



EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT: NTEN5300

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division

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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.

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

II. 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.

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.

III. 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.

IV. 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 NT period

2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how a formal, historically-based study of the NT 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

V. 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. Class lectures will also be supplemented with class and group discussions on Blackboard 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

VI. TEXTS:

- The Bible (any fairly recognized translation or the GNT for NT portions)
- John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, revised edition
- Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition

Only One of the Following:

- Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*
- Scott McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. On-line Discussion: Students are expected 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. A minimum of a posting per week is required, with more expected for those desiring a high grade on this component. Also, quizzes and exams will be required on a regular basis, with time limitations for taking these (generally 15 to 20 minutes). 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. 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. While the reading reports can be submitted with the notebook at the end of the course, the reading themselves must be done on the dates indicated for discussing that material. 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. Note that the quizzes are generally at the end of each unit on Blackboard and are to be taken on-line in most cases, with others compiled offline and then submitted via the drop-box in Blackboard.

3. A two page, single-spaced critique of the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* or *The King Jesus Gospel* is due by the end of week 5 (July 4). By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book. The contents of the book will be discussed on Blackboard after the date on which the critique is due.
4. A notebook must be kept including the following items: notes from the readings and the Blackboard discussions, reading reports, and completed worksheets on each of the New Testament books. A guide for the worksheets is posted under the course documents on Blackboard (within one of the first units). 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 NT 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 Word or in pdf format online. The late penalty for this and other work is 5 points per day, so be sure to submit it by the deadline. Arrangements must be made as soon as possible with the professor to avoid this penalty if extenuating circumstances occur.
5. 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 for the sectional exams and from the registrar's office for the final exam.

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.					
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VIII. GRADES:

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

IX. NETIQUETTE: 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

Week 1 (6/1–6/6)

- Unit 1: Course Introduction
- Unit 2: Interbiblical History

Week 2 (6/8–6/13)

- Unit 3: Synoptic Gospels
- Unit 4: Gospel of John

Week 3 (6/15–6/20)

- Unit 5: Teaching of Jesus
- Unit 6: Jesus' Death & Resurrection
- **Sectional Exam #1**

Week 4 (6/22–6/27)

- Unit 7: Book of Acts
- Unit 8: Epistles of Paul (1–2 Thess, Gal)

Week 5 (6/29–7/4)

- Unit 9: Epistles of Paul (Rom, 1Cor)
- Unit 10: Epistles of Paul (2Cor, Prison Epistles)
- **Book review due**

Week 6 (7/6–7/11)

- Unit 11: Epistles of Paul (Pastoral Epistles)
- **Sectional Exam #2**
- Unit 12: General Epistles (Hebrews)

Week 7 (7/13–7/18)

- Unit 13: General Epistles (Jam, 1Pet)
- Unit 14: General Epistles (2Pet, Jude, 1–3 Jn)

Week 8 (7/20–7/24)

- Unit 15: Book of Revelation
- **Final Exam**

XI. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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