

Requirements

I. Course Description

A study of the history and literature of the time from Malachi to the birth of Christ, with an emphasis on the social and political influences which affected the Roman and Jewish worlds and on other background information necessary for a complete understanding of the New Testament. (3 credit hours)

MBU Institutional Outcomes supported by this course:

1. Communication Skills: Students will demonstrate competence in written, oral, and aesthetic communication.
6. Biblical Knowledge: Students will acquire skills related to biblical study methods, interpretation, and doctrine.
8. Biblical Application: Students will use discernment in moral situations by applying biblical precepts and principles to contemporary issues and lifestyle choices.

II. Course Objectives

*Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. To recite the historical setting prior to and during the writing of the NT
2. To identify the content and value for NT interpretation of intertestamental literature
3. To explain the beliefs of the religious groups that existed during the NT age
4. To understand the various social elements which are discussed, alluded to, or provide background for the NT text
5. To interpret Scripture contextually by placing the NT text in its historical, religious, cultural, and social setting
6. To defend a conservative view of the development of the NT church

III. Course Texts

- A. J. Julius Scott, Jr., *Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995.

- B. Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003.

IV. Course Requirements

A. **Reading** (approximately 1300 pages)

Read both textbooks in their entirety. Reading should be focused on overview and big concepts. You do not need to do research level reading. Reading must be completed by the end of the class. Students must report their reading on a reading report form by the due date. Reading reports are available MyMaranatha for you to report your reading. The reading must be read and reported on time in order to get full credit for the reading. Students must also **read at least 300 pages of reading** in preparations for class projects. This reading must should be included on the reading report.

B. **Hellenism Summary**

1. Write a summary of Hellenism. This summary must include five parts:
 - a) Meaning of Hellenism
 - b) History of Hellenism
 - c) Hellenistic way of life
 - d) Impact of Hellenism
 - e) Responses to Hellenism
2. Include a paragraph at the end of your paper in which you identify two NT passages where a knowledge of Hellenism helps understand the verses. Include both the verses and an explanation of Hellenism's impact on the verses.
3. This is intended to be a summary not a complete paper. It should be approximately 4-6 pages in length. You should document your sources.
4. You should consult at least five different sources for this summary.

C. **Social Background Study**

1. Choose one of the following social elements of the NT era: soldier, farmer, athlete, or marriage.
2. Write a description of this element as it existed in the NT era.
3. Locate two NT passages that reference this element. Explain what the passages mean in light of your historical description of this element.

4. You should have at least ten sources for this assignment. Quality papers will interact with sources not just cite them. This project should be approximately 6-8 pages in length.

D. Armor of God PowerPoint

1. Create a PowerPoint presentation that explains the Roman military armor in Ephesians 6. This presentation should include ample pictures of Roman armor and an explanation of its significance for the meaning in Ephesians 6 for each piece of the armor mentioned.
2. You should have at least one slide for each part of the armor mentioned in Ephesians 6. Pictures and text should be large enough to see when projected onto a screen. They should also be crisp and clear (not blurry).
3. You must document your sources (both pictures and explanations).

E. Test

There will be one test: a final. This test will cover the material covered in class lectures and discussion.

V. Course Grading

A. Reading	15%
B. Hellenism	20%
C. Social	20%
D. Armor	20%
E. Test	25%

VI. Course Policies

- A. Late Work-All work is expected to be completed on time. Any work turned in after the due date will have its grade reduced 4% per calendar day.
- B. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Consult the section in the Seminary catalog regarding Academic and Intellectual Expectations for a description of academic dishonesty and appropriate penalties for violation.
- C. Collegiality-The Seminary catalog states, "The Seminary has an expectation of collegiality in and out of the classroom. There must be an ability and willingness to talk about controversial issues in an attitude of mutual respect between students, professors and others. The classes should not degenerate into arguments, especially over issues that have been debated regularly among fundamental Baptists. You should not attempt to pit one teacher against another in your

classes. We desire that there be an openness in class discussion and a transparency of both faculty and students. The class professor has the right to end a discussion which he believes has become nonproductive.”

D. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Program Director, in the Library, (ph. 920/206-2340) or email academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

E. Grading Scale

		B+	90-91.99	C+	81-82.99	D	64-72.99
A	94-100	B	85-89.99	C	75-80.99	F	0-63.99
A -	92-93.99	B-	83-84.99	C-	73-74.99		

VII. Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
August 23	Historical background	
August 24	Literary background	
August 25	Religious background	
August 26	Religious background	
August 27	Social background	
September 4		Final exam due
September 18		Hellenism summary due
October 2		Armor PowerPoint due
October 23		Social background paper due Reading report due