

**Course Syllabus**  
**KNB1501HS – Understanding the New Testament**  
**Knox College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Winter 2021**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Frank Kovacs, PhD, Sessional Instructor  
Office Location: -  
Telephone: -  
E-mail: [frank.kovacs@utoronto.ca](mailto:frank.kovacs@utoronto.ca)  
Office Hours: e-mail correspondence

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: KNB1501HS  
Course Format: Online Sessions  
Course Name: Understanding the New Testament  
Course Location: Online  
Class Times: Tuesdays 9:00am – 11:00am  
Prerequisites: -

***Course Description***

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This course introduces students to the content of the texts of the New Testament, with emphasis on understanding them in their original socio-cultural and literary contexts.

***Course Resources***

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**Required Course Texts**

- Carl R. Holladay, *Introduction to the New Testament: Reference Edition* (Nashville, TN: Baylor University Press, 2017)

**Course Website(s)**

- **Quercus:** <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask [insert college contact] for further help.]

- Personal Website -

## ***Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes***

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### **Knox College**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

#### **(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS**

1. Discuss the various theologies reflected in individual texts of early Christian writings;
2. Describe various research and interpretive methods used in biblical studies to interpret NT texts;
3. Discuss interactions between the historical contexts and the literature and diverse theology of early Christian writings;
4. Describe the ancient cultural contexts in which early Christian texts emerged and the interactions between the ancient cultural contexts and the literature and theology of individual texts.

#### **(B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES**

1. Demonstrate the ability to read, gather and select information from the assigned readings appropriate to task;
2. Demonstrate the ability and willingness to learn and understand one's culture, and culture of people different from oneself;
3. Demonstrate ethical behaviour by taking responsibility for the expectations of the course and being willing to participate in class discussions;
4. Demonstrate the willingness to assess one's own learning.

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements**

**The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in three areas:**

- (1) **Weekly quizzes (40%)** – Each week (beginning on Wednesday, January 13, 2021) you will write an online quiz available on Quercus. Each quiz will test your knowledge of the basic facts and key terms explained in the assigned readings for that week. Students who do not write the quiz during the set time interval will not be permitted to write the test at another time or day. Students who miss a quiz be given a grade of zero (0), unless prior

arrangements have been made with the instructor. Failed quizzes cannot be written a second time.

- (2) **Participation (20%)** – In addition to participating in the regular activity of the class, including the reading of the required texts, students are expected to be ready to explain your ideas, and listen and respond to the ideas of others. Active participation requires that each student be ready to articulate and support his or her own ideas and to respectfully engage the ideas of others. Your participation grade for will reflect the extent to which you make relevant, informed, thoughtful and clear contributions to the discussions.
- (3) **Final exam (40%)** – The final exam will cover material in chapters 1-4, 6-28 of the textbook.

### **Grading System - Basic Degree Students**

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

**Late work.** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. It is the policy of Knox College to assess a penalty for late assignments: *Four percentage points will be deducted per week that an assignment is late, with partial deductions for partial weeks (2003)*. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

Students with disability issues who may need academic accommodation need to have registered with Accessibility Services and have provided the instructor with a confirmation document at the start of or preferably before the course/semester. See below.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at, [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf), policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

## **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

## **Course Schedule**

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**Pre-Reading:** Holladay, Chapter: 1 & 2.

### **Week 1**

5, January

**Course introduction & the Christian Scriptures**

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 28.

### **Week 2**

12, January

Topic: **The Gospels** – Relation of the Gospels; From Jesus to the Gospels

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 3 & 4.

### **Week 3**

19, January

Topic: **The Gospels** – Mark; Matthew

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 6 & 7.

### **Week 4**

26, January

Topic: **The Gospels** – Luke

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 8.

### **Week 5**

2, February

Topic: **The Gospels** – John; the Letters of John

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 9 & 26.

### **Week 6**

9, February

Topic: **Acts of the Apostles**

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 10.

### **Week 7**

23, February

Topic: **Pauline Letters** – Thessalonians; Corinthians; Galatians

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 11 – 14.

### **Week 8**

2, March

Topic: **Pauline Letters** – Romans; Philippians; Philemon

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 15 – 17.

### **Week 9**

9, March

Topic: **Deutero-Pauline Letters**

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 18 – 20.

**Week 10**

*16, March*

Topic: **Hebrews**

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 21.

**Week 11**

*23, March*

Topic: **The 'Catholic' Letters**

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 22 – 25.

**Week 12**

*30, March*

Topic: **Revelation**

Reading: Holladay, Chpt. 27.

**Exam Week**

*TBD*