



# NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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## NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Biblical Studies

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Wednesday: 8:00-11:00  
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### NOBTS Mission

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Mission Focus.

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:

This course seeks to realize the following in student learning:

1. The student should understand thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and the NT teachings on selected NT themes.
2. The student should be able to apply adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to contemporary church needs.
3. The student should be able to communicate clearly the message of the various writings of the New Testament.

**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 primarily 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 Greek NT for NT portions)

Ashford, Bruce Riley and Heath Thomas. *The Gospel of Our King: Bible, Worldview, and the Mission of Every Christian*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019

Burge, Gary M., Lynn H. Cohick, and Gene L. Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity: A Survey of the New Testament within its Cultural Context*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Longenecker, Bruce W. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum*. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2003.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:****1. Reading and Participation (5% of final grade)**

- a. Students are required to read and listen to the biblical text as well as complete readings from textbooks.
- b. Students are to read the entire New Testament during the course of this semester.
- c. Students should attend every class period, be alert.
- d. The professor may assign quizzes, discussion board forums, or additional work related to the reading.

**2. Pergamum Assignment (15 % of final grade)**

- a. Read the *Lost Letters of Pergamum* and take notes on the various important historical elements that are revealed in this fictional account. Think about what this book is teaching about these things related to the background of the New Testament.
- b. This assignment should be 5-7 pages in length.
- c. See Topics after course schedule.

### 3. Bible Reading Journals (35% of the final grade)

- Students will submit 10 Journal Entries (one per week) and each journal entry will cover at least 5 chapters of a NT Book (one chapter per day).
- Each week's entry should be between 1000-2000 words (about 4-7 pages double-spaced). Large blocks of quoted Scripture text will not count toward to the overall word count. Please include a total word count at the end of your entry.
- Students are free to choose any five chapters in any NT book, but students should include at least 2 or 3 entries from the gospels, at least 4 from Paul's epistles, and 3 from the General Epistles and Revelation.
- **Procedure**
  - **Read** the NT Book Completely (in one sitting if possible)
  - **Choose** 5 chapters. These may be sequential chapters, or a selection of chapters drawn from throughout the book.
  - **Examine** the literary context (what does it say in the preceding and succeeding chapters).
  - **Identify** main characters (if gospel or acts) or the author, audience, and occasion (if an epistle).
    - Identify topics or themes in your selected chapters.
    - Identify the main idea(s) of the chapter.
    - Identify any difficult concepts, words, or phrases that are hard to understand.
  - **Consult** the textbook, commentaries, and other resources.
  - **Type** your journal entry using a double-spaced Times New Roman 12 pt. font and upload it to the proper assignment link in blackboard.
- **Presentation** (*follow this outline exactly*)
  1. **Introduction:** State what book and chapters you studied. Explain why you choose them. Write a short sentence or two that summarized what you learned in them.
  2. **Context**
    - **Historical Context:** Say something about the historical, social, and cultural background of your book/chapters.
    - **Literary Context:** Where do your chapters fit within the context of the book. What does it say before and after your chapters.
  3. **Content:** Main characters or author, audience, and occasion?  
 Topic or Theme Addressed  
 Main Idea(s)  
 Interpretive Difficulties  
 Summary of the Text with Interpretation from using sources.

#### 4. Conclusion

Discuss the things you learned

Discuss ways you can personally apply what you learned

#### 4. Sectional Exams (50% of final grade)

The course material will be divided into three or four sections for testing purposes:

- (1) New Testament Background and the Gospels
- (2) Acts and the Pauline Epistles
- (3) The General Epistles and Revelation

An exam will be given at the conclusion of each section testing the student on the material covered in that section. All students are expected to take the exam on the date assigned.

#### 5. Embedded Assignment (15% of final grade)

1. The course includes an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The embedded assignment that will be required in the form of a book review.

2. Students will write a 2-3-page, double-spaced critique of *The Gospel of Our King* **is due Wednesday, Dec. 2 (after Thanksgiving Break).**

3. The critique should include the following: An affirmation of having read the entire book, a bibliographic entry, brief info on the authors, a page summary, and one or two pages of critique/reaction. The contents of the books will be discussed on the date on which the critique is due.

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 research question answer might impact the faith & life of Christian believers, focusing on the contemporary audience. (1 page)

### ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION AND RUBRIC:

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.					

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

## Grading

Each course requirement is accorded a percentage value for the overall grade. This distributes the weight of each assignment so that no one assignment will determine the final grade. Grades will be assessed according to the following scale:

**A = 93–100 B = 92–86 C = 85–79 D= 72–84 F= 72 or less**

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help info is provided on this website.

### WRITING STYLE GUIDE:

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

### 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.

**COURSE SCHEDULE (\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE THROUGH THE SEMESTER)**

<b>Date</b>		<b>Reading and Assignments Due</b>
Week 1 8.26	Syllabus Second Temple Period Daily Life in the NT period: Secular Setting	<i>New Testament in Antiquity</i> [NTA] 15-52
Week 2 9.2	Daily Life in the NT period: Religious Setting	NTA 53-106
Week 3 9.9	Introduction to Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels  Mark	<b>Due: Lost Letters of Pergamum (2.15)</b>  NTA 107-124, 179-194  Gospel of Mark
Week 4 9.16	Mark (continued)  Matthew	Gospel of Matthew  NTA 165-178  Journal Entry #1
Week 5 9.23	Matthew  Luke	Gospel of Luke  NTA 195-212  Journal Entry #2
Week 6 9.30	Luke (continued)  John	Gospel of John  NTA 213-228  Journal Entry # 3
Week 7 10.1	John (continued)  <b>Review</b>  <b>Exam #2: The Life of Christ and the Gospels</b>	<b>Exam #1</b>
Week 8 10.7	<i>Spring Break</i>	<b>March 16-24</b>

Week 9 10.14	Acts 1-12: Early Church and the Jewish Mission	The Book of Acts 1–12 NTA 229-248 Journal Entry #4
Week 10 10.21	<b>Fall Break</b>	
Week 11 10.28	Acts 13-28: Early Church and the Gentile Mission Introduction to the Mission and Theology of Paul	The Book of Acts 13-28 NTA 249-266 Journal Entry #5
Week 12 11.4	Paul's Early Epistles: Galatians 1 & 2 Thessalonians	Galatians NTA 279-292 1 & 2 Thessalonians NTA 267-278 Journal Entry #6
Week 13 11.11	Paul's Chief Epistles: The Corinthian Correspondence Romans	1 & 2 Corinthians NTA 293-320 Romans NTA 321-336 Journal Entry #7
Week 14 11.18	Paul's Prison and Pastoral Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus <b>Review</b> <b>Exam #3: Acts and the Pauline Epistles</b>	Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus NTA 337-362; 363-374 Journal Entry #8 <b>Exam #3</b>
Week 15 11.25	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
Week 16	The General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter,	Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter,

12.2	Jude	Jude NTA 385-424 Journal Entry #9
12.9	Johannine Epistles Revelation	1, 2, 3, John, Revelation NTA 411-424; 425-458 Journal Entry #10
9.16	Final Exam	

## Lost Letters of Pergamum

Read the *Lost Letters of Pergamum* and write down what it says about various important historical elements that are revealed in this fictional account. Think about what this book is teaching about these things related to the background of the New Testament.

This assignment should be 5-7 pages in length. **Follow this outline and include all topics listed. You may give your answers in bullet points or in short sentences but be sure to include all page numbers for where you find your answers.**

### Ancient Customs

Form of letters  
 Life of noblemen, peasants, and slaves  
 Greek and Roman gods (Zeus, Apollo, Asklepios, Jupiter, etc.)  
 Roman Calendar  
 Coliseums and gladiator fights  
 Cities (Rome, Alexander, Ephesus, Pergamum, Antioch, Caesarea, etc.)  
 Travel (land and sea)  
 Hospitality  
 Libraries  
 Role of secretaries  
 Homes  
 Syncretism  
 Taxation  
 Emperor worship

### Important People

Roman Emperors (Nero, Domitian, Titus, etc.)  
 Pontius Pilate

Herod the Great  
 Herod Antipas  
 Authors (Homer, Pliny, Josephus, Philo, Ignatius)

### Important Groups

Essenes  
 Dead Sea community  
 Pharisees  
 Samaritans  
 Philosophers (Stoics, Cynics)

### Biblical Concepts

Role of John the Baptist  
 Jesus' teachings  
 Jesus' disciples  
 The Lord's Supper  
 Crucifixion  
 Demons  
 Jesus' use of "the Son of Man"  
 Ancient worship services

## Selected Bibliography

### Primary Sources

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- 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 NT in Context: Sources and Documents*. Englewood Cliffs: 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. & trans. *The Works of Josephus: Complete & Unabridged*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1987.

### History and Background

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- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- House, H. Wayne. *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
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- Keener, Craig. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Malina, Bruce. *The New Testament World: Insights From Cultural Anthropology*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1981.
- McRay, John. *Archeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.
- Reicke, Bo. *The NT 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.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
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### New Testament Introductions

- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the NT*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
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- Lea, Thomas D. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
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### Bible Dictionaries

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### Gospel Studies

- Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*, English Edition. New York: American Bible Society, 1982.
- Beardslee, William A. *Literary Criticism of the New Testament*. Nashville: Fortress, 1970.
- Dodd, C. H. *The Apostolic Preaching and Its Developments*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.
- Stein, Robert. *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.

### Pauline Studies

- Beker, J. Christiaan. *Paul's Apocalyptic Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.
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- Jewett, Robert. *A Chronology of Paul's Life*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
- Munck, Johannes. *Paul and the Salvation of Mankind*. Trans. F. Clarke. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1959.
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