



REL A 212: NEW TESTAMENT (ACTS – REVELATION) WINTER 2023 (Day Class)

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OFFICE HOURS: by appointment
CLASS TIME & ROOM: REL A 212 sec. 003 MW 2:00–2:50 am JSB 178
REL A 212 sec. 005 MW 3:00–3:50 am JSB 178

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a university-level course designed for undergraduates that explores the postmortal ministry of Jesus Christ and the growth and development of the early church as detailed in the second half of the New Testament (i.e. Acts to Revelation). It will be a text-based class that will survey the New Testament books from Acts to Revelation doctrinally, spiritually, and historically (cf. D&C 88:118; 109:7).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The primary purpose of this course is to help students gain a stronger testimony of Jesus Christ and his role in the Plan of Salvation, and experience an increase in their commitment to discipleship as they are better able to understand, contextualize, and apply the scriptural teachings about Jesus.
2. To accomplish the first objective, the content of this course will provide an analysis of key scriptural texts—drawn principally from Acts through Revelation—that teach about the mission of Jesus Christ and how his early followers understood and bore testimony of his salvific work.
3. As a necessary part of this process, students will learn essential skills of scripture study that will allow them to effectively understand and responsibly apply scriptures to their own life. For each scriptural text studied, these skills will include an understanding of the meaning and interpretation of the text, and where appropriate, how Restoration scripture provides unique doctrinal clarity to the texts being discussed. Additional skills will include the ability to recognize and avoid scriptural “proof-texting” or “cherry-picking” (i.e. taking single verses of scripture out of context). These skills will help students form life-long habits of in-depth scripture study and will help them to more powerfully integrate the teachings of the scriptures into their daily lives. In today’s world Latter-day Saint students must be more scripturally literate and more committed to a life of discipleship than their predecessors.

REQUIRED TEXTS: **Standard Works** (KJV Bible; B of M; D & C; P of GP)

- It is essential that students bring their scriptures to every class. It is preferable that students bring hard copies of scriptures instead of electronic versions.
- All additional articles and readings will be posted on the course website (listed below)

ADDITIONAL READINGS: Articles and Handouts can be accessed on Learning Suite under the “Content” tab.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Midterm Exam #1	22%
Midterm Exam #2	24%
Midterm Exam #3	22%
Quizzes	18%
Reflection Paper	10%
Homework/Participation Assessment	4%
Total: 100%	

Exams

All exams will be completed online via Learning Suite. Exams are timed and consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and a short essay question. Study information for exams can be accessed on course website under “**Study Guides.**” It is recommended that students print off study guides well in advance of the exam and use it to guide their studies for the exam. The exams are not cumulative but only cover the unit which they immediately follow. Failure to write an exam during the scheduled block will result in a 0 grade. For exam scheduling see **Class Schedule** below.

Quizzes

There will be six **online quizzes** during the semester. Online quizzes will be available during the dates and times listed below. It is the student’s responsibility to log into Learning Suite and take the quiz during this time. Failure to take a quiz during this period will result in a 0 grade for the quiz. Online quizzes consist of between 20 and 25 multiple choice questions (A – D) and once started students are given 30 min to complete. Online quizzes are open book (class notes and scriptures etc.) but students must complete on their own without any collaboration with other students. Each quiz is worth 3% of the total grade. Online quizzes can cover anything covered from the beginning of a unit until the date the quiz is given.

Online Quiz #1: Thur. Jan. 26, 8:00 am to Sat. Jan. 28, 11:59 pm
Subject: Syllabus, Background Lecture, Online lecture

Online Quiz #2: Thur. Feb. 2, 8:00 am to Sat. Feb. 4, 11:59 pm
Subject: Acts 1–18

Online Quiz #3: Thur. Mar. 2, 8:00 am to Sat. Mar. 4, 11:59 pm
Subject: 1 Corinthians

Online Quiz #4: Thur. Mar. 16, 8:00 am to Sat. Mar. 18, 11:59 pm
Subject: Paul, 1 Thessalonians to Romans (excluding 1 Corinthians)

Online Quiz #5: Thur. Apr. 6, 8:00 am to Sat. Apr. 8, 11:59 pm
Subject: James & Jude

Online Quiz #6: Thur. Apr. 13, 8:00 am to Sat. Apr. 15, 11:59 pm
Subject: Hebrews to 3 John (excluding James and Jude)

Reflection Paper

Each student will write a 3–4 page (double spaced paper; 12 pt font; Times New Roman) that will include a cover page (not counted toward page count; cover page will include title, name, and section). Students will use the scriptures, personal experience and insights to address the following question:

“based on your study of the Pauline epistles this semester, what attribute of discipleship do you most want to nurture, grow, and enhance?” As Paul discusses numerous attributes of discipleship (i.e. faith, charity, good works, gifts of the spirit [of which there are many], etc.) you should have no problem settling on a single attribute. As part of your paper include a discussion of what Paul says about this attribute as well as how this applies to you and your efforts to become a better disciple of Christ. Since this is a reflection paper, students may use the first-person pronoun “I” throughout. **Due date: Wed. Apr. 13 (hardcopy is due at the start of class; paper must be stapled).**

Homework/Participation Assessment

On Learning Suite access the “Homework/Participation Assessment,” fill out, assign yourself a grade, and have this completed by the start of class period on the assigned date. Failure to complete assessment before class period on assigned date will result in 20% deduction. For each additional day another 15% will be deducted. Students will self-assess as to how they completed the homework, principally readings, during the course of the semester. If students fail to score themselves as per the instructions they will receive a 0 grade on the assignment. **Due by: Mon. Apr. 11 by 11:00 am.** This assignment will open on Learning Suite on Mon. Apr. 4 at 8:00 am.

Attendance

Attendance is taken every class period after the add/drop date by passing around a class-list for students to sign. It is your responsibility to make sure that you sign your name before you leave each class period. Failure to sign the list on any particular day will count as an absence, even if you were present. **DO NOT SIGN IN FOR ANOTHER STUDENT!** If you come to class, sign the attendance roll, and then leave before class is finished your attendance will not be counted for the day. You are permitted 2 unexcused absence during the semester. For each subsequent unexcused absence your final grade will be lowered 2% per absence. **After 8 unexcused absences you fail the course.**

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit.

GRADING SCALE

The following scale is based on total percentages required to obtain the listed grades. It is possible that based on overall class performance, schedule changes, or other factors the scale may vary from what is shown below, but any variation would always be in the student’s advantage. ***In no way should the grading of a religion class be considered an evaluation of one’s testimony or sincerity.*** While testimonies should be strengthened by a serious study and discussion of the scriptures, students are evaluated on their mastery of the material covered in class.

A	93 – 100%	B-	80 – 82%	D+	67 – 69 %
A-	90 – 92%	C+	77 – 79%	D	63 – 66%
B+	87 – 89%	C	73 – 76%	D-	60 – 62%
B	83 – 86%	C-	70 – 72%	F	0 – 59%

CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

Both scriptural knowledge and spiritual experience are important. This class is as much about becoming scribes as it is about strengthening your testimony and applying principles to your life. The philosophy of this class is that we will invite the Holy Spirit through prayer and then feel its influence by diligent, faithful, and prayerful study and discussion. After prayer and a possible pop quiz, the remainder of class time will be used for reading key scriptural passages and for discussing the history, stories, and teachings in the scriptures. As your teacher, I will share insights from the

historical background, cross-references from other scriptures, teachings from modern prophets/apostles, personal experiences/testimony, and application for daily living. As a class member, you should feel free and confident to raise your hand to ask questions and/or share your own brief testimony, insights, or applications.

CLASS ETIQUETTE & POLICIES

It is expected that students will come to class on time and will have completed the assigned readings so that they might be prepared to actively participate in class. Students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor. Disruptive behavior including multiple tardies, cell phone interruption or use (including text messaging), sleeping, and/or other disruptions (talking during class discussion and lectures, reading newspapers) will not be tolerated and may result in a lower grade. If you bring a lap-top computer to class, disruptive behavior also includes playing video games, writing or reading email, and surfing the internet. **You will get far more out of this course if you resist the urge to multi-task during class.**

HONOR CODE

The Honor Code exists to provide an education in an atmosphere consistent with the ideals and principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Students, faculty, and staff are expected to maintain the highest standards of honor, integrity, morality, and consideration of others in personal behavior. Academic honesty and dress and grooming standards are to be maintained at all times on and off campus. For specific information see <http://honorcode.byu.edu/>. **It is expected that students will adhere to the Honor Code. For this class I am particularly concerned about both honesty and modesty/appropriateness of dress.** Breaches of the Honor Code will be brought to your attention and then if they are not changed they will be referred to the Honor Code office.

PREVENTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the university prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in its education programs or activities. Title IX also prohibits sexual harassment-including sexual violence-committed by or against students, university employees, and visitors to campus. As outlined in university policy, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are considered forms of "Sexual Misconduct" prohibited by the university.

University policy requires any university employee in a teaching, managerial, or supervisory role to report incidents of sexual misconduct that come to their attention through various forms including face-to-face conversation, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. If you encounter Sexual Misconduct, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at t9coordinator@byu.edu or 801-422-8692 or Ethics Point at <https://titleix.byu.edu/report> or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours). Additional information about Title IX and resources available to you can be found at <http://titleix.byu.edu>.

ADDITIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

Religious Education fully supports all University Policies including those that relate to the sexual harassment and assistance to students with disabilities. For these policies, see <http://reled.byu.edu/policies.php>. Answers to frequently asked questions about Religious Education can also be viewed on that same link. All course materials (including outlines, handouts, syllabi, exams, quizzes, PowerPoint presentations, as well as lecture audio and/or video recordings, etc.) are proprietary. Students are prohibited from posting or making available for others to post or otherwise distribute course-related materials, including notes, to any websites or shared online resources (including Google Drive, OneDrive, etc.) without the express written permission of the professor teaching the course. To do so is a violation of the BYU Honor Code.”

REL A 212 CLASS SCHEDULE WINTER 2023

*Articles are posted as PDFs on the class website; readings are to be completed *in advance* of class session.

Week 1	Pre-Course Reading/Watching Materials:		
	1. On Course Website watch brief Video (10 min.) that outlines Introduction to Syllabus and Course Reading: Syllabus and “Frequently Asked Questions Document” on class website		
	2. On Course Website watch Background Lecture Reading: BD (= Bible Dictionary): <i>Roman Empire; Caesar; Caesarea; Samaria; Galilee; Judea; Pilate; Diaspora; Dispersion; Gentile; Hebrew; Temple of Herod; Herod; Claudius; Felix; Festus; Jamnia; Talmud; Roll; Scroll; Septuagint; Writing; Athens; Rome; Chronology (pp. 644–45); Greece; Proselytes; Epicureans; Stoics; Castor and Pollux; Bible; Bible (English); Canon; Lost Books; Pseudepigrapha; Codex; Italics; Vulgate; Joseph Smith Translation (JST)</i> Articles: “The Greek and Roman Worlds”; “Travel and Communication in the NT”		
	Jan. 9	BD: <i>Acts of the Apostles, Luke; Gamaliel</i>	Acts 1–3
	Jan. 11	BD: <i>Paul, Hellenists; Libertines</i>	Acts 3–6
Week 2	Jan. 16	HOLIDAY NO CLASS	
	Jan. 18	BD: <i>Gentile; Circumcision; Cornelius</i> Online Lecture: “The Text of the Bible” Article: “The Coming Forth of the King James Bible”	Acts 7–9
Week 3	Jan. 23	BD: <i>Aquila; Areopagus</i>	Acts 9–12
	Jan. 25	Online Quiz #1 (see quiz schedule above)	Acts 13–18
Week 4	Jan. 30		Acts 18–21
	Feb. 1	BD: <i>Agrippa</i> Online Quiz #2 (see quiz schedule)	Acts 22–25
Week 5	Feb. 6		Acts 25–28
	MIDTERM EXAM #1*		
	Feb. 8	BD: <i>Paul; Pauline Epistles—Epistles to the Thessalonians; Thessalonica</i> Articles: “Occasional Nature, Composition, and Structure of Paul’s Letters”; “Scribes and Ancient Letters”;	1 Thessalonians
Week 6	Feb. 13		1 & 2 Thessalonians cont.
	Feb. 15	BD: <i>Pauline Epistles—Epistles to the Corinthians; Corinth</i>	1 Corinthians 1–6
Week 7	Feb. 20	HOLIDAY NO CLASS (on Monday; class on Tuesday)	
	Feb. 21	*This is a Tuesday	1 Corinthians 7–9
	Feb. 22	Online Lecture: 2 Corinthians	1 Corinthians 9–12
Week 8	Feb. 27		1 Corinthians 12–16
	Mar. 1	BD: <i>Pauline Epistles—Epistle to the Galatians; Galatia</i> Online Quiz #3 (see quiz schedule)	Galatians
Week 9	Mar. 6	BD: <i>Pauline Epistles—Epistle to the Romans; Election</i>	Galatians; Romans Intro.
	Mar. 8		Romans 1–8
Week 10	Mar. 13	Online Lecture: More Details to Follow	Romans 9–16
	Mar. 15	Online Lecture: More Details to Follow BD: <i>Pauline Epistles—Ephesians; Grace; Ephesus; Epistles to the Colossians; Colosse; Philemon</i> Online Lecture: Colossians & Philemon Online Quiz #4 (see quiz schedule)	Ephesians
Week 11	Mar. 20	BD: <i>Pauline Epistles—Epistles to the Philippians; Philippi</i>	Philippians
	Mar. 22	BD: <i>Pauline Epistles—Epistles to Titus; Timothy; Pastoral Epistles; Titus; Timothy</i> Online Lecture: Titus	1 & 2 Timothy
MIDTERM EXAM #2**			
Week 12	Mar. 27	BD: <i>Pauline Epistles—Epistle to the Hebrews</i>	Hebrews
	Mar. 29		Hebrews Cont.
Week 13	Apr. 3	BD: <i>James; James, Epistle of; Jude; Jude, Epistle of</i> Online Lecture: Jude	James

	Apr. 5	BD: <i>Peter; Peter, Epistles of</i> Online Quiz #5 (see quiz schedule)	1 Peter
Week 14	Apr. 10	BD: <i>John; John, Epistles of; Antichrist</i> Online Lecture: 2 Peter; 2 & 3 John	1 John
	Apr. 12	BD: <i>Revelation of John; Patmos</i> Online Quiz #6 (see quiz schedule)	Revelation 1–7
Week 15	Apr. 17	Homework Self-Assessment is due	Revelation 7–14
	Apr. 19	Reflection Paper is due	Revelation 14–22
MIDTERM EXAM #3***			

* **MIDTERM EXAM #1** Wed. Feb. 8 – Sat. Feb. 11

****MIDTERM EXAM #2** Thur. Mar. 23 – Mon. Mar. 27

*****MIDTERM EXAM #3** Fri. Apr. 21 – Wed. Apr. 26