

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT (NTEN 5300-02)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division

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Internet Course, Spring Semester, 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 emphasis for this year at the seminary is “spiritual vitality,” with that being represented throughout the seminary.

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. The core value focus for the 2014-2015 academic year is Spiritual Vitality.

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.

OBJECTIVES:

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, by the end of the course the student should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the NT to the practice of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately.
2. Value the following concepts as needful in interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately: The authority of the NT in all matters of faith and practice for Christian living and church growth, and NT interpretive issues and major theological themes for Christian living.
3. Be able with the help of resources to interpret and communicate the NT accurately.
4. Develop practical skills in studying the NT through standard resources.

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 Bible (any fairly recognized translation or the GNT for NT portions)

John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, 3rd edition or 2nd revised edition

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition

Either Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the NT World*

Or Scot McKnight, *The 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. 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. 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.
3. A two page, single-spaced critique of the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* is due the Monday after the mid-semester break (fall break or spring break, depending on the semester for the specific section of this course that you're taking). 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 both 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 Unit 3). 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 on-line. 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. Note that the two sectional exams will not be available after the end of the week on which they are to be taken (look on Blackboard for the exact time). The final exam will only be available until May 13, 11:55 pm, so you must take and complete it by that time.

COURSE EVALUATION

Session Quizzes: 15%

Blackboard Discussion: 10%

Book review: 5%

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

Notebook: 25%

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will be able to understand thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes.
2. The student will be able to apply adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to contemporary church needs.
3. The student will be able to communicate clearly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to a contemporary audience.

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 SCHEDULE (D3 = DRANE 3RD ED., D = DRANE 2ND ED./REVISED; F = FERGUSON, 3D EDITION)

EACH UNIT REPRESENTS ONE WEEK'S WORK

Unit 1, Jan. 18: The NT World & Canon: History & Greco-Roman Culture F 5-47

Unit 2, Jan. 25: The New Testament World: Hellenistic Judaism and Palestinian Judaism
D 9-45; D3 10-45; F 48-147

Unit 3, Feb. 1: The Ministry of Jesus: The Synoptic Gospels, Mark, Matthew, and Luke
D 167-217; D3 161-207; F 300-316, 537-561

Unit 4, Feb. 8: The Ministry of Jesus: John, Overview of Jesus' Message & Teachings
D 46-74 & 111-150; D3 46-108

Unit 5, Feb. 15: The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Actions D 151-166; D3 109-123; F 562-582

Unit 6, Feb. 22: The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Death & Resurrection D 75-110; D3 124-160

Unit 7, Mar. 1: The Early Church: Acts D 237-291; D3 224-277

FIRST SECTIONAL EXAM

Unit 8, Mar. 8: Paul: Intro., 1-2 Thes., Galatians D 292-317; D3 278-302; F 592-620

Unit 9, Mar. 15: Paul: Romans and 1 Corinthians D 318-365; D3 303-348

CRITIQUE ON "THE LOST LETTERS OF PERGAMUM DUE MON. Mar. 30, 11 pm

Unit 10, Mar. 29: Paul: 2 Corinthians and the Prison Epistles D 366-392; D3 349-374

Unit 11, Apr. 5: Paul: The Pastoral Epistles D 393-408; D3 424-436

Unit 12, Apr. 12:	SECOND SECTIONAL EXAM The General Epistles: Hebrews	D 409-430; D3 375-391
Unit 13, Apr. 19:	The General Epistles: James and 1 Peter	D 431-445; D3 392-410
Unit 14, Apr. 26:	The General Epistles: 2 Peter, Jude, 1-3 John	D 446-457; D3 411-423
Unit 15, May. 3:	The Book of Revelation	D 458-465; D3 437-448; F 182-212

FINAL EXAM—MUST BE COMPLETED BY WED May 13, 11:55 pm
NOTEBOOKS ARE ALSO DUE BY THE TIME OF THE FINAL EXAM

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