Instructor Information

Instructor:  Dr. Don Spitler  
Ph D – Religious Studies  
MA – Communication
Office:  CHARTS 448  
Mailbox:  CHARTS 410, North Little Rock Campus  
Hours:  M – 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
T - 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
W - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
R - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
F - By appointment
Phone:  501-812-2246  
Email:  dspitler@uaptc.edu (preferred method of contact)

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.

Chair:  Dr. Barry McVinnie  501-812-2383  bmcvinney@uaptc.edu
Dean:  Dr. Christy Oberste  501-812-2869  coberste@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.

Course Information

Online

Catalog Description

RELG 2330 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY: Critically studies the major teachings that make up the Christian New Testament. The course includes the history, literature and teachings of the books, with emphases on the life and teachings of the historical Jesus, and how the development and spread of Christianity was reported in Acts and the letters of Paul. 3 Credit Hours (3 hours lecture per week).

Course Materials


Recommended text: The Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha (NRSV)
Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism
6. Quantitative Literacy
7. Technology Literacy

For more information, please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

Department / Program Learning Outcomes

The Fine Arts and Humanities Department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:

1. Critical and creative thought
2. Effective argumentation
3. Academic Integrity
4. Independent thinking and learning
5. Written communication on a collegiate level
6. Exposure to various cultures and subcultures
7. The influence of culture on individuals and their work
8. Collaborative study and writing
9. The importance of community/civic involvement

Student Learning / Course Outcomes

ACTS

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:
The New Testament Survey course is designed to:
1. Give students selected readings from the New Testament, as well as pertinent essays, articles, and books.

2. Introduce students to the importance of literary criticism and other methods for understanding the literature of early Christianity.

3. Make students aware of the latest archaeological discoveries that illuminate the New Testament period.

4. Make students aware of key terms (e.g. Palestine, Apocalypse).

5. Empower students through knowledge of the current standards of inclusive language with respect to men and women, Christians and Jews, believers and seekers, and others.

6. Provide students with extensive bibliography for further study.

Policies

Report a Complaint or Concern

UA-PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

UA-PTC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

Departmental Attendance Policy

Agencies granting financial assistance may be notified of the violation of the attendance policy by students receiving financial aid.

Attendance is taken starting the first two weeks of the semester, and students MUST complete the Course Agreement Form in order to be counted as having attended class. Starting with the third week, completion of assignments ON TIME will serve as attendance in the class. Students
who fail to complete assignments or stop logging into the course are encouraged to drop the course to avoid failing. The last day to drop a course is on Friday, November 16.

You will need to log in regularly each week. I would suggest a minimum of 3 hours a week, but given the nature of online courses, you will need to spend more than 3 hours a week working on assignments, responding to discussion messages, and reading both the text and notes I may post. In order to be counted present during a week, you not only must log in, but you must complete all assignments required for any given week.

Course Policies

The UA-PTC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times. Please consult the following website for more information: [https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog](https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog)

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Some guidelines for communication are included in this syllabus to help you.

Course Policies:

The following are policies I have for the course. I may have to adjust policies according to situations that may arise during the semester.

1. Keep the language and tone of all communications civil. No vulgar language or demeaning comments will be tolerated. Should you communicate in this way, I will warn you through private e-mail should the offense take place via private e-mail. However, if you post an inappropriate message on the discussion board, for all to read, I will respond publicly. I may also take action by shutting you out of the course.

2. If you have a problem with me, or if you have a question for me, please send me a private e-mail through Blackboard. DO NOT post such messages on the discussion board. The discussion board is for posting assignments; socializing needs to be take place in the student lounge area.

3. When communicating, do not YELL. Using all capital letters signifies you are indeed yelling.

4. I will respond to your e-mails as quickly as I can. But please understand that it may take me a day or two to get back to you.

5. I do not mind answering questions you might have, but I should not have to answer questions I have already answered through previous correspondences. So before asking a question, check all e-mails I have sent and read every page that I have posted in the course that is related to your question. If I have not addressed your question in any of the information I have provided, then you can ask me.
6. If I see the same question asked by several students, I may send out an e-mail to all students instead of e-mailing individual responses. So do not think I am ignoring you if I do not answer you directly.

7. NO EXCUSES: you are in college, and you are expected to complete all assignments and tests ON TIME.

PLEASE NOTE: A certain amount of computer skills is expected of you, considering you have chosen to take an online course. You need to know how to send e-mails, how to send attachments, how to download audio files, and other basic computer functions. Also, you will be at a great disadvantage taking any online course if you do not have high-speed Internet at home. If you are coming on to campus to access to log in to the course because you do not have Internet service at home, then be aware that you will still be expected to complete all assignments and take all tests ON TIME.

Grading Policy

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90 to 100%  A
- 80 to 89%  B
- 70 to 79%  C
- 60 to 69%  D
- 0 to 59%  F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>ROUGH % OF FINAL GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>62.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>31.25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Agreement</td>
<td>1.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Assignment</td>
<td>4.3 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Instructors have one week to provide feedback and post grades for all assignments unless otherwise noted by a departmental policy that has been approved by the Dean of the School.

In an online class, eligibility for Financial Aid is based on student participation. Logging into the course does not constitute participation. For purposes of roster certification, students must complete a gradable attendance artifact.

Readings

The assigned readings are the foundation for our discussion postings, assignments, and exams. It is expected that you will complete readings before the assigned date. While not always
discussed in the postings, all assigned readings represent testable material. This course will require a great deal of reading, considering the two required texts plus the New Testament books.

Exams = 500 Points
Five exams (100 points each) will be given during the course of the semester. For each exam you are responsible for all material presented in your required readings, as well as additional materials I provide. Unit exams can be taken only ONCE, and each exam MUST be completed in a single sitting. That means that once you open the exam, you must complete it.

For every chapter that you are required to read, I will post a quiz designed to reinforce some of the concepts raised in the chapter. These quizzes will be practice quizzes (NOT for points), but taking them will help prepare you for the unit exams. The quizzes will be set up to be taken multiple times, and they will be open the entire semester. In Blackboard, I had to assign points to each quiz, but the scores will not appear in your total score in the gradebook.

Unit Writing Assignments = 250 Points
For each unit, I will post a writing assignment in which you will write about some topic covered in that unit that you found particularly interesting or intriguing. The purpose of each writing assignment is to get you to think about various issues raised in the Ehrman text or in a book of the New Testament, and they will require more than an answer taken directly from the text.

Answers that are direct quotes from the text or from some other source will receive a zero; I want you to use your own words. Please do not copy another student’s response for a question; that, too, is plagiarism and will result in your failing the course. I will provide some suggested topics that you could focus on.

Writing assignments will NOT be accepted late, not will they be accepted via e-mail. Writing assignments MUST be completed in the assignment itself, since I have a rubric set up for each assignment. I also have a program set up to check for plagiarism.

A note about plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else’s words and leading others to believe they are your own. When you complete the weekly writing assignments, please make sure you use your own wording. Do not repeat what you read in the textbook, what you may read in commentaries, or what you read online. Do not simply cut and paste from commentaries you access online. If you plagiarize once, I will warn you, and you will receive a zero for that assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will need to talk to me about your status in the class. You will receive a zero, and I will consider you “on probation.” A third offense will result in your failing the course, so at that point, I will recommend that you drop the class to avoid failing.

Miscellaneous Activities = 50 Points
Two other assignments are required as well, and both will be completed within the first two weeks of class: the syllabus agreement assignment (worth 15 points) and an introduction assignment (worth 35 points).
Make-Up Policy

Tests. I will provide plenty of time for you to take tests, so when the test period ends, you CANNOT take the test. In other words, I will not reset the test for you if you did not take the test when it was available. No make-ups on tests will be allowed, regardless of the reason.

What I will do is this: for one missed test (and one only), I will double the score of the next test you take and replace the grade of the one missed test.

Contacting Me

I will be available to answer e-mails between 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM, seven days a week. You can e-mail me through Blackboard or through my UA-PTC e-mail (dspitler@uaptc.edu). Please do not post private messages to me on the discussion board; the discussion board will be used for assignments only. In the evenings and weekends, I constantly check my UA-PTC e-mail, so feel free to e-mail at times other than the ones listed above, and I will respond as quickly as I can.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalog states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The catalog also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student's responsibility to provide their Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog.
Sexual Misconduct

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership
Campus Center Building Room 216
501-812-2756
manderson@uaptc.edu

Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

Information Literacy

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.

Tentative Schedule (page following):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/9 – 1/12 | Read Syllabus/Course Agreement  
Introduction of Self Assignment  
Read Chapter 1, Ehrman text  
Read Mark (NT) |
| 2    | 1/13 – 1/19| Read Chapters 3 and 4, Ehrman text  
Read Mark (NT) |
| 3    | 1/20 – 1/26| Read Chapter 5 and 6, Ehrman text  
Read Matthew (NT)  
Unit 1 Exam - Chapters 1, 3 – 6 (Opens-1/26; Closes-2/1) |
| 4    | 1/27 – 2/2 | Read Chapter 7, Ehrman text  
Read Matthew (NT) |
| 5    | 2/3 – 2/9  | Read Chapters 8 and 9, Ehrman text  
Read Luke (NT); read Acts 1-15 (NT) |
| 6    | 2/10 – 2/16| Read Chapters 10 and 19, Ehrman text |
| 7    | 2/17 – 2/23| Read Acts 16 - 28 (NT)  
Unit 2 Exam – Chapters 7 – 10, 19 (Opens-2/23; Closes-3/1) |
| 8    | 2/24 – 3/2 | Read Chapters 11 and 15, Ehrman text  
Read John 1 – 10, (NT) |
| 9    | 3/3 – 3/9  | Read Chapters 15 and 16, Ehrman text  
Read John 11 – 21, (NT) |
| 10   | 3/10 – 3/16| Read Chapters 18 and 20, Ehrman text  
Unit 3 Exam – Chapters 11, 15- 16, 18 and 20 (Opens-3/15; Closes-3/29) |
| 11   | 3/17 – 3/23| SPRING BREAK |
| 12   | 3/24 – 3/30| Read Chapters 21, Ehrman text  
Read 1 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians (NT) |
| 13   | 3/31 – 4/6 | Read Chapter 22, Ehrman text  
Galatians, Philippians (NT) |
| 14   | 4/7 – 4/13 | Read Chapters 23 and Ehrman text  
Read Romans 1 -8 (NT) |
| 15   | 4/14 – 4/20| Read Chapter 24, Ehrman text  
Read Romans 9 – 16 (NT)  
Unit 4 Exam - Chapters 21 – 24 (Opens-4/20; Closes-4/26) |
| 16   | 4/21 – 4/27| Read Chapter 25, Ehrman text  
Read Chapter 27, Ehrman text  
Read Ephesians, 1 Timothy (NT) |
| 17   | 4/28 – 5/4 | Read Chapters 28 and 29, Ehrman text  
Titus, 1 John (NT) |
| 18   | 5/5 – 5/10 | *(Final Exams Week)* - Unit 5 Exam – Chapters 25, 27 – 29 (Opens-5/3; Closes-5/10) |

**Course Agreement Form**

On the Start Here page, I have created an assignment entitled Syllabus Agreement. Follow the instructions given and submit the assignment to me.
NOTE: Please see the following page for the Assignment Tracker, which will help you keep track of your assignments and grades for those assignments.

## Assignment Tracker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Agreement</td>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduce Yourself</td>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Writing Assignment</td>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Writing Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Writing Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Writing Assignment</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Exam</td>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Exam</td>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Exam</td>
<td>3/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 4 Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 5 Exam</td>
<td>5/10</td>
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