

Exploring the New Testament
NTEN5300 Spring 2021

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Teaching Assistant:

MISSION STATEMENT

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

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:

By the end of this course the student 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
- know the characteristics of the various literary genres in the New Testament and some of the major implications of the genre differences for interpretation
- have an essential understanding of the New Testament milieu and its importance in interpretation
- have a basic familiarity with resources for on-going study of the New Testament

EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION:

The course 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 assignment. 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 pages)
2. The student should show adequate application of the research to a selected need of the Christian community. (1 page)
3. The student should communicate clearly how the research question answer might impact the faith & life of Christian believers, focusing on the contemporary audience. (1 page)

ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION AND RUBRIC:

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.					

0 = Inadequate, 1 = Basic, 2 = Competent, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

TEXTS:

- The New Testament (Any English translation or the Greek New Testament)
- D.A. Carson & Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2^d ed. Zondervan, 2005.
- Everett Ferguson. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3d ed. Eerdmans. 2003.
- Bruce Longenecker. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*. Baker Academic, 2002.
- Extra Credit: Gerd Theissen, *The Shadow of the Galilean* (Fortress, 2007) **OR** Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel* (Zondervan, 2016).

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- The material for each lesson will be introduced in a lecture format.
- Students will read material in the assigned textbooks
- Students will practice the skills and reinforce the content discussed in class through additional assignments and classroom exercises, which will include small and large group activities

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- The assigned readings must be completed. Readings form the core of this course, and so are considered essential for the successful completion of the course. A quiz may be given at any class session on the assigned readings for that day. In addition each sectional exam will contain an opportunity to indicate what percentage of reading was completed. **20%**
- A two page, single-spaced critique of the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, February 18. 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 in class on the day that the critique is due. **15%**

- First sectional exam, to be given as indicated in the class schedule. 20%
- Second sectional exam, given as indicated in the class schedule, includes the Embedded Assignment. 25%
- A comprehensive final exam, to be given as scheduled by the seminary. 20%
- **Extra Credit Reading:** The student may earn a maximum of three (3) points extra credit to be added to the final average by reading the book *The Shadow of the Galilean* or *The King Jesus Gospel* (your choice on which you read) and writing a two page, single spaced critique of the book. The critique must be turned into the professor by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 7. For every day that the critique is late, one point will be subtracted from the extra credit. Points also will be deducted for critiques that are poorly written (bad grammar, etc.). By turning in a critique the student affirms that he/she has read the entire book.

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.

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

		Topic	Reading Assignment F=Ferguson/CM=Carson
Week 1	1/18	Introduction to the class; the NT canon	CM: 726-43
		Thinking about the Study of the NT	CM: 23-76
Week 2	1/25	The world of Jesus: history	F: 396-430
		The world of Jesus: literature and sects	F: 431-536
Week 3	2/1	The world of Jesus: beliefs and institutions	F: 537-582

		The Synoptic Gospels	CM: 77-133
Week 4	2/8	The Gospels: Mark	Mark; CM: 169-97
		The Gospels: Matthew	Matthew; CM: 134-68
Week 5	2/15	The Gospels: Luke	Luke; CM: 198-224
		Sectional Exam #1	
Week 6	2/22	The emerging church: Acts	Acts; CM: 285-330; <i>The Lost Letters</i> critique due
Week 7	3/1	Paul's world: society and culture	F: 48-147
		Paul's world: conceptual background and religion	F: 165-318; CM: 354-90
Week 8	3/8	Paul's first journey: Galatians	Galatians; CM: 456-78
		Paul's second journey: 1&2 Thessalonians	1&2 Thessalonians; CM: 532-53
March 15-19 Spring Break			
Week 9	3/22	Paul's third journey: 1&2 Corinthians	1&2 Corinthians; CM: 415-55
		Paul's third journey: Romans	Romans; CM: 391-414
Week 10	3/29	Paul in prison: Philippians & Philemon (Paul reaches Rome—through the church at Philippi)	Philippians; Philemon; CM: 498-515; 588-95
		Paul in prison: Ephesians & Colossians	Ephesians; Colossians; CM: 479-97; 516-31
Week 11	4/5	Paul's later life: 1&2 Timothy, Titus	1&2 Timothy; Titus; CM: 554-87
		Sectional Exam #2	
Week 12	4/12	Hebrews	Hebrews; CM: 596-618
		James	James; CM: 619-35
Week 13	4/19	1 Peter	1Peter; CM: 636-53
		2 Peter, Jude	2 Peter, Jude; CM: 654-68; 688-96
Week 14	4/26	The Gospels: John	John; CM: 225-84
		1-3 John	1-3 John; CM: 669-87
Week 15	5/3	Revelation	Revelation; CM: 697-725
Week 16	5/10	Final Exam: 2:00-4:00 PM	

ADDITIONAL SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

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- Charles, R. H., trans. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*, Volume 2: Pseudepigrapha. London: Epworth, 1913.
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- 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: "General Articles, Matthew-Mark," pp. 15-18. Clifton J. Allen, gen. ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1969.
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