



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BSCM3357-35: New Testament Interpretation: Prison Epistles

Spring 2019

Monday 4x Hybrid 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4 (6:00 p.m. – 9:50 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.

Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *Doctrinal Integrity*. —“Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”

Course Description

The purpose of the NT Interpretation course is to acquaint the student with pertinent background information for the books being studied. After an examination of the introductory materials, an exegesis of selected passages serves as the core of the class. Special attention is given to the development of themes within the books.

General Education Competencies (GECs)

Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication

3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GEC #1 and #3.

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)

Leavell College has identified three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BACM and three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BAM:

1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
2. Service and Leadership (BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
3. Historical and Theological Interpretation (BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3)

This course addresses BACM PSLOs #1 and #3.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLO)

The course is designed to examine the writings of the Prison Epistles in light of theological and exegetical challenges. At the completion of the class, each student will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate** knowledge of the Prison Epistles of Paul.
2. **Identify** and **critically evaluate** the introductory issues related to the books, including issues of authorship, historicity, and dating.
3. **Identify** the basic literary features of New Testament letter genre.
4. **Identify** the key aspects of Paul's theology and application of that theology within the Prison Epistles.

Course Texts

The following textbooks are required:

- Melick, Jr. Richard R. *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*. The New American Commentary. Vol. 32. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1991.
- Foulkes, Francis. *The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians*. The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. 2d ed. reprint. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989. (reprinted 2009)

The following textbooks are optional:

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians: The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1984.
- Fee, Gordon D. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians: The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Class Participation/Quizzes: The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. Students should come to class prepared to discuss and interact with the material assigned for each class session. Students will be evaluated as to their active participation in class each

week. This includes quizzes covering the assigned reading. *This assignment relates to GEC #1, BACM PSLOs #1, #4, and CSLO #1.*

2. Reading Logs: The student will be required to read the entire text of the Prison Epistles in two translations, and the student will complete the attached reading log to demonstrate this reading. The student will also read the commentaries for the course. The student should complete the assigned commentary reading before the day the passage is discussed in class. The Biblical Text and Commentary Reading Logs are due on March 3, 2019. *This assignment relates to GEC #1, BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLO #1.*
3. Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam. The student will take a mid-term exam on October 12, 2015 and a final exam on February 11, 2019. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, #3, BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLOs #1, 2, 3, 4.*

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. All make-up exams must be scheduled within two weeks from the scheduled date.

4. Exegetical Paper: The student will write an exegetical paper on the passage of Ephesians 1:15-23. The exegetical paper should be 6-8 pages consisting of
 - (1) a short introduction setting the passage in context
 - (2) an exegesis section
 - (3) a section stating the biblical/theological principle
 - (4) a conclusion applying the passage to Christian living in the modern setting
 - (5) a selected bibliography containing at least eight sources consisting of at least 5 commentaries, journal articles, and at least one scholarly electronic resource.

Additional guidelines: Only published sources should be used, not self-published resources. Assignment formatting should be according to the latest edition of Turabian, including typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, written in third person, using correct spelling and grammar, proper cover page, stapled together without a folder. The final paper will be due on March 3, 2019. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, #3, BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLOs #1, 2, 3, 4.*

5. Online Discussion Board: The course includes an online discussion board component on Blackboard. 2-3 assignments during the term will allow for interaction outside the traditional classroom. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, #3, BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLOs #1, 2, 3, 4.*

Course Evaluation/Grading

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

10%	Biblical Text Reading Log
10%	Commentary Reading Log
10%	Online Discussion Board
10%	Participation/Quizzes
20%	Exegetical Paper
20%	Midterm Exam
20%	Final Exam

NOBTS Grading Scale

A	93–100
B	85–92
C	77–84
D	70–76
F	69 or below

Course Outline

Date	Tentative Course Schedule	Textbooks	Assignments
1/21 Class Day	Introduction to the Course, FirstCentury Life of the Apostle Paul, Philippians 1–2	Melick 21–122	Reading Quiz
1/28			Online Discussion Board
2/4 Class Day	Philippians 3–4 Colossians 1–2	Melick 123–279	Reading Quiz
2/11			Midterm Exam
2/18 Class Day	Colossians 3–4 Philemon	Melick 279–369	Reading Quiz
2/25			Online Discussion Board
3/4 Class Day	Ephesians 1–6	Foulkes 19–189	Reading Quiz
3/11			Exegetical Paper Due, Final Exam Due, Biblical Text and Commentary Reading Logs Due

Additional Course Information

Attendance: Class attendance is essential for effective learning. The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. **Because of the extremely limited class time in these Hybrid courses, students cannot miss any of the four class sessions.** A grade of “F” will be assigned to students who fail to attend the class. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Appropriate Online/Classroom Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to

interact with other students in the classroom setting as well as online in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the academic environment.

Computer/Phone Usage Policy: Laptops are to be closed or used appropriately during class, and phones are not to be used unless directed by the professor.

Academic Honesty Policy: All NOBTS students are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies when a student is taking quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Course Schedule: Course schedule is subject to change during the semester. The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule and course requirements as needed for the purpose of enhancing the student learning process

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

Selected Bibliography

- Abbott, Thomas K. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians and to the Colossians*. International Critical Commentary. New York: Scribner's, 1902.
- Barrett, C. K. ed. *The New Testament Background*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishers, 1987.
- Brown, R.E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Paulist Press, 1998.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Ephesians*. New York: Revell, 1961.
- _____. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- _____. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Paternoster Press, 2000.
- _____. *Philippians*. New International Biblical Commentary. Vol. 11. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1989.
- Caird, G. B. *Paul's Letters from Prison*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976.
- Capes, David B., Rodney Reeves, and E. Randolph Richards. *Rediscovering Paul: An Introduction to His World, Letters, and Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2007.
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1992.
- Carson, D.A. *New Testament Commentary Survey*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Dauids, P.H. eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.
- Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *Readings from the First Century World*. Primary Sources for New Testament Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Fee, Gordon. *Philippians*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove, ILL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- _____. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament.

- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1993.
- Foulkes, Francis. *The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians*. The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Guthrie, Donald. *Epistles from Prison: Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon*. New York: Abingdon, 1964.
- Hawthorne, Gerald. *Philippians*. Word Biblical Commentary. Vol. 43. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1983.
- Lea, Thomas D. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996.
- Lea, Thomas D., and Tom Hudson. *Step by Step Through the New Testament*. Nashville, Tenn: LifeWay Press, 1992.
- Lincoln, Andrew T. *Ephesians*. Word Biblical Commentary. Vol. 42. Dallas: Word, 1992.
- Longenecker, Bruce W., and Ben Witherington. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2003.
- MacArthur, John, Jr. *Philippians*. MacArthur New Testament Commentaries. Chicago, Moody Press, 2001.
- Melick, Jr. Richard R. *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*. The New American Commentary. Vol. 32. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1991.
- O'Brien, Peter T. *The Epistle to the Philippians: a Commentary on the Greek Text*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- _____. *Colossians, Philemon*. Word Biblical Commentary. Vol. 44. Waco, TX: Word Biblical Commentary, 1982.
- Osiek, Carolyn. *Philippians, Philemon*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Richards, Randolph E. *Paul and First Century Letter Writing: Secretaries, Composition and Collection*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Silva, Moises. *Philippians*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Snodgrass, Klyne. *Ephesians*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Thielman, Frank. *Philippians*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Wilson, A. N. *Paul: The Mind of the Apostle*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1997.

Commentary Reading Log

Initial and write the date the reading was completed	
Melick 21–92	
Melick 92–122	
Melick 123–159	
Melick 160–279	
Melick 279–333	
Melick 334–369	
Foulkes 19–76	
Foulkes 76–97	
Foulkes 97–115	
Foulkes 115–146	
Foulkes 146–189	

I have completely read the commentaries this semester.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**If not, display how much you have read in the log.
Biblical Text Reading Log**

Indicate in the space below the translation read and the date		
Philippians 1		
Philippians 2		
Philippians 3		
Philippians 4		
Colossians 1		
Colossians 2		
Colossians 3		
Colossians 4		
Philemon		
Ephesians 1		
Ephesians 2		
Ephesians 3		
Ephesians 4		
Ephesians 5		
Ephesians 6		

I have completely read the biblical text of Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, and Ephesians in two translations this semester.

Name: _____

Date: _____

If not, display how much you have read in the log.