

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT (NTEN5300)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The emphasis for this year at the seminary is “spiritual vitality,” with that being represented throughout the seminary.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course especially addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by means of helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the literature of the New Testament by means of studying both the Biblical text and the historical and cultural factors that shaped it. The historical background, certain aspects of contemporary scholarship, and especially the themes and general teachings of the New Testament books will be discussed.

OBJECTIVES:

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, by the end of the course the student should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the NT to the practice of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately.
2. Value the following concepts as needful in interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately: The authority of the NT in all matters of faith and practice for Christian living and church growth, and NT interpretive issues and major theological themes for Christian living.
3. Be able with the help of resources to interpret and communicate the NT accurately.
4. Develop practical skills in studying the NT through standard resources.

COURSE METHODS

1. The primary method of instruction in the course will be hybrid format, with lectures, notes, discussions, and other resources accessible through Blackboard, and

- independent readings to be done by the student in accordance with the schedule listed in this syllabus.
2. Written assignments and tests will also be used to provide students with an opportunity to review the material of the course and demonstrate competency in the subject matter.

TEXTBOOKS (the following textbooks are required for the course)

The Bible (any fairly recognized translation)

John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, 3rd edition or 2nd revised edition

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition

Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the NT World*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are expected to read the New Testament books as they are covered. Quizzes and exams will be required on a regular basis, with time limitations for taking these (generally 15 to 60 minutes).
2. The assigned readings must be completed as early as possible in the week. Quizzes will be given each week on the assigned readings for that week, so be careful not to fall behind in the readings. The quizzes will be varied in types, with many being objective, and some being discussion oriented or short essays.
3. A two page, single-spaced critique of the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* is due the Monday after the mid-semester spring break. By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book.
4. The student will produce a notebook consisting of a book-by-book overview of each NT book. Each book overview will include: name of the book, authorship, date of writing, recipients (Who they were? What was the occasion for writing?), and outline of the book. Each individual book overview is not to exceed two pages double spaced. The notebook is due at the time of the final exam and can be submitted either in Word or in pdf format on-line. The late penalty for this and other work is 5 points per day, so be sure to submit it by the deadline. Arrangements must be made as soon as possible with the professor to avoid this penalty if extenuating circumstances occur.
5. Three major exams will be given as indicated in the class schedule. Anyone taking the test after the date listed on the syllabus must get prior approval from the professor.

COURSE EVALUATION

Session Quizzes: 15%

Book review: 10%

Major Exams: 45% (15% for each exam)

Notebook: 30%

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will be able to understand thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes.
2. The student will be able to apply adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to contemporary church needs.

3. The student will be able to communicate clearly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to a contemporary audience.

COURSE SCHEDULE (D3 = DRANE 3RD ED., D = DRANE 2ND ED./REVISED; F = FERGUSON, 3D EDITION)

EACH UNIT REPRESENTS TWO WEEK'S WORK

- Unit 1, Jan.26: The NT World & Canon: History & Greco-Roman Culture F 5-47
The New Testament World: Hellenistic Judaism and Palestinian Judaism
D 9-45; D3 10-45; F 48-147
- Unit 2, Feb.9: The Ministry of Jesus: The Synoptic Gospels, Mark, Matthew, and Luke
D 167-217; D3 161-207; F 300-316, 537-561
The Ministry of Jesus: John, Overview of Jesus' Message & Teachings
D 46-74 & 111-150; D3 46-108
The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Actions D 151-166; D3 109-123; F 562-582
- Unit 3, Feb.23: The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Death & Resurrection D 75-110; D3 124-160
The Early Church: Acts D 237-291; D3 224-277
FIRST SECTIONAL EXAM
Paul: Intro., 1-2 Thess., Galatians D 292-317; D3 278-302; F 592-620
- Unit 4, Mar.9: Paul: Romans and 1 Corinthians D 318-365; D3 303-348
CRITIQUE ON "THE LOST LETTERS OF PERGAMUM DUE
Paul: 2 Corinthians and the Prison Epistles D 366-392; D3 349-374
- Unit 5, Mar.30: Paul: The Pastoral Epistles D 393-408; D3 424-436
SECOND SECTIONAL EXAM
The General Epistles: Hebrews D 409-430; D3 375-391
- Unit 6, April 13: The General Epistles: James and 1 Peter D 431-445; D3 392-410
The General Epistles: 2 Peter, Jude, 1-3 John D 446-457; D3 411-423
- Unit 7, April 27: The Book of Revelation D 458-465; D3 437-448; F 182-212
- Unit 8, May 11: **FINAL EXAM**
NOTEBOOKS ARE ALSO DUE BY THE TIME OF THE FINAL EXAM

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