

Interpreting the NT 2: Acts through Revelation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division

NTEN5352, Spring 2023

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course and the related course NTEN5351, Interpreting the New Testament 1, is to introduce students to the literature of the New Testament. This course especially focuses on studying the content and theology of Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation, within the historical and cultural contexts surrounding them, the hermeneutical considerations for interpreting them, and certain questions addressed by contemporary scholarship related to them.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course successfully will:

- Understand thoroughly the history, background, hermeneutical considerations, text and canon history, and overall content and theology of Acts through Revelation.
- Be able to apply adequately the history, background, hermeneutical considerations, text and canon history, and overall context and theology of Acts through Revelation to a historically-based interpretation of the text.
- Be able to communicate the historical context, exegetical meaning, and theological implications of the text to a contemporary audience.

COURSE TEACHING METHODS

1. The primary method of instruction in the course will be by way of class lectures, media clips, discussions, and other resources that will be mentioned during the class.
2. Internet resources may be used or referenced, with Canvas normally being used as well for the class.
3. Written assignments and tests will be used to provide students with an opportunity to assimilate the course material, show understanding of the assigned readings/topics, and demonstrate competency in the subject matter.

TEXTBOOKS: The following textbooks are required for the course:

The Bible (any major translation)

Bandy, Alan, *An Illustrated Guide to the Apostle Paul*

Burge and Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity*, 2nd ed.

Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 4th ed.

Extra Credit Reading: Longenecker, Bruce. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016, or any book from the *A Week in the Life of...* series.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**Class Participation** (10% of Final Grade)

Students are expected to actively engage in class sessions. The class participation grade includes attendance and participation.

New Testament Reading (15% of Final Grade)

Students will read the New Testament from Acts through Revelation twice during this course. The first reading must be completed by spring break, and the second reading must be completed by the end of the course. Students will keep notes from their reading notes. Each entry in the notes will begin with the date and the passage read. The notes may include observations, questions, insights, similarities and differences between books, Old Testament references, etc. The notes do not have to be extensive but should demonstrate active engagement with the text. The Reading Notes are **due on March 21st and May 2nd**.

Assigned Reading (15% of Final Grade)

Students are required to read the assigned material **before** coming to class. The reading log at the end of the syllabus will be used to assess the reading. As needed, quizzes will be given. The reading log is **due on May 2nd**.

Sectional Exams (45% of Final Grade, 15% each)

Three sectional exams are required. Each exam has a particular focus, except hermeneutical principles are cumulative for the course. For example, exam 2 only will cover the Pauline Epistles, but hermeneutical principles from the first day of class may be tested also.

Exam 1 Acts and Introduction to Paul

Exam 2 Pauline Epistles

Exam 3 General Epistles and Revelation (during Final Exam time)

Exegesis and Application Paper (15% of final grade)

Using the method taught in the course, the student is to write a 10-page double-spaced paper (not counting bibliography) demonstrating their own exegesis and application of a particular passage from Acts through Revelation. About 80% of the paper should cover exegesis, and the remaining 20% should clearly communicate the theology of the passage and communicate specific ways in which the passage can be applied to a modern audience. Each student should choose one passage from the following list: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 1 John 5:13-21; Revelation 21:1-8. The paper is **due April 20th**.

1. Students should clearly demonstrate an understanding of a sound method for exegesis.
2. They are to demonstrate the use of appropriate tools, methods, and resources in the application of sound exegetical principles.
3. They are to communicate the meaning, theology, and application of the text, keeping in mind the contemporary audience.

Please Note: The student is responsible for scheduling make-up exams. No make-up exams will be given unless a valid excuse is provided. The student must contact the professor before the exam unless circumstances prohibit it. The professor reserves the right to include any material from the textbook or lecture on the make-up exam. All make-up exams must be scheduled within two weeks from the scheduled date.

Extra Credit Reading

The student may earn a maximum of three (3) points extra credit to be added to the final average by reading Longenecker's *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* or any book from the *A Week in the Life of...* series and writing a two-page, single spaced critique of the book. The critique must be turned into the professor by last class period. Points 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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

ASSIGNMENTS:**January 17, 19**

T Course Introduction

Th Hermeneutics Review

The Mediterranean World of the Apostle Paul

Burge/Green Chapter 4

January 24, 26

T Introduction to Acts

Th Interpreting Acts

Burge/Green, Chapter 12

Fee/Stuart, Chapter 6

January 31, February 2

T Life of Paul

Th Interpreting the Epistles

Burge/Green, Chapter 13

Bandy Chapters 1-5

February 7, 9T **Pontotoc Day**Th **Exam 1****February 14, 16**

T Introduction to Galatians

Th Introduction to 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Burge/Green, Chapter 14

Burge/Green, Chapter 15

February 21, 23T **Mardi Gras**

Th Interpretation Practice

February 28, March 2

T Introduction to the Corinthian Correspondence

Th Interpretation Practice

Burge/Green, Chapters 16-17

March 7, 9

T Introduction to Romans

Th Introduction to the Prison Epistles

Burge/Green, Chapter 18

Bandy Chapters 6-12

SPRING BREAK MARCH 13-17**March 21, 23**

T Introduction to Colossians and Ephesians

Reading NT Notes (Set 1) Due

Th Introduction to Philippians and Philemon

Burge/Green, Chapter 19

Burge/Green, Chapter 20

March 28, 30

T Interpretation Practice

Th Introduction to the Pastoral Epistles

Burge/Green, Chapter 21

April 4, 6T **Exam 2**

Th Introduction to Hebrews

Burge/Green, Chapter 22

April 11, 13T **Pontotoc Day (Trustee Meeting)**

Th Introduction to James

Burge/Green, Chapter 23

April 18, 20

T Introduction to 1, 2 Peter, and Jude

Burge/Green, Chapter 24

Th Interpretation Practice

Exegesis Paper Due**April 25, 27**

T Introduction to the Letters of John

Burge/Green, Chapter 25

Th Introduction to Revelation

Burge/Green, Chapter 26

May 2

T Interpreting Revelation

Fee/Stuart, Chapter 13

Reading NT Notes (Set 2) Due**EXAM 3: Tuesday, May 9 from 9:00-11:00 AM****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. Canvas.NOBTS.com – Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
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.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

www.Denverseminary.edu has an annually updated bibliography for both OT and NT located in their Library section of their website.

www.bestcommentaries.com is another great website for finding commentaries.

Barrett, C. K. ed. *The New Testament Background*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishers, 1987.

- Brown, R.E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Paulist Press, 1998.
- Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Burge, Gary M. *A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1992.
- Carson, D.A. *New Testament Commentary Survey*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Dauids, P.H. eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.
- Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *Readings from the First-Century World. Primary Sources for New Testament Studies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1993.
- Grant, Robert with David Tracy. *A Short History of Interpretation of the Bible*. Second edition revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.
- Hayes, John H. and Holladay, Carl R. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. Rev. ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987.
- Lea, Thomas D. and David Alan Black. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. 2d ed. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2003.
- Tate, W. Randolph. *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Theissen, Gerd. *The Shadow of the Galilean*. Philadelphia: Fortress, Press, 1987.
- Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature ... and Get More Out of It*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Virkler, Henry A. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Process of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.
- Walton, John H. and Craid S. Keener eds. *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible: Bringing to Life the Ancient World of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

Reading Log

Name: _____

Please put the date you completed the reading assignments.

Date	Topic	Readings	
		Reading	Date Read
1/19	The Mediterranean World of the Apostle Paul	Burge/Green – Chapter 4	
1/26	Acts	Burge/Green – Chapter 12 and Fee/Stuart – Chapter 6	
2/2	Life of Paul	Burge/Green – Chapter 13 and Bandy - Chapters 1-5	
2/16	Galatians 1 and 2 Thessalonians	Burge/Green – Chapter 14 Burge/Green – Chapter 15	
3/2	Corinthian Correspondence	Burge/Green – Chapters 16-17	
3/9	Romans	Burge/Green – Chapter 18 and Bandy – Chapters 6-12	
3/23	Prison Epistles	Burge/Green – Chapters 19-20	
3/30	Pastoral Epistles	Burge/Green – Chapter 21	
4/6	Hebrews	Burge/Green – Chapter 22	
4/13	James	Burge/Green – Chapter 23	
4/20	1, 2 Peter, and Jude	Burge/Green – Chapter 24	
4/27	Letters of John	Burge/Green – Chapter 25	
5/2	Revelation	Burge/Green – Chapter 26 Fee/Stuart – Chapter 13	