

## **NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament (On-line)**

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.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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
2. The readings will be supplemented with on-line group discussions in order to engage students in learning the material
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

## TEXTBOOKS (the following textbooks are required for the course)

The Holy Bible (any fairly recognized translation or *Greek New Testament* for NT portions)

John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

### 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. On-line Discussion: Students are expected to read the New Testament books as they are covered, and to participate on a regular, weekly basis in the on-line discussions on Blackboard. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty as reflected in the Grading Policies. While much of the work can be done independently, the on-line discussions on Blackboard will enable us to interact as a learning community. As a general protocol for the discussions, respect for others, considerate wording of posts, and Christian charity when good intentions are misunderstood are required. Remember, we are brothers and sisters in Christ seeking to know our Lord better and proclaim Him more faithfully, so let's enjoy the discussion, participate regularly, and exemplify Christ in how we do so. Thanks for being a part of this learning community
2. Readings and Session Quizzes: The assigned readings must be completed as early as possible in the week for which the material is to be discussed. Readings form the core of this course, and so are considered essential for the successful completion of the course. The student must complete a reading log to indicate the date on which the material was read. A form for reporting this is posted under the course documents on Blackboard. The reading reports can be submitted with the notebook at the end of the course. Quizzes will be given each week on the assigned readings for that week, so be careful not to fall behind in the readings. The quizzes will be varied in types, with many being objective, and some being discussion oriented or short essays. Be aware the quizzes are timed (generally 15 to 20 minutes).

3. **Book Review:** A two page, single-spaced critique of either the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* or the book *The King Jesus Gospel* is **due on Monday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**. This project should include critical interaction with the book, not simply a summary of the material or a statement that you liked the book. By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book. The book will be discussed on Blackboard after the date on which the critique is due.
4. **Notebook:** A notebook must be kept including the following items: notes from both the readings and the Blackboard discussions, reading reports, and completed worksheets on each of the applicable New Testament books. A guide for the worksheets is posted under the course documents on Blackboard. The format of the notebook can vary, but a suggested organization would be to use the outline of Introductory notes and then a book-by-book (sometimes with some grouping of the books) overview of the New Testament books, with the reading reports and worksheets at the beginning of each section. The notebook is **due at the time of the final exam** and can be submitted either in Microsoft Word or in PDF format on-line or mailed to the professor at the address above. The late penalty for this and other work is 5 points per day. Arrangements must be made as soon as possible with the professor to avoid this penalty if extenuating circumstances occur.
5. **Exams:** Three 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.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Session Quizzes:	15%	Blackboard Discussion:	10%
Book review:	5%	Major Exams:	45% (15% for each exam)
Notebook:	25%		

### **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.

**EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION:** This course includes an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course (assignment is part of final exam). 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 portion of the final exam. 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. The student should show adequate application of the research to a selected need of the Christian community.
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.

Rubric for Grading of the Embedded Assignment:

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

DOMAIN	LEVEL	EVALUATION			
		0	1	2	3
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.				

### NETIQUETTE STATEMENT ON APPROPRIATE ONLINE BEHAVIOR

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

### COURSE SCHEDULE (D3 = DRANE 3rd ED., D = DRANE 2nd ED./REVISED; F = FERGUSON, 3D EDITION)

Unit	Availability	Topic	Reading
1	Aug 24-30	The NT World & Canon: History & Greco-Roman Culture	F 5-47
2	Aug 31-Sept 6	The New Testament World: Hellenistic Judaism and Palestinian Judaism	D 9-45; D3 10-45; F 48-147

3	Sept 7-13	The Ministry of Jesus: The Synoptic Gospels, Mark, Matthew, and Luke	D 167-217; D3 161-207; F 300-316, 537-561
4	Sept 14-20	The Ministry of Jesus: John, Overview of Jesus' Message & Teachings	D 46-74 & 111-150; D3 46-108
5	Sept 21-27	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Actions	D 151-166; D3 109-123; F 562-582
6	Sept 28-Oct 4	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Death & Resurrection	D 75-110; D3 124-160
7	Oct 5-Oct 11	The Early Church: Acts (Note: Acts material not on first exam) <b>FIRST SECTIONAL EXAM DUE BY SUNDAY, OCT 11<sup>TH</sup> @ 11:59PM CST</b>	D 237-291; D3 224-277
8	Oct 12-18	Paul: Intro., 1-2 Thess., Galatians	D 292-317; D3 278-302; F 592-620
-	Oct 19-25	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	
		<b>BOOK CRITIQUE DUE BY MONDAY, OCT. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm CST</b>	
9	Oct 26-Nov 1	Paul: Romans and 1 Corinthians	D 318-365; D3 303-348
10	Nov 2-Nov 8	Paul: 2 Corinthians and the Prison Epistles	D 366-392; D3 349-374
11	Nov 9-15	Paul: The Pastoral Epistles	D 393-408; D3 424-436
12	Nov 16-22	General Epistles: Hebrews (Note: Hebrews not on second exam) <b>SECOND SECTIONAL EXAM DUE BY SUNDAY, NOV 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:59PM CST</b>	D 409-430; D3 375-391
-	Nov 23-29	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
13	Nov 30-Dec 6	General Epistles: James and 1 Peter	D 431-445; D3 392-410
14	Dec 7-Dec 13	General Epistles: 2 Peter, Jude, 1-3 John; Revelation	D 446-465; D3 411-448; F 182-212
		<b>***FINAL EXAM— MUST BE SUBMITTED BY WEDNESDAY, DEC 16 @ 11:59 PM CDT</b>	
		<b>***NOTEBOOKS AND READING LOG—MUST BE SUBMITTED BY WEDNESDAY, DEC 16 @ 11:59 PM CDT</b>	

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

## Selected Bibliography

### Primary Sources

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### New Testament Introductions

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