

**NEWMAN BIBLE ACADEMY  
ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS  
By Dr. Willis C. Newman**

**Course Title:** Survey of the Gospels and Acts

**Abbreviation:** BI 106

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Instructional Hours:** 30

**Instructor:** Dr. Willis C. Newman.

**E-Mail:** drwillisnewman@gmail.com. All communication will be through this email address.

**Catalog description:** This introductory course surveys the introductory matters of the Gospels and Acts, their historical and cultural context, and an in-depth study of the contents of each book.

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

1. Explain the purpose of the Gospels and Acts.
2. Understand the writers, date of writing, and background of the Gospels and Acts.
3. Describe the relationship of Jesus Christ to the Gospels and Acts.
4. Evaluate the historical and theological significance of each Gospel and Acts.
5. Understand the contribution of the Gospels and Acts to the Christian Faith.
6. Identify the origin of the Christian Church.
7. Explain various heresies and struggles of the early church.
8. Demonstrate an awareness of the themes of the Gospels and Acts.
9. Be introduced to a selected evangelical bibliography of resources regarding the Gospels.
10. Apply principles of spiritual and practical matters to the student's life and ministry.

**Course Requirements.**

Students have 10 weeks to complete the following course requirements. Final grades will be based on the total accumulated points from the examination plus the analysis papers.

**1. The reading and understanding** of the assigned ebook textbooks and readings as explained below. I will email the ebooks to you in pdf format:

- *The Gospels: A Brief Background, outline, analysis, & Commentary of Matthew and Mark.*
- *A Brief Background, outline, Analysis & Commentary of the Gospels of Luke, John and the Acts of the Apostles.*

You are also required to read from your Bible the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and The Acts of the Apostles.

**2. Examination.** Required is one examination. The exam consists of 150 questions worth 1 point each. The examination will be sent to you by email along with the ebooks study material. You fill out the answers. The exam is open book. On a Word document, type out your answers to each question, then email it back as an attachment to me at drwillisnewman@gmail.com. Here is an example.

Give your name and course at the top of the page.

Example:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: BI 106 Survey of the Gospels and Acts

Answers:

1. d
2. a
3. Write out your choice of answer for any fill in questions.
4. Write out True or False for any questions that calls for such an answer .
5. c.

The exam answers can be found in the ebooks listed above and the Bible.

**3. Analysis Papers:** For each of the Gospels and Acts you are required to read and write a two page essay for each book. Answer the following questions:

- a. What is the book name?
- c. Who is the author?
- d. When was it written?
- e. Who was it written to?
- f. What is the major themes of the book?
- g. What does the book teach you about God?
- h. What stands out to you personally in the book? As you read through each assigned book, look for something that stands out to you, and that you can apply to your life or ministry. It may be an event, person, theological concept, ministry strategy, psychological insight, or attitude. Write at least one page on the insight(s) God gives you.

NOTE: Wait until you have completed all the assignments, and submit them as an attachment along with your exam to drwillisnewman@gmail.com. Be sure to put your name and the course for each essay.

If you are somewhat limited in English, do not be concerned. I am looking for the quality of content in your analysis assignments.

**4. Recommended Reading.** The preferred English Bible translations for the student to use is the New American Standard Bible, or the New King James Bible. Recommended study Bibles are The Ryrie Study Bible (Moody Press), and the Nelson Study Bible, NKJV (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Earl Radmacher, general editor). You may use a Bible in your own mother language.

**5. Total possible points:**

Examination:	150
Five analysis essays: <u>100</u>	
Total	250

**6. Course schedule:**

The following schedule will enable you to finish the course in 10 weeks. It is important to stay on schedule so you do not get overwhelmed at the end of the course. These dates are guidelines, not deadlines. **NOTE:** wait until you have completed all the written work and exam, then submit them to me all at once by email attachment. The course is self-paced.

If you need more time to finish a course, let me know, and we can negotiate extra time.

Weeks one - two: Read/study ebook text *The Gospels: A Brief Background, outline, analysis, & Commentary of Matthew and Mark*, pages, 1-78.  
Complete portion of examination related to the assigned pages.

Weeks three, four: Read/study ebook text, *The Gospels: A Brief Background, outline, analysis, & Commentary of Matthew and Mark*, pages 79-115.

Complete portion of examination related to the assigned pages.

Weeks five, six: Read/study ebook text *A Brief Background, outline, Analysis & Commentary of the Gospels of Luke, John and the Acts of the Apostles*, pages 1-82.  
Complete portion of examination related to the assigned pages.

Weeks seven, 8: Read/study ebook text, *A Brief Background, outline, Analysis & Commentary of the Gospels of Luke, John and the Acts of the Apostles*, pages 83-119.  
Complete portion of examination related to the assigned pages.

Week nine, ten: Read/study Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts of the Apostles  
Write assigned essays for the Gospels and Acts.  
Complete all unfinished work.  
Send all your completed work to me by email attachment to  
drwillisnewman@gmail.com.

**Grading/Method of evaluation:** Your grade is determined by adding together all your earned points, then dividing that number by the total points possible. That results in a percentage number. The following chart indicates your grade.

**GRADE SCALE:**

%	GPA	Letter	%	GPA	Letter
95%	4	A	70%	2.0	C-
94%	3.9	A-	69%	1.9	D+
93%	3.8	A-	68%	1.8	D+
92%	3.7	A-	66%	1.6	D+
91%	3.6	A-	65%	1.5	D+
90%	3.5	A-	64%	0.9	D
89%	3.4	B+	63%	0.8	D
88%	3.3	B+	61%	0.7	D
87%	3.2	B+	60%	0.7	D
86%	3.2	B	0%	0	F
85%	3.2	B			
84%	3.1	B			
83%	3.1	B-			
82%	3.1	B-			
81%	3.1	B-			
80%	3.0	B-			
79%	2.9	C+			
78%	2.8	C+			
77%	2.7	C+			
76%	2.6	C			
75%	2.5	C			
74%	2.4	C			
73%	2.3	C-			
72%	2.2	C-			
71%	2.1	C-			

**Technical requirements.** You will need a computer, printer, email account, and Microsoft Office 2003 – 2007. I would recommend that you use a free gmail account from Google for your email, and Internet Explorer or Firefox for a browser. You will also need an adobe reader. If you don't have one, you can download one free from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

**Purpose of Newman Bible Academy:** This Academy exists to train men and women for worldwide Christian ministry as pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay-workers. Our goal is to train students by strengthening their Christian faith, in order to proclaim and defend the teachings of the inerrant Word of God. This purpose is pursued through training in Bible, theology, and practical ministry, plus the development of personal spiritual maturity and zeal. Our existence is grounded in the Great Commission, which is to proclaim the gospel of Christ to the entire world, and make disciples of all those who respond to Christ. The Academy is global in nature, and designed to provide training for those who can least afford it anywhere in the world.

**Study tips:** It is suggested that the student carefully study each reading. First, read through the assigned section to get a general overview. Reread the section, and write down important concepts as you read along. Review. Review. Review. Rehearse and visualize the contents. Memorize key concepts. Take the exam. The exams are open book, but realize that you must know the material very well to complete the exams within the time limit allowed.

**Book acquisition:** You do not need to purchase any books as everything you need is found on the internet. Of course, you will need a Bible.

**Additional Internet Resources.** Here are some Internet links where you can find commentaries, dictionaries, systematic theologies, history and other helps.

<http://www.ccel.org/>  
<http://creation.com/>  
<http://geocities.com/dennisjowers/resources>  
<http://www.abideinchrist.com/links/books.html>  
<http://www.iclnet.org/>  
<http://www.christian-apologetics.org/html/links.htm>  
<http://www.spurgeon.org/~phil/hall.htm>  
<http://www.thruthebible.org> (J. Vernon McGee)  
<http://www.ewordtoday.com/comment>