

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Term: **Spring 2008**  
Instructor: Dr. Rodrigo Morales  
Course #: 101  
Sections: 1001 and 1002  
Course Title: New Testament Overview

Description:

The writings of the New Testament serve as one of the foundations of the Christian faith and have inspired believers around the world through the ages. The primary purpose of this class is to read carefully and thoughtfully some of the major texts of the New Testament in order to appreciate their various and complementary understandings of Jesus, their relationship to the Old Testament, and their significance for Christian life today. We will begin by considering the Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts out of which these texts were written and to which they were addressed. We will then spend a significant amount of time on each of the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, after which we will turn our attention to some of the letters of Paul and the later writings of the New Testament. Assignments will include five or six 2-3 page papers, content quizzes, a midterm, and a final.

Required texts:

- Any scholarly translation of the Bible (e.g. RSV, NRSV, NAB), preferably including the Deuterocanonical books
- Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation (Rev. Ed.)*
- Richard A. Burridge, *Four Gospels, One Jesus? A Symbolic Reading (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*
- William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*