

Location: Lowell Building Young Women's Room, 421 Princeton Blvd., Lowell MA

Time: Weekly on Thursdays, 7 – 8:30 pm

Instructor: Tona Hangen, email: tonahangen6@gmail.com / cell+text (508) 479-2043

Snow/Cancellation Policy: Winter in New England sometimes means snow. In case of bad weather, a decision will be made to cancel or hold class by 4 pm. Notice of cancellation will be posted to the HP Facebook group and also sent via email list.

Course Credit: To receive credit for the course, you must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Attend at least 75% of classes (this equates to no more than 4 absences; makeups are possible).
2. Complete the assigned reading and turn in completed reading log by the last day of class.
3. Complete one of the Elevate Learning Experiences (ELEs) described below. You will get the most out of this experience if you start early, work on it regularly, seek feedback, and share your experiences as you progress. I am happy to meet / talk with you about this, at any point in the term.
 - a. Option 1 – Complete **three Thought Papers** throughout the semester. **Recommended deadlines are Feb 9, March 23, and April 27.** Ultimate deadline for all three is the last day of the semester (5/4/17). Please use the following prompts to complete your thought papers – they can be submitted in any order.

Talk – Prepare a 5-8 minute talk (~ 3 - 4 pages) on the Atonement. You do not have to give this talk in class, but I'm sure you will have a chance to use it in the future, so hang onto it!

Essay – Choose one of Christ's parables, or one example of healing from his earthly ministry, and write an essay exploring the text, historical context, doctrine, and relevance of this episode in your life and/or in our time. You must cite at least two references besides the scripture account itself. Appropriate references include general conference addresses or Church magazine articles, LDS Gospel Topics essays, scripture study aides, and reputable books/articles written by scholars. Minimum 3 pages.

Reflection – Write an essay titled “Why I am a Christian.” Answer these questions: What does it mean to be a Christian? Why do I believe and follow Jesus Christ? Who is He to me? What does discipleship mean in my life? Minimum 2 pages.

- b. Option 2 – Keep a **Course Study Journal** (paper or electronic) where you regularly record what you have learned, how you have applied it, and how it has increased your faith in Jesus Christ. Obviously for privacy reasons I won't read this journal, but you should find a way to show me that you are keeping it regularly throughout the term.
 - c. Plan and complete a **Personal Learning Project** that focuses on doctrines and principles from the course, evidence of your learning and application, and a brief summary of how your faith in Jesus Christ has increased. The project should be substantive and personally meaningful – one idea is to teach part of one of our weekly lessons, for example.

Syllabus for REL 211 New Testament I

Winter 2017 Semester (5 Jan – 4 May)

Please bring to class each week: scriptures / notebook (paper or electronic, your choice), and something to write with.

Weekly Lesson and Reading Assignments

	Date	Lesson(s)	Reading	Done?
1	Jan 5	1 The World of the New Testament	Manual: Introduction	
2	Jan 12	2 Ways to Read the Gospels	Matthew 1-4	
3	Jan 19	3 Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7	
4	Jan 26	4 – 5 Ministry in Galilee, Parables	Matthew 8-12, 13-15	
5	Feb 2	6 – 7 Keys and Doctrines of the Kingdom	Matthew 16-18, 19-23	
6	Feb 9	8 – 9 The Olivet Discourse and Last Supper	Matthew 24-25, JS-M 26	
*	Feb 9	<i>Recommended Due Date for first of 3 Thought Papers</i>		
7	Feb 16	10 Crucifixion and Resurrection	Matthew 27-28	
8	Feb 23	11 – 12 Jesus: Identity and Responses	Mark 1-4, 5-7	
9	Mar 2	13 – 14 Overcoming Spiritual Blindness, The Gospel of Mark	Mark 8-10, 11-16	
10	Mar 9	15 – 16 Jesus's Birth, Divinity, and Preparation for Ministry	Luke 1-3, 4-8	
11	Mar 16	17 – 18 Teaching and Learning Discipleship	Luke 9-14, 15-17	
12	Mar 23	19 – 20 Compassion, Suffering and Witness	Luke 18-22, 23-24	
*	Mar 23	<i>Recommended Due Date for second of 3 Thought Papers</i>		
13	Mar 30	21 – 22 The Word, Transformation	John 1, 2-4	
14	Apr 6	23 – 24 Bread of Life, Truth and Error	John 5-7, 8-10	
15	Apr 13	25 “Lazarus, Come Forth”	John 11-13	
16	Apr 20	26 Mysteries of the Kingdom	John 14-16	
17	Apr 27	27 – 28 Atonement, Ministry of Risen Lord	John 17-19, 20-21	
*	Mar 23	<i>Recommended Due Date for third of 3 Thought Papers</i>		
18	May 4	29 What Comes Next	Acts 1-2	
*	May 4	<i>Reading Log Due / Final Deadline for All Assignments for Course Credit</i>		

Manual and Student Readings

REL 211 Student Manual <https://www.lds.org/manual/new-testament-student-manual?lang=eng>