

NTEN5300: Exploring the New Testament

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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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

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For the 2014-2015 academic year, that Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*. Our core values also include: *Doctrinal Integrity*, *Mission Focus*, *Characteristic Excellence*, and *Servant Leadership*.

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

- 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 NT period

- Students should gain an increased appreciation for how a formal, historically-based study of the NT enhances Biblical interpretation
- 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

The principle means of instruction for this course will be lecture and practical application. Handouts, visual aids, and videos will be utilized to supplement classroom presentations and discussion. A number of technological tools will be used to gauge the students' comprehension of the material.

Required Texts

1. The Bible (any fairly recognized translation)
2. John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, 3rd edition
3. Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*
4. Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited*

Optional Texts

1. Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition
2. Kent Yinger, *The New Perspective on Paul: An Introduction*
3. David deSilva, *Unholy Allegiances: Heeding Revelation's Warning*
4. David deSilva, *The Apocrypha*, Core Biblical Studies
5. Timothy Lim, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Very Short Introduction*

Course Requirements

1. Participation:
Students are expected to read the assignments and the New Testament books as they are covered in order to be able to participate in class regularly.

2. Readings/Quizzes:

The assigned readings must be completed **before each meeting**. Quizzes will be given each meeting. You will be able to drop your lowest quiz grade.

3. Book Critiques:

1. A one-page, single-spaced review of the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* is due Feb. 23rd.

This is not a formal review. You will need to submit 3 observations and 3 questions pertaining to the book. These should all have some sort of exegetical impact. What did you observe about the social setting that may influence how you interpret the NT?

2. A two-page, single-spaced critique of the book *The King Jesus Gospel* is due April 6th.

In regard to format, the paper must be 2 pages, single-spaced and typed in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1" margins. Keep in mind, 2 pages literally means filling up 2 pages, not 1.5 for example.

In regard to content, the critique is exactly what it sounds like--a critique. To put it negatively, it is **NOT a summary**. In your critique, state the purpose or thesis of the book. What is the argument that is driving the book? Why did the author write this particular book? Also, discuss strengths and weaknesses. **The discussion of strengths and weaknesses should comprise most of the critique**. Finally, you should include a statement of whether or not the author achieved his goal and why you think that he did or did not. Note that reading the preface of this particular book should help you all with your critiques.

Keep in mind, simply summarizing the book is not a critique and will not lead to the highest possible grade for this assignment. We want you to interact with this book using the information you are learning from this course. You all will do fine should you stick to these guidelines found here.

4. Presentation:

The student will teach a book of the NT to the class. Visual aids, such as PowerPoint or handouts, may be used to enhance the lesson. The student will create and turn in a quiz that will be utilized in the class on the material covered in the presentation.

5. Examinations:

Three major exams will be given as indicated in the class schedule. Anyone taking the test after the date listed on the syllabus must get **prior approval** from the professor. The final exam will be given on Monday, May 11th from 9-12 AM. According to the Registrar's office, no early final exams will be given.

Review material for the 3 exams will be posted online. We will use 3 different tools, with each covering a little different area. You will need to make use of all 3 to be prepared thoroughly for the exams.

1. Blackboard

All of the PPTs and other important documents and material will be posted here. There will also be discussion board posts covering some of the important topics.

2. Socrative = www.socrative.com

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We will use Socrative for quizzing purposes throughout the semester. All the quizzes for the corresponding exams will be made available for review.

3. Quizlet = www.Quizlet.com

You can join the class using this code: <http://quizlet.com/join/jVsNGT7vW>

Or you can just search for NTEN5300 Spring2015 when you get to the site. Make sure you enroll in the class and not just the individual sets.

FINAL EXAM EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION: This assignment is 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: 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

Participation: 10%

Quizzes: 15%

Book reviews: 15%

 Longenecker = 5%

 McKnight = 10%

Major Exams: 45% (15% for each exam)

Presentation: 15%

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Text(s)
Week 1: Jan. 26	Introduction NT Text and Canon	Drane 437-53
Week 2: Feb. 2	The NT World: OT and Jewish Background	F 396-426; 513-82
Week 3: Feb. 9	The NT World: Greco-Roman Background	D 10-45; F 5-47
Week 4: Feb. 16	Introduction to the Gospels The Synoptic Gospels	D 161-223
Week 5: Feb. 23	The Synoptic Gospels The Gospel of John	D 46-108 Longenecker Review Due
Week 6: Mar. 2	Ministry of Jesus Jesus' Death & Resurrection	D 109-123 D 124-60
Week 7: Mar. 9	Sectional Exam One Acts	D 224-51
Week 8: Mar. 16	Paul: Intro to Life & Ministry Paul's Travels	D 252-77
Week 9: Mar. 23	Spring Break	
Week 10: Mar. 30	1-2 Thess., Galatians	D 278-302 D 349-74
Week 11: Apr. 6	Romans Corinthian Correspondence	D 303-28 McKnight Critique Due
Week 12: Apr. 13	Prison Epistles Pastoral Epistles Paul's Message	D 329-43 D 344-48 D 349-74
Week 13: Apr. 20	Sectional Exam Two James	D 375-82
Week 14: Apr. 27	1 Peter Hebrews 2 Peter & Jude	D 392-403 D 383-91 D 421-23; F 431-512
Week 15: May 4	1-3 John Revelation Earliest Christianity	D 411-20 D 404-10; F 182-212 D 424-34
Final Exam Monday, May 11 th 9-12 am		

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