

Philosophy & Ethics – New Testament Studies – PLC

How to use this PLC

You will need to keep your work on the New Testament in a separate folder from both your Philosophy & Ethics work

Once you have completed a topic, please indicate a date & your own security in the R/A/G column – feel free to add questions, notes, comments etc. in the Notes column & remember to address any areas of study yourself before asking for staff assistance

If you are unsure when you have completed a topic, please ask a member of staff and/or refer to the textbook

You will need to cross reference your PLC with the References included at the end – please also refer to the course handbook for specific Biblical references/chapters – it is advised you have your own copy of the New Testament to make notes in

Topic	Content	Red	Amber	Green	Notes / Questions/ etc.
1 – Social, historical & religious context of the NT	<p>Prophecy regarding the Messiah (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Suffering Servant of Isaiah, the importance of the line of David, the idea of the messianic secret b) The significance of these expectations & their impact on NT texts, including Matthew’s proof texts in the birth narratives & for understanding the Gospel texts <p>With reference to the ideas of R Brown & M Hooker</p>				
	<p>The world of the first century & the significance of this context for the life & work of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Religious groups in Palestine b) Hellenism c) Roman occupation d) The role & impact of these influences on legal & ethical dimensions of life in first-century Palestine & the relationship of Jesus’ life & work to these influences 				

<p>2 – Texts & interpretation of the Person of Jesus</p>	<p>The Prologue in John (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meaning & theological significance, including ideas about the nature & person of Jesus, the Word made flesh, concepts of life, light & dark, belief, children of God, flesh & spirit, law, grace & truth b) The influences of Judaism & Hellenism & the importance of these themes in understanding the gospel c) The implication for religious laws & codes for living of different understandings of the identity & message of Jesus, including its influence beyond a religious community <p>With reference to the ideas of CH Dodd & M Hooker</p>				
	<p>Titles of Jesus in the synoptic gospels & selected 'I am' sayings in John (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meaning & significance of the terms Messiah, Son of God, Son of Man, & 'I am the bread of life/light of the world/good shepherd/true vine.' b) The background & context of these titles, including OT references & symbolism & the importance of these for interpreting & understanding the Gospels c) The implication for religious laws & codes for living of different understanding of the identity & message of Jesus, including its influence beyond a religious community <p>With reference to the idea of R Brown & CH Dodd</p>				

	<p>Miracles & signs (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meaning & significance of the signs in the Fourth Gospel: Turning water into wine, the Healing of the Official's son, the Healing at the pool, the Feeding of the 5000, Walking on water, the Healing of the blind man & the Raising of Lazarus b) Ideas about the identity & role of Jesus & the importance of these signs for understanding Jesus' ministry c) The implication for religious laws & codes for living of different understandings of the identity & message of Jesus <p>With reference to the ideas of R Brown & CH Dodd</p>				
<p>3 – Interpreting the text & issues of relationship, purpose & authorship</p>	<p>Interpreting the text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The synoptic problem, source, form & redaction criticism – an examination of the relationship between the synoptic Gospels, including two source hypothesis (priority of Mark & 'Q source'), the idea of proto-Gospels & the four-source hypothesis b) Units of tradition & their type/form, the way texts appear to have been translated, edited & transmitted c) The significance of this for understanding the texts 				
	<p>The purpose & authorship of the Fourth Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An examination of the different purposes of the Gospel & views of its authorship: Jesus as Christ, Son of God, life in his name, Spiritual Gospel, a Gospel to convert Jews & Gentiles, fulfilment of scripture b) The strengths & weakness of these views based on the text & modern scholarship, & their significance for understanding the text for individuals & communities <p>With reference to the ideas of R Brown & CH Dodd</p>				

References –

(1) Matthew 1: 18 – 2:23

(2) John 1: 1-18

(3) John **6**: 24-59, **8**:12, **9**:1-12, **10**:1-21, **15**:1-17

(4) John **2**:1-11, **4**:43-54, **5**:1-15, **6**:1-24, **9**:1-34, **11**:1-57