



NTEN5300-65, 37, 30 Exploring the New Testament
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Fall 2019/20, Term 201
CIV from Orlando to Tallahassee & Miami
Monday, 7:00 – 8:50 pm
Class Dates: 8/26, 9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2

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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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. 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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is *Spiritual Vitality*.

Curriculum

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student must demonstrate accomplishment of each of the following items:

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 Teaching Methods:

1. The primary method of instruction in the course will be by way of class lectures, media clips, discussions, and other resources that will be mentioned during the class.
2. The readings will be evaluated by quizzes at the beginning of the class periods.
3. Written assignments and tests will also be used to provide students with an opportunity to assimilate the course material and demonstrate competency in the subject matter.

Textbooks:

The following textbooks are required for the course:

- The Bible (any major translation or the GNT for NT portions)
- Carson, D. A. and Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- **Either** Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the NT World*
Or Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. The assigned readings must be completed. Readings form the core of this course, and so are considered essential for the successful completion of this course. A quiz may be given at any class session on the assigned readings for that day. 15%
2. An Embedded Assignment that will be in the form of a take-home research exercise. See below for more details. 15%
3. A two page, double-spaced critique of one of the two listed books (*The Lost Letters of Pergamum* or *The King Jesus Gospel*—your choice on which you read). The critique should

include the following: An affirmation of having read the entire book, a bibliographic entry, brief info on the author, a 2 paragraph summary, and a 2 paragraph critique/reaction. The contents of the books will be discussed on the date on which the critique is due. 10%

4. Two sectional exams, to be given as indicated in the class schedule. 20% x 2 = 40% total

5. A comprehensive final exam, to be given as scheduled by the seminary. 20%

Embedded Assignment Description: The course includes an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is given here. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.

1. A summative question will be answered thoroughly by the students as a take-home assignment. The question (or research problem) will require research of the historical context, genre, theology, and/or interpretive concerns of a selected period, event, or passage. Answers should be well-developed and provide thorough documentation and appropriate use of tools and resources. Students should use Times 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced, approximately two pages in length. (2 pages)
2. The student should show adequate application of the research to a selected need of the Christian community. (1 page)
3. The student should communicate clearly how the answer of the research question might impact the faith and life of Christian believers with focus on the contemporary audience. (1 page)

Assignment Evaluation and Rubric:

0 = Inadequate, 1 = Basic, 2 = Competent, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

DOMAIN	LEVEL	EVALUATION				
		0	1	2	3	4
UNDERSTANDING The Student:	Understood thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected themes of the New Testament					
APPLICATION The Student:	Applied adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to contemporary church needs					
COMMUNICATION The Student:	Communicated clearly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to a contemporary aud.					

Course Evaluation

Session Quizzes: 15%

Book review: 10%

Major Exams: 60% (20% for each exam)

Embedded Assignment: 15%

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 site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. 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, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

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.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog](#).

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center 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 whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating Seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Grading Scale

Each student's final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the Assignments and Evaluation Criteria section of this syllabus, according to the grading scale in the NOBTS catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Withdrawal from the Course

The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published on the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. You must complete the proper paperwork to ensure you will not receive a final grade of “F” in the course if you choose not to engage in the online class once you are enrolled.

Course Schedule (CM = Douglas/Moo; F= Ferguson; NT=New Testament)

Due Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
8/19 Semester Begins— NO CLASS	UNIT 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the New Testament • The Synoptic Gospels 	CM: 23–133; F: 5–147	Quiz 1
8/26 Class Meets	UNIT 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew and Mark 	CM: 134–197; F: 300-316, 537-561 NT: Matthew and Mark	Quiz 2
9/2-9/7	UNIT 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke and John 	CM: 198–224;	Quiz 3
9/9 Class Meets	UNIT 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts 	CM: 285–330; NT: Acts	Quiz 4
9/16- 9/21	UNIT 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Testament Letters • Paul: Apostle and Theologian 	CM: 331–390; F: 562-582	Quiz 5
9/23 Class Meets	UNIT 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 	CM: 391–414; NT: Romans	Quiz 6
9/28	UNIT 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1–2 Corinthians 	CM: 415–455; NT: 1–2 Corinthians	Quiz 7

Due Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
9/30-10/5	UNIT 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galatians Ephesians Philippians 	CM: 456–515; F: 592–620 NT: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians	Quiz 8
10/7 Class Meets	UNIT 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colossians 1–2 Thessalonians 	CM: 516–553; NT: Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians	Quiz 9
10/14-18	Fall Break		
10/21 Class Meets	UNIT 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pastoral Epistles Philemon 	CM: 554–595; F: 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon	Quiz 10 MID-TERM
10/28-11/2	UNIT 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hebrews James 	CM: 596–635; NT: Hebrews, James	Quiz 11
11/4 Class Meets	UNIT 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Peter 2 Peter 	CM: 636–668; NT: 1–2 Peter	Quiz 12
11/11-11/16	UNIT 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 2, 3 John Jude 	CM: 669–696; NT: 1, 2, 3 John, Jude	Quiz 13
11/18 Class Meets			Embedded Assignment Critique on “The Lost Letters of Pergamum” or “The King Jesus Gospel”
11/23	UNIT 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revelation 	CM: 697–725; NT: Revelation	Quiz 14

Due Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
11/25-29	Thanksgiving Break		
12/2 Class Meets	UNIT 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Testament Canon 	CM: 726–743 F: 182–212	Quiz 15
12/9	Final Exam		FINAL-TERM

Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

- Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1995.
- Charles, R. H., trans. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*, Vol. 2: Pseudepigrapha. London: Epworth, 1913.
- Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, Vol. 2: Apocalyptic Literature & Testaments. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1983.
- Danby, Herbert, trans. *The Mishnah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933.
- Hennecke, Edgar, and Wilhelm Schneemelcher, eds. *The New Testament Apocrypha*. English trans. ed. by R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1963.
- Kee, Howard Clark. *The New Testament In Context: Sources and Documents*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984.
- Lightfoot, J. B. and J. R. Harmer, eds. and trans. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations of Their Writings*. 2d ed. Ed. and rev. by Michael W. Holmes. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Robinson, James M., gen. ed. *The Nag Hammadi Library in English*. New York: Harper & Row, 1977.
- Vermes, Geza, ed. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. New York: Penguin Books, 1975.
- Whiston, William, ed. and trans. *The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987.

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- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus: An Investigation into Economic and Social Conditions During the New Testament Period*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.
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- Malina, Bruce. *The New Testament World: Insights From Cultural Anthropology*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1981.
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- Reicke, Bo. *The New Testament Era: The World of the Bible From 500 B.C. to A.D. 100*. Trans. by David Green. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1969.

Text and Canon

- Brooks, James A. "The Text and Canon of the New Testament," in Broadman Bible Commentary, Vol. 8: "General Articles, Matthew-Mark," pp. 15-18. Clifton J. Allen, gen. ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1969.
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New Testament Introductions

- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the NT*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- Feine, Paul, J. Behm, and W. G. Kummel. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3d rev. ed. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1970.
- Kümmel, Werner Georg. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Trans. Howard Clark Kee (based on the 17th German edition). Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.
- Lea, Thomas D. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.

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