

VERITAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT CURRICULUM GUIDES

Educational Philosophy

The theology department endeavors to help students grow to be knowledgeable of the theology of the faith; to be engaged with the culture around us; to be drawn toward the gospel; to be captured by their Savior; to know the beauty, goodness, and truth found in Christ; and to become builders of the Kingdom of God until his return for the glory of Christ.

Course Title: New Testament I (Gospels) - 7th Grade

Course Description:

This course covers the four Gospels found in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). The Synoptic Gospels are studied thematically, followed by the gospel of John independently. The political, religious, and cultural characteristics of the first century world are studied as they relate to New Testament historical context. Theological concepts relating to the incarnation and resurrection of Christ are highlighted as well as Jesus' primary teaching of the Kingdom of God. The text for this course is the New Testament.

Student Materials:

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (2011 text)
Composition Book for Journal Entries
3-ring binder for class notes
Dig Deeper by Nigel Benyon and Andrew Sach

Teacher Resources for Instruction:

General:

- *A Harmony of the Gospels*, Aland
- *Jesus the Messiah*, Robert Stein
- *Jesus and the Gospels*, Craig Blomberg
- *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, IVP
- *IVP Bible Background Commentary*
- *Holman Bible Atlas*

Sermon on the Mount:

- *The Story of God Bible Commentary: Sermon on the Mount*, Scot McKnight
- *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *The Divine Conspiracy*, Dallas Willard

Gospel of John:

- *John*, Frederick Dale Bruner
- *A Youth Worker's Commentary on John*, Les Christie and David Nystrom

Time on Task:

Monday-Friday (53 minutes, 4 days a week)

Areas to be Evaluated and Their Percentage of Quarterly Grade:

Class Participation	10%
Classwork	20%
Quizzes	30%
Tests	40%

OVERVIEW:

Week	Unit	Materials
Week 1-4	1. Introduction to NT/Overview of the Gospels	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>
Week 5-9	2. Synoptics (pt. 1) - Birth to the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>
Week 10-13	3. Synoptics (pt. 2) - Sermon on the Mount	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>
Week 14-18	4. Synoptics (pt. 3) - Jesus and the Kingdom of God	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>
Week 19-22	5. Synoptics (pt. 4) - Journey to Jerusalem	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>
Week 23-27	6. Synoptics (pt. 5) - Death and Resurrection	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>
Week 28-31	7. John (pt. 1)	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>
Week 32-36	8. John (pt. 2)	ESV Bible; Journal; <i>Dig Deeper</i>

UNIT 1: Introduction to the New Testament / Overview of the Gospels

Days	Topic	Objectives
4 Days	Introduction	To explore why the study of the NT is so important for believers
1 Days	The 3 I's (Inerrancy, Inspiration, Infallibility)	To understand the differences and importance of these concepts as we approach scripture
2 Days	Overview of the Context of the Gospels	To understand the NT world (political, social, and religious)
2 Days	Synoptics: Mark	To understand the audience, provenance, and circumstances of the Gospel of Mark
2 Days	Synoptics: Matthew	To understand the audience, provenance, and circumstances of the Gospel of Matthew
2 Days	Synoptics: Luke	To understand the audience, provenance, and circumstances of the Gospel of Luke
2 Days	John	To understand the audience, provenance, and circumstances of the Gospel of John

Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Eye-Witness Video	To demonstrate how various eye-witnesses to an event will differ in their accounts based on audience and background	Students will write a paragraph describing a short video clip shown in class after being given a specific audience for which to write
Comparative Gospel Analysis	To demonstrate the similarities and differences between the four gospel accounts and identify unique features of each	Students will color-code selected passages from <i>A Harmony of the Gospels</i> by Thomas and Gundry

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Classwork - 20% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Motivated, Listening, Participatory	Class Participation (Weekly Grade)	Class Participation - 10% of Total
Attention paid to video clip and audience	Paragraph summary of clip	Classwork - 20% of Total
Ability to distinguish uniqueness of language between multiple passages	Accuracy of Coding Passages	Classwork - 20% of Total
Knowledge of Unit Material (Memorization and Application of Unit Info.)	Test	Test - 40% of Total

UNIT 2: Synoptics (pt. 1) - Birth to the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

Days	Topic	Objectives
2 Days	Genealogy	To place Jesus in the appropriate context within the Christian scriptures
4 Days	Birth / Childhood	To observe the obscurity of Jesus' origins and the faith of the family he was born into
2 Days	John the Baptist / Baptism	To understand the significance of baptism and its role in inaugurating Jesus' formal ministry
2 Days	Temptation	To understand the depth of Jesus' temptation and how his temptation can help us
1 Day	Jesus 1st Sermon / Rejection	To understand Jesus' ministry as fulfillment of Jewish prophetic expectation

2 Days	Calling of the Disciples	To observe Jesus' priorities in selecting leaders for the church
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Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Family Tree	Students will trace their family tree and religious heritage	Students will turn in a diagram of their family tree
"Want ad" for Disciples	To observe the differences in God's selection of leaders and the world's selection of leaders	Students write a want ad and create a chart on the disciples Jesus selected and the disciples the world would select

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Classwork - 20% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Motivated, Listening, Participatory	Class Participation	Class Participation - 10% of Total
Synthesis of family history & information into a family tree	Family Tree	Classwork - 20% of Total
Assimilating information about the background and personality of the disciples	Want ad for Disciples	Classwork - 20% of Total
Knowledge of Unit Material (Memorization and Application of Unit Info.)	Test	Test - 40% of Total

UNIT 3: Synoptics (pt. 2) - Jesus and the Kingdom of God/Heaven

Days	Topic	Objectives
5 Days	The Kingdom of God/Heaven	To understand the concept of the Kingdom of God/Heaven and how we can participate in building it
6 Days	Parables (specific attention on "The Sower," "The Prodigal Son," and "The Good Samaritan")	To understand how to interpret parables and why Jesus used them to communicate about the Kingdom of God
5 Days	Miracles (focus on Jesus' power over nature, illness, death, and the demonic)	To observe Jesus' miracles and understand how miracles are an embodiment of the Kingdom of God

Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Create-your-own Parable	To allow the students to understand the literary genre of parables and why Jesus used these to communicate truth	Students write their own parables and brainstorm examples of parables today

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Classwork - 20% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Motivated, Listening, Participatory	Class Participation (Weekly Grade)	Class Participation - 10% of Total
Assimilating information about the nature and content of parable genre	Create-your-own Parable	Classwork - 20% of Total
Knowledge of Unit Material (Memorization and Application of Unit Info.)	Test	Test - 40% of Total

UNIT 4: Synoptics (pt. 3) - Sermon on the Mount

Days	Topic	Objectives
1 Day	Introduction to Sermon on the Mount	To introduce students to the Sermon on the Mount and the various ways people have interpreted this text
2 Days	Beatitudes	To understand God's counterintuitive definition of "blessing" and how it differs from the world's definition

1 Day	Salt and Light	To understand the importance of witness
1 Day	Christ Fulfilling Law	To understand how Jesus fulfills the law of Moses
1 Day	Anger	To understand anger as the root of other sin and the importance of reconciliation in the church
1 Day	Lust / Divorce	To understand lust as the root of sexual sin and the importance of covenant relationships
1 Day	Oaths	To understand the importance of our words and how they reflect our character
1 Day	Retaliation	To understand the subversive command to “turn the other cheek” and “go the second mile” as non-violent resistance
1 Day	Loving Enemies	To understand the radical love of Jesus for enemies
1 Day	Giving / Fasting	To understand the importance of humility in worship
2 Days	Prayer (Lord’s Prayer)	To explore in depth the Lord’s Prayer and its implications for the follower of Jesus
1 Day	Treasure in Heaven	To understand the right right relationship to money and material resources
1 Day	Worry	To understand Jesus’ command to trust God with our future
1 Day	Judging / Tree and Fruit / Golden Rule	To understand Jesus’ command as it concerns relationships to one another
1 Day	Seeking the Kingdom / Firm Foundation	To understand the solid foundation of the kingdom on which we should build our life

Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Sermon on the Mount Comic Strip	To foster memory of the various sections of the Sermon on the Mount through the creation of daily icons	Students will turn in a completed comic strip with 16 colored pictures

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Classwork - 20% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total

UNIT 5: Synoptics (pt. 4) - Journey to Jerusalem

Days	Topic	Objectives
2 Days	Sending Disciples	Evangelism
1 Day	Women Supporting Jesus	To appreciate the women who supported and were vital to the ministry of Jesus
2 Days	Caesarea Philippi Confession	To reveal the pinnacle of the synoptic account and the significance of this claim
1 Day	Transfiguration	To connect the significance of this event with the confession of Peter
3 Days	Discipleship (What does it mean to follow Jesus?)	To observe additional stories about what it means to be a follower of Jesus (Rich Young Ruler, Count Cost, Take Up Cross, etc.)
1 Day	Mary, Martha, Lazarus	To reveal to students the relationships Jesus cultivated with this family while on earth
2 Days	Triumphal Entry	To understand the significance of this event for the Jewish people and the Roman authorities
2 Days	Cleansing the Temple (Widows Mite)	To learn the danger of using religion to worship our own idols
3 Days	Teaching on Christ's Return	To understand Jesus' eschatological teachings

Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Extra-Extra	Students must assimilate their understanding of Jesus' teaching about the second coming by writing a news article describing the events.	Students' news articles will be evaluated on their fidelity to the teachings of Jesus regarding the eschaton (Matthew 24-25)

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Motivated, Listening, Participatory	Class Participation (Weekly Grade)	Class Participation - 10% of Total
Synthesis of information regarded the return of Christ from Matthew 24-25	Extra-Extra News Article	Classwork - 20% of Total

Knowledge of Unit Material (Memorization and Application of Unit Info.)	Test	Test - 40% of Total
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UNIT 6: Synoptics (pt. 5) - Death and Resurrection

Days	Topic	Objectives
1 Day	The Anointing at Bethany	To understand how the act of the woman at Bethany served as a pre-death preparation of Jesus' body for burial. The theme of betrayal will also be introduced.
3 Days	Last Supper	To understand the connection between the Lord's Supper and the Passover and why this connection is important
2 Days	Gethsemane and Arrest	To study the prayer of Jesus prior to arrest and Jesus' response to Peter's use of violence
6 Days	Trials and Passion	To study the specific physical, emotional, and spiritual sufferings of Christ
2 Days	Death and Burial	To study the stories of Jesus' death and the theological importance of the surrounding events (veil torn, earthquake, etc.)
2 Days	Resurrection	To study the importance of the Resurrection doctrinally and how to respond to the arguments against the bodily resurrection
1 Day	Commission and Ascension	To understand the commission of Jesus and the Ascension of Jesus as the fulfillment of his earthly ministry

Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Movie	Give students a aesthetic appreciation and deeper understanding of the sufferings of Christ	Participation in Class discussion following the movie
Seder Meal	Give students a kinesthetic appreciation of the connection between the Lord's Supper and the Passover	Students will write a reflection synthesizing the connections they observe between the Passover meal and Christ's impending crucifixion

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Motivated, Listening, Participatory	Class Participation (Weekly Grade)	Class Participation - 10% of Total
Analysis of the connections between Passover and Jesus' Crucifixion	Seder Reflection	Classwork - 20% of Total
Knowledge of Unit Material (Memorization and Application of Unit Info.)	Test	Test - 40% of Total

UNIT 7: John (pt. 1)

Days	Topic	Objectives
3 Days	Introduction (Ch. 1)	To explore the theological understand of the Incarnation and the connection of John 1 to Genesis
1 Day	John the Baptist/Baptism	To understand John's designation of Jesus as the "lamb of God"
1 Day	Calling of Disciples	To observe the unique character of John's account of the calling of the disciples
1 Day	Wedding at Cana	To understand John's account of Jesus' miracles as "signs"
2 Days	Dialogues with Nicodemus	To study the theological importance of being "born again"
1 Day	Samaritan Woman	To understand the radical nature of Jesus' interaction and the call to "missionary" service and witness
3 Days	"I Am" Statements	To understand the theological importance and connection of Jesus' "I Am" statements with the God revealed in the O.T.
1 Day	Feeding 5,000/Bread of Life (Last Supper)	To understand Jesus' claim to be the "Bread of Life" as a kind of "Last Supper" in John

Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Missionaries of Today	Students gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of how modern disciples of Jesus are taking his message to the world.	Students will research and bring in an article about a modern missionary and share (1) a summary of it with the class and (2) why it was meaningful to them/how they can apply it to their lives

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Motivated, Listening, Participatory	Class Participation (Weekly Grade)	Class Participation - 10% of Total
How the principles of modern day missionary efforts can be applied to their lives	Missionaries of Today Project	Classwork-20%
Knowledge of Unit Material (Memorization and Application of Unit Info.)	Test	Test - 40% of Total

UNIT 8: John (pt. 2)

Days	Topic	Objectives
1 Day	Woman Caught in Adultery	To understand Jesus' approach to sin and forgiveness
1 Day	Man Born Blind	To understand the importance of Jesus' teaching on the sabbath and the the responsibility for witnessing to our faith
1 Day	Resurrection of Lazarus	To appropriate this final "sign" of Jesus and understand his power over life and death
1 Day	Triumphal Entry	To understand the significance of this event for the Jewish people in relation to prophetic fulfillment
1 Day	Washing Disciples' Feet	To grasp the servant nature of Jesus' life and his call to do likewise as followers
2 Days	Farewell Discourse	To understand Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit

1 Day	Betrayal and Arrest	To explore the nature of betrayal and how it relates to modern discipleship
1 Day	Trial(s)	To understand the radical claims made of and about Jesus in John's Gospel that would have led to his death
2 Day	Crucifixion	To understand the unique features of John's account of the crucifixion (interaction with John, piercing side, etc.)
3 Days	Resurrection Appearances	To understand the unique nature and significance of each of Jesus' resurrection appearances (Mary, disciples, Thomas, Peter)

Projects, Experiments, Additional Activities, and Field Trips:

Title	Objectives	Method of Evaluation
Stations of the Cross	To foster deeper understanding of the cross through their own visual interpretations of one aspect of Jesus' Passion	Students will work in pairs to create a visual representation of one element of Jesus' passion

Evaluation:

Skill Evaluated	Method of Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Personal Reflection on Scripture	NT Journal Entry (1-2 per unit)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Memorization of Scripture	Memory Verse Quizzes (weekly)	Quiz - 30% of Total
Motivated, Listening, Participatory	Class Participation (Weekly Grade)	Class Participation - 10% of Total
Translation of one element of Passion narrative from written to visual medium	Stations of the Cross Project	Classwork - 20% of Total
Knowledge of Unit Material (Memorization and Application of Unit Info.)	Test	Test - 40% of Total