

NTEN5300 EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
Internet Course, Spring 2016

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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. Mission Focus is the core value focus for the academic year 2015-16.

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 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.

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

Required

- The Bible (any fairly recognized translation or the GNT for NT portions)
- John Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*, Revised or 3rd edition (ISBN 978-0800697501)
- Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition (ISBN 978-0802822215)

Choice of one of the following for book review:

- Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World* (ISBN 978-0801026072)
- Scott McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel* (ISBN 978-0310492986)

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 (summary and critique):

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 Monday, March 7**. 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.

The format of the paper must be 2 full 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.

The content of the review should contain a **brief summary (no more than a half-page)** and a more thorough **critique**. In your critique, state the **purpose** or the guiding argument (thesis) of the book. What did the author set out to do? Why did the author write this particular book? Also, discuss how well the author achieved his purpose. Most of your critique should be a discussion of the **strengths and weaknesses** of the book. 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. Keep in mind, simply summarizing the book is not a critique and will not lead to the highest possible grade for this assignment.

4. Notebook:

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 Unit 3).

A suggested format for organizing your notebook is to have a separate section for each unit (15). Within each section will be:

1. Reading Report for the assigned reading
2. Worksheets for the NT book(s)
3. Notes from the reading and discussion board

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**. 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. The sectional exams will **not** be available after the date on which they are due. The final exam will only be available **until the evening of Wednesday of finals week (May 12)**, so you must take it by that time.

COURSE EVALUATION

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

FINAL EXAM EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION:

The final exam includes 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 AND RUBRIC:

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

(D = DRANE, D3 = DRANE 3RD ED; F = FERGUSON)

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 300-16, 537-61

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

SECTIONAL EXAM #1

Unit 7, Feb. 29: The Early Church: Acts

D 237-291; D3 224-277

Unit 8, Mar. 7: Paul: Intro., 1-2 Thess., Galatians

D 292-317; D3 278-302; F 592-620

Unit 9, Mar. 14: Paul: Romans and 1 Corinthians

D 318-365; D3 303-348

Unit 10, Mar. 21: Paul: 2 Corinthians and the Prison Epistles

D 366-392; D3 349-374

Unit 11, Mar. 28: Paul: The Pastoral Epistles

D 393-408; D3 424-436

CRITIQUE OF LOST LETTERS OR KING JESUS GOSPEL DUE BY WED MARCH 30

Unit 12, Apr. 4: General Epistles: Hebrews

D 409-430; D3 375-391

SECTIONAL EXAM #2

Unit 13, Apr. 11: General Epistles: James and 1 Peter

D 431-445; D3 392-410

Unit 14, Apr. 18: General Epistles: 2 Peter, Jude, 1-3 John

D 446-457; D3 411-423

Unit 15, Apr. 25: The Book of Revelation

D 458-465; D3 437-448; F 182-212

FINAL EXAM—MUST BE TAKEN BY WED MAY 12

CONTACTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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