



Exploring the New Testament NTEN5300

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies

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Dr. Matthew Solomon

Adjunct Professor
Managing Director Museum of the Bible and Archaeology
Senior Project Director CNTTS
Office: HSC 280
Phone: 504.816.8555
Email: msolomon35@gmail.com

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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Characteristic Excellence: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: 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 underlie 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

Student Learning Outcomes Statement: The following student learning outcomes are employed to demonstrate the student’s proficiency in each of these areas. The student must demonstrate accomplishment of each of the items described under the assessment area to pass this course. Assessments will be conducted at the end of this course.

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.

Embedded Assignment

Consult the last page of this syllabus for the embedded assignment. This embedded assignment will be completed by all students. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus with the embedded assignment.

Textbooks

- The Bible (any fairly recognized translation or the GNT for NT portions)
- Gary Burge, Lynn Cohick, & Gene Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity*
- Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd edition
- Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

Course Teaching Methodology

The primary method of instruction utilized to present the material of the course will be in a lecture format, although group work will be expected. The students will be responsible to read the New Testament and the material in the textbooks. The students will demonstrate their comprehension of the message of the New Testament and the contents of the lectures and required readings through scheduled quizzes, examinations, and in-class projects.

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 on the assigned readings.
3. Book Critique:
A two-page, single-spaced critique of the book *The King Jesus Gospel* is due the **February 27**.

Regarding format, the paper must be 750 words, single-spaced and typed in Times New Roman 12-point font with 1" margins.

Regarding 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 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 the author achieved his goal and why you think that he did or did not. Note that reading the preface of this 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. Exegetical Paper:
Instructions for the paper will be handed out after Spring Break.
5. Examinations:
Two 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. Per the Registrar's office, no early final exams will be given.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Session Quizzes	15%
Book Critique	10%
Exegetical Paper	25%
Major Exams	50% (25% each)

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Attendance

Class attendance for all sessions is expected. In a three-hour semester class, you are allowed to miss a total of nine classroom hours. Class periods missed because of late enrollment are counted as absences. Absence due to illness or emergency must be accompanied by documentation acceptable to the professor to be an excused absence with no penalty. Any student missing more than the allowed absences must petition the Registrar in order to continue in the class.

Etiquette

Please silence cell phones before class begins. Otherwise, you may disrupt the entire class. If you expect an extremely important call, wait for that call outside class. Also, please do not disrupt class by leaving to take a cell phone call. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a positive learning environment.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

BEC = Backgrounds of Early Christianity

TNTIA = The New Testament in Antiquity

WEEK	MATERIAL COVERED	ASSIGMENTS
Jan 23	Introduction to the Course Studying the New Testament & Historical Setting	TNTIA: 15-22
Jan 30	Text and Canon Jewish Backgrounds Greco-Roman History	TNTIA: 23-78, 441-458 BEC: 5-47, 396-426, & 513-582
Feb 6	What is a Gospel? The Life of Jesus & The Teachings of Jesus	TNTIA: 107-164
Feb 13	Gospels: Matthew Gospels: Mark	TNTIA: 165-194
Feb 20	Gospels: Luke Gospels: John	TNTIA: 195-228
Feb 27	Acts James	TNTIA: 220-248 TNTIA: 375-384 BOOK CRITIQUE
Mar 6	1-2 Peter & Jude, 1-3 John	TNTIA: 397-424 MID TERM EXAM
Mar 13	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 20	Roman Backgrounds: Paul Life and Teachings of Paul	TNTIA: 79-106 TNTIA: 249-266
Mar 27	Galatians 1 & 2 Thessalonians	TNTIA: 267-292
Apr 3	1 & 2 Corinthians	TNTIA: 293-320
Apr 10	Romans	TNTIA: 321-336
Apr 17	Ephesians and Colossians Philippians and Philemon	TNTIA: 337-362
Apr 24	Pastoral Letters Hebrews	TNTIA: 363-374 TNTIA: 385-396
May 1	Revelation	TNTIA: 425-440 BEC: 182-212
May 8	FINAL EXAM 9-11 AM	

Selected Bibliography

Textual Criticism

- Aland, Kurt and Barbara Aland. *The Text of the New Testament*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Greenlee, J. Harold. *Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*. 2nd edition. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1995.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2nd edition. New York: UBS, 1994.
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- Wegner, Paul D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Methods and Results*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Introduction

- deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Context, Methods and Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.
- Hagner, Donald A. *The New Testament: A Theological and Historical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.
- Johnson, Luke T. *The Writings of the New Testament*. 3rd edition. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010.
- Powell, Mark A. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.
- Witherington, Ben III. *Invitation to the New Testament: First Things*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Historical Background

A. Lexical Analysis

- Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, eds., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- Louw, Johannes P. and Eugene A. Nida. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains*, 2 vols. New York: UBS, 1988.
- Silva, Moisés, ed. *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology and Exegesis*, 5 vols. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

B. History and Religion

- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Biblical Background Commentary: New Testament*. 2nd edition. Downers Grove: IVP, 2013.
- Witherington, Ben, III. *New Testament History: A Narrative Account*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.

C. Introductions to Primary Source Material

- deSilva, David A. *Introducing the Apocrypha*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- Charlesworth, James H. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha and the New Testament*. 2nd edition. Valley Forge: Trinity Press Intl., 1998.
- Evans, Craig A. *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies: A Guide to the Background Literature*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2005.
- Helyer, Larry R. *Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.
- Holmes, Michael W. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.
- Jobes, Karen H. and Moisés Silva. *Invitation to the Septuagint*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015.
- Mason, Steve. *Josephus and the New Testament*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1992.
- VanderKam, James C. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

Theology

- Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Ladd, George E. *A Theology of the New Testament*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

Dictionary / Encyclopedia

- Evans, Craig A. and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.
- Freedman, David N., ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

- Green, Joel B., Jeannine K. Brown, and Nicholas Perrin, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2nd edition. Downers Grove: IVP, 2013.
- Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.
- Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.
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Criticism and Exegesis

- Blomberg, Craig L. and Jennifer F. Markley, *Handbook of New Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.
- Green, Joel B., ed. *Hearing the New Testament*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
- McKnight, Scot and Grant R. Osborne, eds. *The Face of New Testament Studies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Hermeneutics

- Beale, G. K. and D. A. Carson, eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.
- Bray, Gerald L. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
- Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. 2nd edition. Nashville: Nelson, 2004.
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- Walton, John H. and D. Brent Sandy. *The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2013.

Jesus and the Gospels

- Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
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Acts and Earliest Church History

- Bond, Helen K. and Larry W. Hurtado, eds. *Peter in Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015.
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Paul

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- Osborne, Grant R. *Matthew* (ZECNT). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.
- Evans, Craig A. *Matthew* (NCBC). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
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Moo, Douglas J. *2 Peter, Jude* (NIVAC). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

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COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT RUBRIC—EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT
Research Worksheet
NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament

Student: _____ **Site:** _____
Semester: _____ **Format:** _____

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:

1. A summative question will be answered thoroughly by the students as a take-home assignment that can be linked to 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. The question should follow this format (this is a sample only, but it can be used as is with the insertion of a passage reference, or can be changed slightly by the instructor, but no major changes should be made). For the following NT passage, explain the historical context of the passage, the exegetical teaching of the passage (historical teachings), and how these teachings can be applied and communicated to a contemporary audience.
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.					