

# EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT

NTEN5300 (Hybrid) Spring 2012

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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## SEMINARY PURPOSE STATEMENT

The mission of the 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 FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.

The core value for this academic year is “Characteristic Excellence.”

## CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

NOBTS has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: 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 shaped it. The historical background, certain aspects of contemporary scholarship, and especially the themes and general teaching of New Testament books will be discussed.

## TEXTS:

The New Testament (any English translation).

D.A. Carson & Douglas Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Zondervan, 2005.

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Eerdmans, 2003

Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*, Baker Academic, 2002

## **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 emphasis 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.

## **COURSE TEACHING METHODS**

This course is specifically designed for the Hybrid format. Students will be given assignments according to the course schedule below. Students will be expected to complete these assignments and post these assignments in the appropriate section in the "Assignments" page in Blackboard. Students may take no more than two absences, but absences are not advised.

Students will take all quizzes and turn in all chapter discussion question assignments through Blackboard before the beginning of the class period indicated on the schedule. Each class period will consist of group discussions concerning the assigned reading chapters as well as an introduction and additional notes given by the instructor to the coming material.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### Class Participation:

Students are expected to participate in class discussions concerning the chapter contents and the chapter discussion questions. Students should be prepared for and involved in these discussions.

### Quizzes & Exams:

Students will complete regular quizzes concerning the chapter content as noted in the course schedule. Quizzes will be taken through the "Assignments" page in Blackboard. Students will also take a Mid-Term and Final Exam as indicated on the schedule. The Mid-Term and Final Exams will be distributed and taken in class.

### Chapter Discussion Question:

Students are to answer weekly discussion questions in written form as noted in the course schedule. The chapter discussion questions will be given in class and/or posted on Blackboard. Students are to type the question and then answer each question with a thoughtful and informed response. The answers should be one or two paragraphs in length and discussion oriented. One sentence answers are not sufficient. These assignments will be turned in through the "Assignments" page in Blackboard.

### Book Report:

A two page, single spaced critique of the book, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* is due before the beginning of class on March 5. By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book.

## CLASS GRADING

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Book Report	10%
Quizzes	25%
Chapter Discussion Questions	25%
Mid-Term	20%
Final Exam	20%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

( F=Ferguson, CM=Carson)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Textbook &amp; NT Reading</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
<b>Jan 23</b> <b>CLASS 1</b>	<b><i>Background to NT part 1.</i></b> CM 47-76 & chap. 26	Discussion Ques.1 : CM chap 26
Jan 30 Week 2 .	<b><i>Background to NT part 2.</i></b> F 399-430, 463-489, 493-497, 514-520, 532-545, 562-582	Quiz: Ferguson
<b>Feb 6</b> <b>CLASS 2</b> Week 3	<b><i>The Synoptic Gospels part 1.</i></b> CM chaps 2 & 4 NT text: Mark	Discussion Ques.2: CM chap 4
Feb 13 Week 4 .	<b><i>The Synoptic Gospels part 2.</i></b> CM chap 3 NT text: Matthew	Discussion Ques.3: CM chap 3 Quiz 2: CM chaps 2-4
<b>Feb 20</b> <b>CLASS 3</b> Week 5	<b><i>The Synoptic Gospels part 3.</i></b> CM chap 5 NT text: Luke	2 page critique of "Pergamum" ( due by March 5)
Feb 27 Week 6 .	<b><i>Peter &amp; the Early Church</i></b> CM chap 7 NT text: Acts chaps 1-12	Quiz 3: CM chaps 5 & 7
<b>Mar 5</b> <b>CLASS 4</b> Week 7 .	<b><i>Paul &amp; the Early Church part 1.</i></b> <b><i>Background &amp; Missionary Journey</i></b> F: 48-318, CM: chap 9 NT text: Acts chaps 13-14	Discussion Ques.4: CM chap 9
Mar 12 (week 8)	SPRING BREAK	(prepare for Mid-Term)
<b>Mar 19</b> <b>CLASS 5</b> Week 9 . .	<b><i>Paul &amp; the Early Church part 2.</i></b> <b><i>Missionary Journeys 2 &amp; 3</i></b> CM chaps 12 & 16 NT text: Galatians, 1 & 2 Thess. Acts 15:1-21:17	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b> (in class) Discussion Ques.5: CM chaps 12 & 16

Mar 26 Week 10 . . .	<b><i>Paul &amp; the Early Church part 3. Journey to Rome</i></b> CM chaps 10-11 NT text: Romans, 1 & 2 Cor. Acts 21; 18-26:32	Discussion Ques.6: CM chaps 10-11 Quiz 4: CM chaps 10-12
<b>Apr 2 CLASS 6</b> Week 11 . . .	<b><i>Paul &amp; the Early Church part 4. Paul in Prison</i></b> CM chaps 13-15, 17-18 Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians Philemon, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus Acts chaps 27-28	Discussion Ques.7: CM chaps 13-15
Apr 9 Week 12 . . .	<b><i>Hebrews &amp; General Epistles part 1.</i></b> CM chaps 19-20 NT text: Hebrews, James	Discussion Ques.8: CM chaps 19-20 Quiz 5: CM chaps 18-20
<b>Apr 16 CLASS 7</b> Week 13	<b><i>Hebrews &amp; General Epistles part 2.</i></b> CM: chaps 21-22, 24. NT text: 1 & 2 Peter, Jude	Discussion Ques.9: CM chaps 21-22
Apr 23 Week 14 . . .	<b><i>John's Writings part 1.</i></b> CM chaps 6, 23 NT text: John, 1,2 & 3 John	Discussion Ques.10: CM chap 6
<b>Apr 30 CLASS 8</b> Week 15	<b><i>John's Writings part 2.</i></b> CM chap 25 NT text: Revelation	(Prepare for Final Exam)
May 7	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (in class)	

## Selected Bibliography

### New Testament Background Study

#### *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*

Maier, *Josephus, The Essential Writings*

Robinson, *The Nag Hammadi Library in English*

Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*

Whiston, *Josephus: Complete Works*

## **Secondary Resources**

Achtemeier, *Harper's Bible Dictionary*

Beitzel, *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*

Blaiklock 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*

Lawrence, *The IVP Atlas of Bible History*

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*  
Goodwin, *A Harmony of the Life of St. Paul*  
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*  
Voss, *Bible Manners and Customs*