

## **NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM (NTGK 6390)**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division  
Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and Greek  
Fall Workshop, 2015**

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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 seminary is emphasizing the core value of “mission focus” this year and encourages all at the seminary to focus especially on this emphasis.

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:**

A study is made of paleography, the ancient witnesses to the text of the New Testament, the history of the handwritten text of the New Testament, and the actual practice of textual criticism. In connection with the last of these subjects, students learn to read the critical apparatuses of the Nestle-Aland and the United Bible Societies editions of the Greek New Testament and to evaluate significant variant readings.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the history and state of research for the field of NT TC
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how TC aids in the study of the NT
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize the textual apparatus in the Greek New Testament (UBS and N-A) and apply this ability to sound interpretation of the text

### **COURSE TEACHING METHODS:**

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, and student presentations in class. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning NT TC will be utilized.

## TEXTBOOKS:

1. *The Greek New Testament*, UBS 5th ed.
2. *Novum Testamentum*, 28th ed.
3. Bruce M. Metzger and Bart Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Rev.
4. Bruce M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the GNT*, 4<sup>th</sup> UBS ed.

## IV. REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS: (M = Metzger, The Text of the N.T.)

1. PRE-ASSIGNMENT. Read the textbook by Metzger and Ehrman and submit a summary of 5-7 pages on the book. This assignment is due at the beginning of the first class. Your reaction to the book will be covered by way of discussion in the workshop classes, so the reaction does not need to be included in the review. (20%)
2. Reading New Testament Greek manuscripts. Training will be given during the workshop for acquiring the skills to do this and an assignment will be completed during the workshop week. The results will be discussed in class. (20%)
3. Students will be assigned specific variants to cover for each of the last two days of the class and will help lead the discussion of those variants. As part of leading the discussion, students will pass out copies of their variant analysis sheet for their assigned variants to all participants in the workshop. The form will be provided by the professor. Variants may be assigned to a group of students rather than an individual student, depending upon the total enrolment in the workshop. Students are not required to submit variant analysis sheets on the other variants, but should come prepared to discuss all of the variants for the given class period. (25%)
4. Each student will be assigned a specific article to review on the various aspects of NT TC and will give an overview of the article both in written form and orally to the other class members. The written part will be a 1-page synopsis of the article, with the class presentation being a discussion of the article itself. (10%)
5. POST-ASSIGNMENT: A take-home exam will be given that covers the content and skills covered in the class. The exam will be due on Monday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and should be submitted either via e-mail or hard copy to the professor. (25%)
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7. **EXTRA CREDIT:** Additional readings in the area of NT TC approved by the professor will be credited at the rate of 1 point on the final average for each 150 pages read, up to a maximum of 3 points. A brief (1 page per 150 pages of readings) report must be submitted for credit. These must be submitted by the time of the submission of the final exam.

## IV. CLASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY 1-4pm	Introduction to the course
	Introduction to Greek Manuscripts & Palaeography
	Tour of the NOBTS Bible & Archaeology Museum
	Witnesses to the text of the New Testament

- MONDAY 6-9 pm History of the text of the New Testament
- TUES. 9-11:45 am Practicum 1: How to read Greek manuscripts
- TUES. 1-4 pm The development of textual methods: text types  
Practicum 2: How to read Greek manuscripts
- WED. 9-11:45 am Textual Methods and Current Trends  
The use of the UBS apparatus. Read U.B.S., GNT, pp. v-xlvi
- WED. 1-4 pm The use of the Nestle-Aland apparatus. Read N-A, 59-84 (intro)  
Sample analysis of selected variants: John 1:18, John 1:21(N-A, ∞)
- THUR. 9-11:45 am Student-led analysis of selected variants: Acts 8:36; John 7:53-8:11; Luke  
2:14; Mt. 27:16; Mark 6:3 (N-A, ∞)
- THUR. 1-4 pm Student-led analysis of selected variants: Mark 16:8 (9-20);  
John 20:31(N-A, Ⓞ); 1 Cor. 14:34-35; Luke 22:43-44, Luke 23:34
- FRIDAY 8-12 am Student-led analysis of selected variants: Mark 9:29 (N-A, £);  
Rev. 13:18 (N-A, ∞); Mt. 24:36 (N-A, ™); 1 Jn. 5:7-8  
Discussion of Manuscript Reading Results  
Using Textual Criticism in the Exegesis Process

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