

NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament (Hybrid)

NOBTS

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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 Core Value for this academic year is Mission Focus. The Core Value of Mission Focus states: “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.”

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:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should know the basic content of the New Testament and be able to give a brief description of the major themes and emphases of the New Testament books as well as have an essential understanding of the historical and cultural milieu of the New Testament period
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how a formal, historically-based study of the New Testament enhances Biblical interpretation
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize the information from the course as well as foundational resources in their on-going study of the New Testament resulting in the sound interpretation of the text.

COURSE METHODS

1. The primary method of instruction in the course will be on-line, with lectures, notes, media clips, 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. There will be four group meetings on campus.
2. The readings will be accounted for by weekly reports submitted by the students.
3. 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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcomes Statement: The following student learning outcomes are employed to demonstrate the student's proficiency in each of these areas. The student must demonstrate accomplishment of each of the items described under the assessment area in order to pass this course. Assessments will be conducted at the end of this course.

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.

TEXTBOOKS (the following textbooks are required for the course)

The Holy Bible (any major translation or *Greek New Testament* for New Testament portions)
 D. A. Carson and Douglas Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2nd edition
 Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition

SELECT ONLY ONE (1) OF THE FOLLOWING:

Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*.
 Scot McKnight, *King Jesus Gospel*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Textbook Reading and Bible Reading Reports:** In each Unit, there is an automated Textbook Reading Report and an automated Bible Reading Report. Simply fill out the reports and submit them to Blackboard. Your reading will be graded and entered into the Grade Book.

The first two weeks will be textbook reading only. Bible readings are introduced after the Introductory material has been covered. As you read the textbook, you will be following along in your Bibles for each book thereafter.

Textbook Reading Reports & Bible Reading Reports are due at the end of the Unit for which the material is assigned.

2. **Book Critique:** A two-page, single-spaced critique of either *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* OR *The King Jesus Gospel* is **due on Friday, Nov. 6th**. By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book. A Book Critique is NOT the same as a book summary. The two-page critique should highlight key points in the book and interact with the book's contents by noting strengths and weaknesses and demonstrating how the book relates to New Testament studies and to ministry/missions.
3. **Notebook:** A notebook will be kept that has a hard copy or digital copy of everything in the Blackboard shell. This will provide the student with a comprehensive collection of materials for use later in his/her ministry. The notebook should include the Power Point slides (you may reduce them to 4 slides per page for hard copies), lecture notes, and course content handouts provided in the Blackboard shell.

The format of the notebook can vary, but a suggested organization would be to follow the historical/cultural outline provided in the Introductory notes and then follow the book-by-book order of the New Testament, with the reading reports and worksheets at the beginning of each section, followed by PowerPoints and other documents/information for each book.

The notebook will be graded on inclusiveness of the content, neatness, order, and ease-of-use (we recommend using tabs to mark and set-apart each section and Bible book in your notebook). This resource will be of tremendous value to you as you start new Bible studies and/or preaching series in your church. **Hardcopy notebooks must be postmarked OR digital notebooks must be emailed by Monday, December 14th. ***If you are graduating, you must email the notebook or ensure it arrives via mail by Wed, Dec. 16.**

4. **Two Major Exams:** Two major exams will be given as indicated in the class schedule. Anyone taking the test after the date listed on the syllabus and posted on Blackboard must get prior approval from the professor.

Each major examination is a timed, open book test. The exams will open on the specified day indicated in the syllabus and close on the specified day. Examinations begin on the opening day at 12:01 AM (Central Time) and close at Midnight on the specified day.

All exams are timed and will close automatically after the specified amount of time stated for each exam. Use your time wisely. Should there be a malfunction in Blackboard or by your internet server, please contact me via email. I will work with you and re-set the exam as soon as possible. Please take the exam at a location with reliable internet service.

5. **Embedded Assignment:** An embedded assignment is now required in all core courses. This assignment will open in Blackboard Mon, Nov. 9th. The assignment is **due by Sun, Nov. 22nd**.

Assignment Parameters:

- a. The summative question will be answered thoroughly by the student as a take-home assignment made available in Blackboard. 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, at least one page, up to two pages.

- b. The student should show adequate application of the research to a selected need of the Christian community.
- c. 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.

Rubric for Grading of the Embedded Assignment:

(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.					

ON-CAMPUS CLASS MEETINGS ARE MANDATORY

The hybrid format requires 4 classroom sessions on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule (**Aug 25; Sept 15; Oct 13; Nov 10**). Attendance in these class meetings is mandatory.

Any student who misses more than one class meeting will be required to convert the hybrid course to the full internet course and will be charged the additional internet fee (see catalog). The student should also be aware that the internet courses do not qualify as on-campus courses.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL COURSE COMPLETION

We recommend that you keep up with all your work throughout each week in the semester. Use the break period(s) to catch up your readings and reports. A wise strategy for test taking is to use the review sheets and prepare the questions ahead of time. A good recommendation would be to start no later than a week to prepare the study questions. Wise students will begin ten days to two weeks in advance. You will be working with deadlines throughout your ministerial career. Meeting deadlines is a huge part of professionalism and ministerial preparedness. Take your deadlines seriously and you will be more highly respected in your places of service.

COURSE EVALUATION

Reading Reports:	15%	Embedded Assignment:	10%
Book Critique	15%	Major Exams:	50% (25% for each exam)
Notebook:	10%		

***Late penalty for assignments is 5 points for each day late (including weekends).

COURSE SCHEDULE (CM = Carson/Moo; F = Ferguson; B = Bible)

Unit	Availability	Assignments/Notes	Reading
1	Aug 24-30	*Meet on-campus, Tuesday, Aug. 25th -Textbook Reading Report (due date extended until Sept. 6 th)	CM Chapters 1, 26 F 5-47; 182-212
2	Aug 31-Sept 6	-Textbook Reading Report	CM Chapter 2 F 48-147
3	Sept 7-13	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapters 3-4 F 300-16, 537-61 B Matt-Mark
4	Sept 14-20	*Meet on-campus, Tuesday, Sept. 15th -Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapters 5-6 B Luke-John
5	Sept 21-27	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapters 7-8 B Acts
6	Sept 28-Oct 4	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapters 9-10 B Romans
7	Oct 5-Oct 11	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapters 11-12 B 1-2 Cor.; Galatians
8	Oct 12-18	*Meet on-campus, Tuesday, Oct. 13th -Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report ***MID-TERM EXAM: OPENS- WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14TH DUE- SUNDAY, OCT. 25TH	CM Chapters 13-14 F 592-620 B Eph.-Phil.
-	Oct 19-25	FALL BREAK	-
9	Oct 26-Nov 1	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapters 15-16 B Col; 1-2 Thess.
10	Nov 2-Nov 8	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report ***BOOK CRITIQUE OF “THE LOST LETTERS OF PERGAMUM” OR “THE KING JESUS GOSPEL” DUE FRIDAY, NOV 6th	CM Chapters 17-18 B 1-2 Tim; Tit.; Phlm.
11	Nov 9-15	*Meet on-campus, Tuesday, Nov. 10th -Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report ***EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT OPENS- MONDAY, NOV. 9TH DUE- SUNDAY, NOV. 22ND	CM Chapters 19-20 B Hebrews-James
12	Nov 16-22	-Textbook Reading Report Due -Bible Reading Report Due	CM Chapters 21-22 B 1-2 Peter
-	Nov 23-29	THANKSGIVING BREAK	-
13	Nov 30-Dec 6	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapters 23-24 B 1-3 John; Jude
14	Dec 7-Dec 13	-Textbook Reading Report -Bible Reading Report	CM Chapter 25 B Revelation
15	Final Items	***NOTEBOOKS: DUE- MONDAY, DEC 14TH (postmarked or emailed)	
		***FINAL EXAM: OPENS- MONDAY, DEC 7TH DUE- TUESDAY, DEC 15TH, 11:59 PM	

- **Absolutely No Late Finals!**
- **Unit dates run from Monday through Sunday**

Recommended Computer Software

The software packages listed below are capable of intense, complex searches required for biblical studies research purposes and/or sermon preparation. The purchase of this kind of software is often helpful for academic and ministry research. The information below is provided by Dr. Craig Price, a professor and dean at NOBTS.

PC Users:

BibleWorks (bibleworks.com) provides discounts for our students when purchased in bulk orders (see your professor for more information). BibleWorks costs about \$350 for their basic software program which includes many supplemental works. Ordered in bundles of 10 or more, the price is reduced to \$250 for NOBTS seminary students. Bulk orders are placed through the local NOBTS LifeWay Store. Call their customer service for questions.

Mac Users:

If you are using a Macintosh computer, Accordance Bible Software (accordancebible .com) is the standard in the field. The basic Scholar's Core is around \$250 with many other add-on texts available and they offer student discounts. Accordance has a PC emulator as well. Responses have been varied on this emulator. Call their customer service for questions.

Mac or PC Users:

Logos 5.0 is now available for either Mac or PC platforms (logos.com). Logos 5.0 is offered at varied package prices, but we recommend that you consider a minimum of the Bronze Level package that has the Greek and Hebrew texts for NOBTS language courses. NOBTS offers a training course called PREA6230/6330 Technological Applications for Bible Study and Preaching. Students who take this course may purchase the software at a 50% discount. Students who purchase the software directly from Logos receive a 30% discount. Call their customer service for questions.

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