



# LEAVELL COLLEGE

## NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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BSCM2380-01: Christian Scriptures  
Fall 2015 (161) Monday 8:00 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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*The mission of Leavell College 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.*

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### Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is Mission Focus – “*We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.*”.

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### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to issues concerning the Bible. The lectures and class discussions include topics such as the text of the Scriptures, the development of the canon, and the history of the Bible.

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### Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, the student will:

1. Develop a personal doctrine of the Bible.
2. Understand the history of the written text and the canon.
3. Gain an awareness of the basis for the different translations.
4. Internalize a new appreciation for the Bible and its proper use.

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### Course Texts

The following textbook is required:

Wegner, Paul D. *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.

The student must choose one of the following textbooks:

Brunn, Dave. *One Bible, Many Versions: Are All Translations Created Equal?* Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2013.

Fee, Gordon, and Mark Strauss. *How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Merrick, James, and Stephen Garrett, eds. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

White, James R. *The King James Only Controversy*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2009.

### Course Requirements and Grading

1. The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. The class will adhere to the attendance policy stated in the catalogue. Any student missing more than nine hours will receive an automatic grade of F for the course, unless excused by the Dean of Leavell College. Three tardies will count as one absence.
2. The student is required to read the assigned material **before** coming to class. The student will complete the reading log attached to the syllabus and submit it by Dec 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. The student will read one of the optional texts and write a critical book review. The review is to be 6-8 pages in length, typed and presented according to Turabian. This review should be prepared using the latest word processor program. A minimum of 50% of the review must be devoted to a critique of the book. **Due Nov 16th.**
4. The student will complete two sectional exams and a final exam.
5. The student will participate in a group to prepare a class presentation on an assigned modern translation. These presentations will be at the end of the semester. Students will give a 10-15 minute overview of an assigned translation and then take questions.

**Please Note:** The student is responsible for scheduling make-up exams. **No make-up exams will be given unless a valid excuse is provided. The student must contact the professor before the exam unless circumstances prohibit it.** The professor reserves the right to include any material from the textbook or lecture on the make-up exam. All make-up exams must be scheduled within two weeks from the scheduled date.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

10%	Class Participation
15%	Book Review
15%	First Sectional Exam
15%	Second Sectional Exam
15%	Final Exam
15%	Group Project
15%	Reading Log

### Extra Credit

For a possibility of three points on the final grade, the student may read and review the other text on the optional reading list. The review is to be 5-6 pages in length, typed and presented according to Turabian. A minimum of 50% of the review must be devoted to a critique of the book. Extra credit work must be turned in by **Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**. No late extra credit work will be accepted.

## Course Outline

### Doctrine of the Bible

Aug 24 Introduction to Course  
Jesus Christ and the Bible - Wegner 13-37, 69-72

Aug 31 Divine-Human Authorship of the Bible

### The Text of the Bible

Sep 7 Inspiration of the Bible  
LABOR DAY – no classes

Sep 14 The Truthfulness and Dependability of the Bible  
The Truthfulness and Dependability of the Bible (cont.)

Sep 21 How Ancient Books Were Made - Wegner 75-100  
21 The Manuscripts

Sep 28 **Sectional Exam #1**

### The Development of the Canon

Oct 5 The Old Testament as Christian Scripture - Wegner 101-30  
The New Testament as Christian Scripture - Wegner 131-62

### The History of the Scriptures

Oct 12 The New Testament as Christian Scripture;  
Questions of Canonicity  
Old Testament Textual Criticism - Wegner 165-206  
Textual Criticism of the Greek New Testament - Wegner 207-240

Oct 19 FALL BREAK

Oct 26 Early Versions  
**Sectional Exam #2**

Nov 2 Gospel According to the SEC  
Gospel According to the SEC

### The Bible Today

Nov 9 What Makes a Translation Good? - Wegner 399-403  
History of the Bible - Wegner 263-70, 273-305

Nov 16 Video on Bible Versions - God's Word vs. Man's Words  
The Textus-Receptus **Book Review Due**

Nov 30 The 1611 King James Version - Wegner 307-24, 337-40  
The English Bible in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Dec 7 Modern Translations - Wegner 324-36, 341-697  
**Group Presentations**

Dec 14 **Final Exam**  
**Reading Log Due**

## **Additional Course Information**

1. Attendance Policy: As per the Leavell College Catalog, school policies regarding absences and tardies will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than nine hours will automatically receive a grade of “F” for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be counted as one hour of absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period and after each break. The student is responsible for contacting the teacher if he/she is tardy and the roll has already been taken. The student is responsible for all material, including that which was covered during an absence. Any missed assignments must be made up within one week of the original due date or the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. **All late assignments will be penalized five points for the first day and one point per day thereafter.**

2. Blackboard sites: All communications outside of class will come as emails via Blackboard, and any written assignments will be submitted via Assignments in Blackboard. Students are responsible to ensure that the contact information in Blackboard is current.

3. Computer/Phone usage policy: A no-technology policy is in effect for this course. At no time during class should students be using a computer or a tablet. Phones/smart phones should be turned off or placed in silent mode (not vibrate mode) during class. Students needing to make or receive texts or calls should arrange to do so outside of class time. The professor reserves the right to ask students to leave phones/smart phones at home.

4. Document format: All written assignments must be submitted as Word documents (.doc or .docx). Documents submitted in any other format will not be graded. Please use Times New Roman 12-point font, use one-inch margins on all sides, and double space all work. Unless otherwise noted, a cover page is not needed for assignments, but the student’s name should be visible on the first page of each assignment.

5. Office hours: Office hours will be as follows: Tuesdays/Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon; and by appointment.

6. Special instructions: In the event the seminary campus is closed, class will still meet in an online format. Should campus close for any reason, please take your textbooks with you and be prepared to move the discussion to an online format via Blackboard. I will post any necessary schedule revisions to the Announcements page of Blackboard.

7. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.

8. Technology Policy: If you have any questions about Blackboard, SelfServe, or ITC services, please access the ITC page on our website: [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## Selected Bibliography

- Aland, Kurt, and Barbara Aland. *The Text of the New Testament: An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism*. Translated by E. F. Rhodes. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Beckwith, R. *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church and Its Background in Early Judaism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Books and the Parchments*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Marshall Pickering, 1991.
- Brunn, Dave. *One Bible, Many Versions: Are All Translations Created Equal?* Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2013.
- Carson, D. A. *The Inclusive-Language Debate: A Plea for Realism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.
- Carson, D. A., and J. D. Woodbridge, eds. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Dockery, David S. *Christian Scripture*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1995.
- Ewert, David. *A General Introduction to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983.
- Greenlee, J. Harold. *Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*. Rev. ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995.
- LaSor, W. S., D. A. Hubbard, and F. W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Lightfoot, Neil R. *How We Got the Bible*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1988.
- Marshall, I. H. *Biblical Inspiration*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Merrick, James, and Stephen Garrett, eds. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The Early Versions of the New Testament: Their Origin, Transmission, and Limitations*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1977.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Paleography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Bible in Translation: Ancient and English Versions*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Poydress, Vern and Wayne Grudem. *The Gender-Neutral Bible Controversy: Muting the Masculinity of God's Words*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2000.

Scorgie, Glen, Mark Strauss, and Steven Voth eds. *The Challenge of Bible Translation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Strauss, Mark. *Distorting the Scripture?: The Challenge of Bible Translation & Gender Accuracy*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Wegner, Paul D.. *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.

White, James R. *The King James Only Controversy*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1995.

For other suggested resources see the professor.

## Reading Log

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please put the date you completed the reading assignments.*

<i>Material</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Indicate in the space below the date read</i>
Jesus Christ and the Bible <b>Due 1/22</b>	Wegner 13-37, 69-72	
How Ancient Books Were Made <b>Due 2/10</b>	Wegner 75-100	
The Old Testament as Christian Scripture <b>Due 2/24</b>	Wegner 101-30	
The New Testament as Christian Scripture <b>Due 2/26</b>	Wegner 131-62	
OT and NT Textual Criticism <b>Due 3/3</b>	Wegner 165-206; Wegner 207-240	
What Makes a Translation Good? <b>Due 4/2</b>	Wegner 399-403	
History of the Bible <b>Due 4/9</b>	Wegner 263-70, 273-305	
The 1611 King James Version <b>Due 4/21</b>	Wegner 307-24, 337-40	
Modern Translations <b>Due 4/28</b>	Wegner 324-36, 341-397	