



THE SOCIAL SETTING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (NTEN5395)

Intensive: May 23-27, 2022

New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and Greek
Director of the H. Milton Haggard Center for NT Textual Studies

Office: Hardin 208, ext. 8190

Email: WWarren@nobts.edu

PhD Teaching Assistant: Matt Burks

Email: matthew.h.burks@gmail.com

NOBTS 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 involve the student in an extensive study of various social, political, religious, and economic backgrounds that can serve as aids for understanding the message of the New Testament. An introduction to the study of social settings is followed by an analysis of the various backgrounds based upon the historical documents from the NT period.

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

The student outcomes for this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the history and state of research related to NT social settings
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how understanding the NT social settings aids in the study of the NT
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply their understanding of NT social settings to sound interpretation of the text

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, discussions, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook discussions, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. David DeSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking NT Culture*
2. **Either** Randolph Richards & Brandon O'Brien, *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes*
Or Gary Burge, *A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion*

REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:

1. Students are expected to participate in the conversations and take notes on the lectures for all class sessions and lectures. 10%
2. Students are expected to read the textbooks and submit reviews for each one. Written reviews can be submitted either electronically or via a hard copy. The book reviews should each be 2-4 single-spaced pages and include the following: (15% per review = 30% total)
 - 1) Bibliographic Entry
 - 2) Statement of the Author's Purpose

3) Summary of the Contents (the bulk of the review): Each summary should be general in nature, covering the broad topics and a selection of 2 to 4 specific examples.

4) An Evaluation of the book, including consideration of the most suitable readership, the scope of the book (comprehensive or lacking in major areas), the viewpoints presented (multiple viewpoints or only one, etc.), and your overall evaluation of the book.

Due dates for the reviews are as follows:

1. Due the first day of the intensive course at the beginning of class: David DeSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking NT Culture*
2. Due by the end of the intensive week: **Either** Richards and O'Brien, *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* **or** Gary Burge, *A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion*
3. A take-home final exam will be given, with a due date of two weeks after the end of the intensive (by midnight on Saturday, June 11th). 30%
4. Each student will prepare an exegesis paper on a NT passage that incorporates insights from the social setting of the NT for unfolding the background and historical meaning of the passage. The paper should be between 12 to 20 pages, plus bibliography, double-spaced and written according to the NOBTS style requirements. Due date = 4 weeks after the end of the intensive (by midnight on Saturday, June 25). 30%

COURSE EVALUATION:

Book Reviews	30% (15% each)	Final Exam	30%
Research Paper	30%	Class Participation	10%

ABSENCES

Since this is a three-credit hour course, each student is allowed a limited number of absences from class, with beyond one 3-hour class period needing special approval by the professor. Missing more than 2 3-hour class periods is an automatic failure as per seminary policy. Absences may affect grades due to lack of class participation and missed content or assignments.

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 info is provided on this website.

WRITING STYLE GUIDE:

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf.

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 AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- MONDAY:**
- 1: Intro to the course
 - Defining Cultural Anthropology
 - A Brief History of the Field
 - Anthropology and Biblical Studies
 - 2: Ethnographies and Ethnologies
 - How to Realize an Ethnographic Study
 - The Major Components of a Culture
 - Methods for Analyzing a Culture
 - Concepts for Understanding a Culture
 3. Applying Anthropology to the NT Setting & Exegesis
 - Honor and Shame
 - Patron and Client
- TUESDAY:**
- 1: NT Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Kinship
 - 2: NT Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Politics/Organizations
- WEDNESDAY:**
- 1: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Economy
 - 2: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Cities, Villages, & Rural life
- THURSDAY:**
- 1: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Religion
 - 2: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Literacy
 3. Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Health, Medicine, & Evil Beings
- FRIDAY:**
1. Other Social Structures, Values, and Concepts, Open Discussion
 2. Submission of research proposal and discussion of paper topics

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- _____, *The Good Shepherd*, 2014
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- _____, *Implicit Meanings: Essays in Anthropology*, 1975

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