

BSNT8302 EXEGETICAL STUDIES IN JAMES
PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL SEMINAR
NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
January 28-30, 2020

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Mission Statement

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

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. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. The primary focus for the 2019-2020 academic year is the core value of Spiritual Vitality. The course will address this value by reminding the student that personal and corporate worship as well as instruction in God's Word are vital to ministers and their congregations. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition and Worship Leadership by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The core value for this academic year is Doctrinal Integrity.

Course Description

This seminar centers on preparing expository sermons and deriving homiletical values from selected portions of the New Testament. The work is aimed at providing a model upon which students can establish an effective life-discipline of study and sermon preparation. The exegetical part is normally taught by a New Testament professor and the expository section by a preaching professor. This course may be repeated as long as a different New Testament text is being studied.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will have:

1. Gained a mastery of the historical background of James
2. Completed an exegesis of a selected passage from the English text of James
3. Developed a broad understanding of the text through exegetical and homiletical commentaries on 1 Corinthians
4. Learned to appreciate the value of New Testament letters for preaching.
5. Developed sermons from James that will incorporate the results of exegesis as well as application and interpretation in light of the contemporary setting.

Course Teaching Methodology

The lectures by the professors will provide the basis for background and movement from subject to subject within the seminar. Assigned projects will be designed to sharpen the student's knowledge and skills in important areas of study in James. Dialogue and discussion during the seminar will enhance the learning experience. Small group interaction will also be employed.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Blomberg, Craig and Mariam J. Kamell. *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: James*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Mcknight, Scot. *The Letter of James. The New International Commentary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI. Eerdmans, 2011.

Nystrom, David P. *James: The NIV Application Commentary*, Terry Muck, gen. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Richardson, Kurt A. *James: The New American Commentary*, vol 36. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1997.

A Modern Bible translation of the student's choosing

Recommended: Logos Bible Software version 8

A free version of Logos Bible Software is available on Logos.com. Go to their site and query Logos 8 basic. We recommend that you go to Logos.com and view the first series of training videos on setting up your software and starting to use it. The textbooks are available for purchase at Logos.com. Dr. Price will teach the course using the projector and his Logos software so you can learn some basic functions for the use in your pastorate.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for this seminar are summarized here. Each assignment is described in detail further below.

Please Note: A drop box will be set up for you to upload your assignments and collect the other's papers. Also, after the drop & add period expires (Nov 15) I will assign the passages from James.

PRE-SEMINAR ASSIGNMENT #1: BACKGROUND PAPER FOR JAMES

Background studies are found in every critical commentary. Use these to read about the historical context for James as well as other sources like Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias, NT introductions and the like. You will want to include information on the purpose for the letter, its context, critical issues on the identity of the author, an overview of the letter itself, theological issues covered, and any other pertinent information you need to grasp the

background for the letter. Please produce a 10-12-page paper (text portion), double-spaced following the NOBTS Writing Guide in the Writing Center. This is now our official style guide in the seminary. Be sure to include your name, etc. on a cover page and a bibliography of sources you used. Come prepared to share your discoveries. **Due Jan. 27 by 5:00**

PRE-SEMINAR ASSIGNMENT #2: EXEGESIS OF YOUR PASSAGE

The second paper will be an exegesis study for an assigned passage in James. After the Drop/Add process closes on Nov 15, I will see how many we have in the class and then divide the passages up appropriately to spread the workload evenly. Please follow the ZECNT process for covering your passage. Please use 8-10 critical commentaries in this process. Critical commentaries are those that treat the Greek text and your textbooks all count in this category. Devotional commentaries are fine above the first 8 you will use. Take this time to build your library on James and experience as many commentaries as you can while you are learning this process. Use the NOBTS Style Guide (located on the Writing Center webpage) Turabian formatting for footnotes and reference commentary authors in your paper this manner. **Deadline: Jan 27 by 5:00.**

We will make each exegesis paper available to every member of the seminar in Blackboard on Monday, May 21. Please: 1) print off a copy of each exegesis paper; 2) read them by the first day of class; 3) bring them to the seminar in a 3 ring binder for discussion. Please turn in your work by the deadline so your classmates will have the benefit of your exegesis labor. At the end of the seminar you will have a complete notebook on James with background material, exegesis of the main passages, and sermon outlines for the entire letter.

During the Seminar Assignment #3: Download All Exegetical Papers

A benefit of collaborative learning is sharing in the wealth of information you receive together. Please download everyone's Exegesis Paper and compose either a hardcopy, 3 ring notebook consisting of the other seminar participant's exegesis papers. Or, you may create a digital folder of these papers on your computer. The professor will grade these on the **last day of class** so you can make corrections during the presentations. These presentations will serve as resources for your pulpit work in James later on after the seminar.

DURING THE SEMINAR ASSIGNMENT #4: Oral Presentation

Each seminar member will take the lead on exegeting his passage of James. Figure about 25-30 minutes for your presentation. Please include not only the exegesis of your passage, but how you would preach the passage. Please also include your Sermon Outline for your passage of Scripture and feel free to add multiple sermon outlines based upon your phrasing of your passage(s) in an Appendix of your paper. Appendices are not included in your page count, but you may go over the page numbers. **Due in class.**

POST-SEMINAR ASSIGNMENT #5: THEOLOGICAL ISSUES PAPER

Each student will compose a paper consisting of a minimum of 5 theological issues he discovered in his study of James. This paper will include: 1) the text for each theological

issue; 2) a sermon outline for each of these texts; 3) a statement of application and implication of this theological issue for preaching in the 21st century church. This paper will be 12-15 pages minimum of text, double-spaced using the NOBTS Style Guide. **Papers are due Feb 21 by 5:00.**

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FORMAT TO FOLLOW FOR EXEGESIS PAPERS

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This outline process follows the Zondervan Exegetical Commentary of the NT. Read Blomberg's explanation of how this works and then apply it to your passage.

Literary Context - You are looking for how your passage fits in the overall scheme. Read that which comes before and after your passage. Remember your hermeneutics course where you studied the various genre. We are in the genre of letter, so your passage will fit into this overall structure of the letter (e.g. Salutation, body, parenetical sections, etc.)

Helpful Hints for Understanding the Literary Context of NT Letters (Gordon Fee)

- Read the letter in one sitting
- Form a general outline of the entire letter
- THINK PARAGRAPHS!!
- A text can never mean what it never meant (Fee)

Main Idea - This is where you will express your CIT for your passage. As you know from your preaching courses, this element keeps your sermon focused and helps from chasing sidebar points in your preaching.

Graphical Layout - If you have the ability to translate the Greek text, this is awesome, but not required for those who have not studied Greek. We will discuss the Greek text as some points, but you can use your software tools for this work. I'll show you how to use some of these as well. I recommend Logos and you have a free version as a student of NOBTS. The Provost's office issues the links for this software.

Structure - We will look at how to phrase the passage. This technique will be a great new skill for you to learn and experiment with. We will say more on this, but Blomberg (and the entire ZECNT series phrases every verse for every book). Try your hand at this technique and you will be amazed at how it helps you exegete the passage AND it lays your preaching outline out for you!

Exegetical Outline of the Passage - This is where I want you to produce your preaching outline. We will be sharing each other's work, so consider how you would preach your section. We will also provide alternative outlines. You can use an Appendix for collecting these. One thing preacher's love is to share our outlines with each other. All I ask is that you let the TEXT determine your outline. Phrasing will help you here on this point.

Explanation of the Text - Here is the "meat" of your work (paper). This is where you will sift through the commentaries and decide what you think the passage means.

Theological Application - Great preaching is only an academic exercise unless we help people see "how" this applies in their (and our) lives. You will also do a theological reflection paper on the entire letter in your post-work. This will help you prepare for the theological application in your project down the line. Give this section ample attention and learn how to do this.

Special Considerations for "Principlizing" NT Letters

- Does the author state a principle?
- Does the broader context reveal a principle?
- Ask why a command or instruction was given.
- A text can never mean what it never could have meant to its author or his readers (Fee).

Make Application to Our Contemporary Setting:

Application is the desired response of the reader/hearer to the meaning of the text. Follow these general guidelines for applying the meaning of the text.

- Observe how the principles in the text address the original situation. How did the biblical author want his readers to respond? Is there a...
 - Command to obey?
 - Example to follow?
 - Promise to claim?
 - Warning to heed?
 - Teaching to act on?
 - Truth to believe?
 - Prayer to pray?
 - Blessing to claim?

- Discover a parallel situation in a contemporary context

Hermeneutical Hints for Discovering the Parallel Situation in Our Contemporary Context for Application of the Timeless Principles (Fee & Stuart)

- 1) Whenever we share "comparable particulars/contexts" with the first-century hearers, God's Word applied to us is the same as His Word applied to them.
- 2) Exercise caution when extending application of comparable particulars in one text to that of OTHER contexts...OR...to a context foreign to the original hearers
- 3) Whenever we DO NOT share "comparable particulars"...

If the first century issue has no 21st century counterpart...

- Search for the timeless principle in the passage which transcends time/culture

If the first century issues speaks to issues that could happen, but are highly unlikely to happen...

- Apply the principle to genuinely comparable situations

4) Distinguishing between matters of indifference

- a. What the epistles indicate that are indifferent are for us as well (e.g. food, drink, observance of days, etc)
- b. Matters of indifference are not inherently moral but cultural
- c. Observe the "sin-lists" in the NT for specific matters that do make a difference (Rom 1:29-30; 1 Cor 5:11; 6:9-10; 2 Tim 3:2-4)

5) How do we differentiate texts which are culturally relative and non-normative?
Ask...

- Does the issue defy the core teachings of the Bible? (e.g. greet one another with a holy kiss is a cultural gesture. On the other hand, homosexuality is denounced by the whole (core) Bible and is not culturally relative. It is sin.)
- Is it a moral issue or not? (e.g. foot washing versus stealing)
- Does the Bible handle the issue consistently and uniformly? (e.g. women's ministries, retention of wealth, elevation of Rome, etc)
- Does the NT distinguish between principle and practice? (e.g. covering a woman's head was required in NT, but not a required practice today)
- Did the NT not speak to issues due to their limited options to do so? (e.g. slavery is not denounced in NT because there were no other cultural options available)
- Some cultural differences are not immediately obvious (e.g. women in ministry was limited to some degree because education was limited to women)
- Seek charity toward others who see such texts differently (Fee)

This methodology was adapted from:

Grasping God's Word, by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart

Introduction to Biblical Interpretation, William W. Klein, Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr.

Grading Template:

Student: _____

Assignment #1: Background Paper

Use of required commentaries: _____

Required Page Number of Text: _____

Paper turned in on time: _____

Proper format: (see NOBTS Style Guide) _____

Style: _____

Turabian form _____

Grammatical errors _____

Proper format _____

Other _____

Comments:

Assignment #4: Post-Seminar theological Issues Paper

Number of theological issues discovered _____

Text for each theological issue included _____

Sermon Outline for each theological issue _____

Statement of application and implication _____

Page requirement met _____

Turned in on-time: _____

Comments:

Bibliography Helps

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.

Annotated Biblio from David Nystrom, NIV Application Commentary: James

James B. Adamson. *The Epistle of James*. NICNT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976. Adamson studied under both C. H. Dodd and C. F. D. Moule, and his commentary reflects the careful study expected of one with this pedigree. Adamson argues that the style, content, and structure of the letter reflect the teaching of Jesus as transmitted through James, his brother. The letter betrays not only the environment of Palestine,

but also “the home bond between James and Jesus.” This is a good commentary, but is beginning to feel dated.

Blomberg, Craig and Mariam J. Kamell. *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: James*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008. This is the first commentary in this series by Zondervan which follows a solid hermeneutical process for all of the letter. The commentary includes phrasing, exegesis, and application of the text.

Peter H. Davids. *The Epistle of James: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NICGT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. This is a stimulating commentary, bristling with insights, particularly concerning the Jewish backgrounds relative to the thought of James. Davids argues that the letter reflects the conditions of Palestine before the Jewish War of A.D. 66-70. It was composed of homilies and maxims that originated with James, the brother of Jesus. He is less certain than most that James is trying to combat a Pauline or misunderstood Pauline position. Davids sees the letter organized around three great themes introduced in the double opening: rich and poor; tongue and speech; trials and wealth. While there is much to commend this view, we must admit that much of what Davids claims relates to the tongue in 3:1-4:12 is of a far more varied nature. Nonetheless, this is a splendid commentary.

Peter H. Davids. *James*. *Good News Commentary*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1983. A shorter, more popular commentary than his 1982 publication. Given its limitations, it is a fine work; if only one of Davids' commentaries can be chosen, the other is preferable.

D. E. Hiebert. *The Epistle of James: Tests of a Living Faith*. Chicago: Moody, 1979. Hiebert's fine commentary is intended for the student who does not know Greek but who is nonetheless serious. Hiebert sees James's chief emphasis as the testing of faith. He argues that the letter was written by James, the brother of Jesus, about A.D. 46.

Sophie Laws. *The Epistle of James*. *Black's New Testament Commentaries*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1980. While hardly brief (273 pages), this spare commentary conveys an enormous amount of helpful information and observations with a minimum of extraneous material. Laws argues for a relatively late date and pseudonymous authorship. She believes the letter was written from Rome and is reacting to a misunderstood Pauline position on the matter of faith and deeds. Laws provides no outline for the letter, following Dibelius in seeing it as a collection of ill-fitting Lessons of material. She does argue for a theological basis upon which its rigorous ethical teaching rests, and sees a chief contrast between the doubleness of human beings and the singleness of God. In general this is an insightful and fair-minded resource.

Ralph P. Martin, *James*. WBC. Waco, Tex.: Word, 1988. This commentary from a distinguished scholar and former professor at Fuller Theological Seminary is richly knowledgeable and luxuriantly detailed. Martin is taken with the theory that James represents a tension involving the poor (with whom he has great sympathy) and the rich (whom he condemns); but James does not go far as to embrace the violent revolutionary plans of the Zealots. Martin has surveyed all of the relevant material

and offers the benefit of his shrewd and balanced judgment. This is a first-class commentary.

Mcknight, Scot. *The Letter of James*. The New International Commentary of the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI. Eerdmans, 2011. This detailed commentary on James sees the Jewish influence on the letter and emphasizes James's attention to Jewish literature that influenced the content of the letter.

C. L. Mitton. *The Epistle of James*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966. This dated commentary is nonetheless able to yield worthwhile observations. Mitton points out that James has been subjected to dismissive treatment and seeks to rehabilitate the letter. He does so by pointing out connections between the teaching of James and that of Jesus, Paul, and even John. He also believes that the letter was written by James, the brother of Jesus, and for the benefit of Jewish Christian visitors to Jerusalem. Like others who wish to be responsible for the evidence in James that supports an early composition as well as that which supports a late composition, Mitton argues for a two-stage development.

J. A. Motyer. *The Message of James: The Test of Faith*. The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1985. Motyer offers the intriguing observation that the control of the tongue is introduced in 1:26 and then expanded in 3:1-12, and the care of the needy is introduced in 1:27 and then expanded in 2:1-26, thus forming a chiastic structure. This is a serviceable commentary, but one that places too much emphasis on the role of biological metaphors in James.

Douglas J. Moo. *The Letter of James: An Introduction and Commentary*. TNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985. This is a brief but helpful commentary based on the NIV text. Moo teaches at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Nystrom, David. *James*. New International Version Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 1997. This commentary follows the recognized order of meaning to original audience, bridging the distance between the ancient text to today, with an application of the text for the reader.

Craig Price. *Biblical Exegesis of New Testament Greek: James*. A workbook designed to help students review their introductory Greek skills in an inductive approach. Students will also learn grammatical and exegetical concepts through an inductive approach in each lesson. Students will perform phrasing on the text and formulate outlines for sermons and teaching purposes.

Richardson, Kurt A. *James: The New American Commentary*, vol 36. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1997. The Southern Baptist collection of commentaries, this commentary is a standard evangelical work in the NAC series.

J. H. Ropes. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle of St. James*. ICC. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1916. This commentary remains a good resource for investigations of the Greek text of James. Commentary on the argument and thematic content of James, already sparse, is now out of date. Ropes argues for late pseudonymous authorship.

E. M. Sidebottom. *James, Jude, 2 Peter*. NCBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. This commentary by a well-known scholar takes the position that James was written in the context of the flood tide of Pauline Christianity. Sidebottom argues that James, the brother of Jesus, is responsible for the letter, and that it was written in the decade before the Jewish War of A.D. 66-70.

George M. Stulac. *James*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1993. This recent effort by the pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis is both fresh and helpful, although it is directed towards those who have not mastered Greek. The series is intended for use in the church by "pastors, Bible teachers, and small group leaders."

Preaching Resources

Akin, Daniel L., David L. Allen, and Ned L. Mathews, eds. *Text-Driven Preaching: God's Word at the Heart of Every Sermon*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2010.

Aldrich, Joseph C. *Gentle Persuasion: Creative Ways to Introduce Your Friends to Christ*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1988.

Armstrong, Richard Stroll. *The Pastor as Evangelist*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1984.

Barna Research. *Gen Z: The Culture, Beliefs, and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation*. Ventura, CA: Barna Group, 2018.

Bauer, Walter, and Frederick W. Danker, eds. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Bisagno, John. *Pastor's Handbook*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2011.

Bright, Bill. *Witnessing Without Fear*. San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, 1987.

Bryant, James W., and Mac Brunson. *The New Guidebook for Pastors*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2007.

Butterfield, Rosaria. *The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practically Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Coleman, Robert E. *Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1963.

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Evans, Tony. *Raising Kingdom Kids*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.

Farrar, Steve. *Anchoring the Family Chain*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998.

Fay, William. *Share Jesus Without Fear*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 1999.

Ford, Leighton. *The Christian Persuader*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1966.

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- . "My Top 5 Goals for Every Sermon I Preach." *Adam L. Hughes Blog*, n.d. Accessed February 8, 2019. <http://adamlhughes.com/3-goals-i-try-to-accomplish-in-every-sermon-conclusion/> and <http://adamlhughes.com/my-top-5-goals-for-every-sermon-i-preach/>.
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- Johnston, Thomas, ed. *Mobilizing a Great Commission Church for Harvest*. Eugene, OR: WIPF & Stock, 2011.
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Additional New Testament Background Resources

Primary Resources (in English)

Barrett, *The New Testament Background*
Charles, *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*
Danby, *The Mishnah*
Goodenough, *An Introduction to Philo Judaeus*
Hennecke and Schneemelcher, *The New Testament Apocrypha*
Lightfoot, *The Apostolic Fathers*
Robinson, *The Nag Hammadi Library in English*
Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*
Whiston, *Josephus: Complete Works*

Secondary Resources

Achtmeier, *Harper's Bible Dictionary*
Beitzel, *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*
Blaklock and Harrison, *The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archeology*
Bromily, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
Bruce, *New Testament History*
Butler, *Holman Bible Dictionary*
Charlesworth, *Jesus Within Judaism*
Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*
Freedman, *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
House, *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*
Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*
Kee, *The New Testament In Context: Sources and Documents*
Reicke, *The New Testament Era*
Russell, *Between the Testaments*
Wilken, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*

General Resources:

New Testament introductions, commentaries, dictionaries
Various *critical commentaries* could be helpful, especially *introductory material*. A commentator may summarize distinctive ideas of the author being studied in the introductory section. For helpful commentary information, consider suggestions from:
Carson, *New Testament Commentary Survey*; Fee and Stuart, Appendix, *How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth*, pp. 219-24; Klein, Blomberg, Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation, Commentaries*, pp. 487-91

Other Resources:

Aland, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels, English Edition*
Aune, *The New Testament in Its Literary Environment*
Bailey and Broek, *Literary Forms in the New Testament*

Bruce, Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free
Carson, Moo, and Morris, An Introduction to the New Testament
Green, McKnight, Marshall, Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels
Hawthorne, Martin, Reid, Dictionary of Paul and His Letters
Kümmel, Introduction to the New Testament
Ladd, A Theology of the New Testament
Polhill, Paul and His Letters
Ryken, Words of Life: A Literary Introduction to the New Testament
Stein, The Method and Message of Jesus' Teaching

Social Resources:

Hengel, Judaism and Hellenism: Studies in Their Encounter in Palestine during the Early Hellenistic Period
Keener, Bible Background Commentary
Malina, The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology
Mathews, Manners and Customs in the Bible
Meeks, The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul
Stambaugh and Balch, The New Testament in Its Social Environment
Thiessen, Sociology of Early Palestinian Christianity
Tidball, The Social Context of the New Testament: A Sociological Analysis