



NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM (NTGK6390)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
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Summer Intensive, 2023

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NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is to prepare students to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study is made of paleography, the ancient witnesses to the text of the New Testament (NT), the history of the handwritten text of the NT, and the actual practice of textual criticism. Students learn to read the critical apparatuses of the Nestle-Aland and the United Bible Societies' editions of the Greek NT and to evaluate significant variant readings.

STUDENT OUTCOME OBJECTIVES:

The student outcome objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the history and state of research for the field of NT TC
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how TC aids in the study of the NT
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize the textual apparatus in the Greek New Testament (UBS and N-A) and apply this ability to sound interpretation of the text

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, and student presentations in class. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning NT TC will be utilized.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. *The Greek New Testament*, UBS 5th ed.
2. *Novum Testamentum*, 28th ed.
3. Bruce M. Metzger and Bart Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament*, 4th Ed. Rev.
4. Bruce M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the GNT*, 4th UBS ed. (Another option = the edition by Roger Omanson)

REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:

1. PRE-ASSIGNMENT. Read the textbook by Metzger and Ehrman and submit a summary of 4-7 pages on the book. This assignment is due at the beginning of the first class. Your reaction to the book will be covered by way of discussion in the workshop classes, so a reaction does not need to be included in the review. (20%)
2. Reading NT Greek manuscripts. Training will be given during the workshop for acquiring the skills to do this and an assignment will be completed during the workshop week. The results of the assignment will be discussed in class. (20%)

3. Students will be assigned specific variants to cover for each of the last two days of the class and will help lead the discussion of those variants. As part of leading the discussion, students will pass out copies of their variant analysis sheet for their assigned variants to all participants in the workshop. The form will be provided by the professor and will be available on Canvas. Variants may be assigned to a group of students rather than an individual student, depending upon the total enrolment in the workshop. Students are not required to submit variant analysis sheets on the other variants but should come prepared to discuss all variants for each class period. (25%)
4. Each student will be assigned a specific article to review on the various aspects of NT TC and will give an overview of the article or chapter in a book both in written form and orally to the class. The written part will be a 1-page synopsis of the article, with the class presentation being a discussion of the article itself. (10%)
5. POST-ASSIGNMENT: A take-home exam will be given that covers the content and skills covered in the class. The exam will be due on Friday, Aug. 11th and should be submitted either via e-mail or hard copy to the professor. (25%)

EXTRA CREDIT: Additional readings in NT TC approved by the professor will be credited at the rate of 1 point on the final average for each 150 pages read, up to a max of 3 points. For such credit, submit a brief 1 page report per 150 pages of readings by August 11.

NOLA2U Live students: If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Live student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. Attendance is required at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See the graduate catalog: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf>).
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

NOBTS Style Guide: A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of "F" for the course..

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf) site (Access to online registration, financial acct, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas.NOBTS.com](https://www.nobts.edu) Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](https://www.nobts.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, & valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS: (M=Metzger, The Text of the N.T.)

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

MONDAY 1-3 Introduction to the course, Introduction to Greek Manuscripts and Paleography, Tour of the Bible & Archaeology Museum

MON. 3:30-5:30 Witnesses to the text of the NT
Introduction to the History of the text of the NT

UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY

TUES. 9-11:30 History of the text of the NT (continued)
Practicum 1: How to read NT Greek Manuscripts

TUES. 1-3:45 The development of textual Methods: From the TR to text-types
Practicum 2: How to read NT Greek Manuscripts

WED. 9-11:30 The development of textual Methods: From text-types to the CBGM
Textual Methods and Current Trends
Practicum 3: Tools for textual research

UNDERSTANDING THE PRACTICE

WED. 1-3:30 The use of the UBS and NT apparatuses
Part 1: How to Analyze a Textual Variant
Practicum 4: How to analyze a textual variant

THUR. 9-11:30 Part 2: How to Analyze a Textual Variant
John 1:21(UBS and N-A^ϵ), John 1:18 (UBS and NA^ϵ)
John 5:3-4 (UBS 4 and NA^{T1})
Discussion of Articles

THUR. 1-3:45 Student-led analysis of selected variants
(Numbers in parentheses are from the UBS GNT)
Acts 8:36 (5); John 7:53-8:11 (11); Luke 2:14 (3); Mt. 27:16-17 (5 & 6);
Mark 6:3 (N-A^ϵ); Mark 16:8 (3); John 20:31(N-A^ϵ); 1 Cor. 14:34-35 (1);
Luke 22:43-44 (4), Luke 23:34 (UBS 5 & NA[□]); Mark 9:29 (N-A^T); Rev.
13:18 (NA^ϵ); Mt. 24:36 (NA[□]); 1 Jn. 5:7-8 (4)

FRIDAY 9-12

Student-led analysis of selected variants:

(Variants with only a number in parentheses are from the UBS GNT)

Acts 8:36 (5); John 7:53-8:11 (11); Luke 2:14 (3); Mt. 27:16-17 (5 & 6);
Mark 6:3 (N-A^ϛ); Mark 16:8 (3); John 20:31(N-A^ϛ); 1 Cor. 14:34-35 (1);
Luke 22:43-44 (4), Luke 23:34 (UBS 5 & NA²⁷); Mark 9:29 (N-A^ϛ); Rev.
13:18 (NA²⁷); Mt. 24:36 (NA²⁷); 1 Jn. 5:7-8 (4)
Using Textual Criticism in the Exegesis Process

FINAL EXAM DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Manuscripts and Critical Editions

Aland, Barbara, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger, eds. *The Greek New Testament*, 5th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, United Bible Societies, 2014.

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Books

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Haines-Eitzen, Kim. *Guardians of Letters: Literacy, Power, and the Transmission of Early Christian Literature*. New York: OUP, 2000.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Palaeography*. Oxford: OUP, 1991.

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Roberts, C. H., and T. C. Skeats. *The Birth of the Codex*. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1983.

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Westcott, B. F., and F. J. A. Hort. *The New Testament in the Original Greek*. 2 vols. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1882; reprint, *Introduction to the NT in the Original Greek*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1988.