

NTEN 5300 Exploring the New Testament (Online)

NOBTS

Spring 2015

Dr. Owen Nease

Mailing: 141 Main St.,
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Cell phone: 580-658-0652
Email: onease@gmail.com

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

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

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

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. The readings will be supplemented with on-line group discussions 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

TEXTBOOKS (the following textbooks are required for the course)

The Holy Bible (any fairly recognized translation or *Greek New Testament* for NT portions)

John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, 3rd ed.

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd ed.

SELECT ONLY ONE (1) OF THE FOLLOWING:

Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*.

Scot McKnight, *King Jesus Gospel*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. On-line Discussion: Students are expected to read the New Testament books as they are covered, and 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. 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. Readings and Session Quizzes: 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. The reading reports can be submitted with the notebook at the end of the course. 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. Be aware the quizzes are timed (generally 15 to 20 minutes).

3. **Book Review:** A two page, single-spaced critique of either the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* or the book *The King Jesus Gospel* is **due on Sunday, Apr. 5th**. This project should include critical interaction with the book, not simply a summary of the material or a statement that you liked the book. By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book. The book will be discussed on Blackboard after the date on which the critique is due.
4. **Notebook:** A notebook must be kept including the following items: notes from both the readings and the Blackboard discussions, reading reports, and completed worksheets on each of the applicable New Testament books. A guide for the worksheets is posted under the course documents on Blackboard. 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 New Testament 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 Microsoft Word or in PDF format on-line or mailed to the professor at the address above. The late penalty for this and other work is 5 points per day. Arrangements must be made as soon as possible with the professor to avoid this penalty if extenuating circumstances occur.
5. **Exams:** 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.

COURSE EVALUATION

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

NETIQUETTE STATEMENT ON 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.

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

Unit	Availability	Topic	Reading
1	Jan 20-25	The NT World & Canon: History & Greco-Roman Culture	F 5-47
2	Jan 26-Feb 1	The New Testament World: Hellenistic Judaism and Palestinian Judaism	D 10-45; F 48-147
3	Feb 2-8	The Ministry of Jesus: The Synoptic Gospels, Mark, Matthew, and Luke	D 161-207; F 300-16, 537-61
4	Feb 9-15	The Ministry of Jesus: John, Overview of Jesus' Message & Teachings	D 46-108
5	Feb 16-22	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Actions	D 109-123; F 562-82
6	Feb 23-Mar 1	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Death & Resurrection	D 124-60

7	Mar 2-8	The Early Church: Acts (Note: Acts material not on first exam) FIRST SECTIONAL EXAM DUE BY SUNDAY, MAR 8TH @ 11:59PM CST	D 252-77
8	Mar 9-15	Paul: Intro., 1-2 Thess., Galatians	D 278-302; F 592-620
9	Mar 16-22	Paul: Romans and 1 Corinthians	D 303-48
-	Mar 23-29	SPRING BREAK	-
10	Mar 30-Apr 5	Paul: 2 Corinthians and the Prison Epistles	D 349-74
		CRITIQUE OF “THE LOST LETTERS OF PERGAMUM” OR “THE KING JESUS GOSPEL” DUE SUNDAY, APR 5th	
11	Apr 6-12	Paul: The Pastoral Epistles	D 424-36
12	Apr 13-19	General Epistles: Hebrews (Note: Hebrews not on second exam) SECOND SECTIONAL EXAM DUE BY SUNDAY, APR 19TH @ 11:59PM CST	D 375-91
13	Apr 20-26	General Epistles: James and 1 Peter	D 392-410
14	Apr 27-May 3	General Epistles: 2 Peter, Jude, 1-3 John	D 411-23
15	May 4-10	The Book of Revelation	D 437-48; F 182-212
	May 4-13	***FINAL EXAM— MUST BE SUBMITTED BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 @ 11:59 PM CDT	
		***NOTEBOOKS AND READING LOG—MUST BE SUBMITTED BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 @ 11:59 PM CDT	

Important Notes about Schedule:

- **Absolutely No Late Finals!**
- **Unit dates run from Monday through Sunday (except for first week of class, which begins on a Tuesday because of Martin Luther King Day)**

Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

- Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1995.
- Charles, R. H., tr. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*. Two Volumes: London: Epworth, 1913.
- Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, Two Volumes. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1983.
- Danby, Herbert, trans. *The Mishnah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933.
- Hennecke, Edgar, and Wilhelm Schneemelcher, eds. *The New Testament Apocrypha*. Two Volumes English trans. ed. by R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1963.
- Kee, Howard Clark. *The New Testament In Context: Sources and Documents*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J. : Prentice-Hall, 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, 1992.
- Robinson, James, 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. and trans. *The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987.

History and Background

- Bruce, F.F. *New Testament History*. New York: Doubleday, 1971.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- House, Wayne. *Chronological & Background Charts of the NT*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus: An Investigation into Economic and Social Conditions During the New Testament Period*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.
- Keener, Craig. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 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 New Testament 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: 15-18. Clifton J. Allen, ed., Nashville: Broadman Press, 1969.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- _____. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.
- _____. *The Text of the New Testament: It's Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. 3d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

New Testament Introductions

- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- Feine, Paul, J. Behm, and W. G. Kummel. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3d rev. ed. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 1970.
- Kümmel, Werner Georg. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Trans. Howard Clark Kee. Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.
- Lea, Thomas. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
- Metzger, Bruce. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.

Bible Dictionaries

- Bromiley, Geoffrey, et al., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Rev. ed. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-1988.
- Buttrick, George, ed. *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1962.
- Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Green, Joel, Scot McKnight and I. Howard Marshall. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Hawthorne, Gerald & Ralph Martin, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downer's Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Martin, Ralph P. & Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the latter New Testament and Its Developments*. Downer's Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Mills, Watson E., gen. ed. *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*. Macon: Mercer Univ. Press, 1990.
- Ryken, Leland, James Wilhoit, Tremper Longman III. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Gospel Studies

- Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. 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.
- McKnight, Scot. *The King Jesus Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- 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.
- Doty, William G. *Letters in Primitive Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1973.
- Ellis, E. Earle. "Paul and His Co-Workers." *New Testament Studies* 17 (1970-71):437-52.
- 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.
- Roetzel, Calvin. *The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1975.