

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT (NTEN 5300)

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
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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 emphasis for this year at the seminary is “missions focus,” with that being represented throughout the seminary.

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:

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, by the end of the course the following outcomes be realized.

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 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)

John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, 3rd edition

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition

Either Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the NT World*

Or Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

Each student should acquire a Bible Software program, with one required for those in a specific Biblical Studies degree (like the MA in Biblical Studies, or the MDiv in Biblical Studies or Biblical Languages). The following are recommended by the Biblical Studies Division: Logos, BibleWorks, and Accordance. For those not majoring in biblical studies or in a Biblical Studies degree program, a free program from online can be used such as <http://mywsb.com> , <http://crosswire.org> and <http://www.e-sword.net> . Please consult with the professor if you have questions on this, and know that special discounts on the three major programs are available for NOBTS students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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. A notebook must be kept including the following items: class files (a list of the files is sufficient with a statement that they have been downloaded from Blackboard), dated class notes (notes from dates missed should include the name of the classmate(s) from whom they were obtained), and completed worksheets (to be handed out) on each of the applicable New Testament books (as indicated by the professor). Grades will be based on neatness and how complete the notebook is. The notebook will be checked on the day of each sectional exam and submitted for a final grade two class periods prior to the final exam. The late penalty is one letter grade per day late. 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) is due Thurs., Apr 2 (after spring break). 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%

FINAL EXAM EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION: The final exam 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 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.

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)

Notebook: 15%

COURSE SCHEDULE (D = DRANE 3d ED; F = FERGUSON, 3d EDITION)

EACH UNIT REPRESENTS ONE WEEK'S WORK

Week 1:	1.	Introduction to the course, The NT Canon	
Aug. 25,27	2.	The New Testament World: History The New Testament World: Greco-Roman Culture	D10-45 (skim); F 5-47
Week 2	1.	The New Testament World: Hellenistic Judaism	D46-85 (skim); F48-96
Sept 1, 3	2.	The New Testament World: Palestinian Judaism	F97-147
Week 3	1.	The Ministry of Jesus: The Synoptic Gospels, Mark	D161-191; F 300-316
Sept. 8, 10	2.	The Ministry of Jesus: Matthew and Luke	D 191-207; F 537-561
Week 4	1.	The Ministry of Jesus: John, Overview of Content	D 46-108
Sept. 15,17	2.	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Message and Teachings	D 199-223
Week 5	1.	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Actions	D 109-123, F562-582
Sept. 22,24	2.	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Death and Resurrection	D 124-160
Week 6	1.	SECTIONAL EXAM	
S 29, Oct 1	2.	The Early Church: Acts 1-7	D 224-251

Week 7	1.	The Early Church: Acts 8-28	D 252-277
Oct. 6, 8	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Intro. & 1-2 Thes.	D 278-302
Week 8	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Galatians	F592-620
Oct. 13, 15	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Romans	D319-328
Week 9	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: 1 Corinthians	D303-319
Oct. 27, 29	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: 2 Corinthians	
Week 10	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: The Prison Epistles	D329-343
Nov 3, 5	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Prison & Pastoral Epistles	D344-374
Critique on “The Lost Letters of Pergamum” or “The King Jesus Gospel” due			
Week 11	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: The Pastoral Epistles	D424-436
Nov 10, 12	2.	The General Epistles: Hebrews	D375-391
Week 12	1.	The General Epistles: James	D392-410
Nov 17, 19	2.	SECTIONAL EXAM	
Week 13	1.	The General Epistles: 1 Peter	D392-410
Dec. 1, 3	2.	The General Epistles: 2 Peter, Jude	D411-423
Week 14	1.	The General Epistles: 1-3 John	D411-423
Dec 8, 10	2.	The Book of Revelation	D437-448, F182-212
Week 15 (Dec 17)		FINAL EXAM	

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