give this information on the first day of class.**