

**NTEN5300 EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
**Saturday Course**  
**New Orleans Campus; North Georgia Hub; Jacksonville Center; Orlando Hub**  
**Spring 2011**  
**Dr. Jimmy Dukes**

**CONTACTS**

You may reach me at the office by calling 504-282-4455. If I am not there, the office staff will give you a number to contact me. The easiest way to contact me is by email, which I check several times daily. My email address is [jdukes@nobts.edu](mailto:jdukes@nobts.edu).

**DATES AND TIMES FOR CLASSES**

Central Time

*Saturdays 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.; 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

Eastern Time

*Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.*

**On the following Saturdays**

*February 5, 2011*

*March 5, 2011*

*April 2, 2011*

*April 30, 2011*

**SEMINARY MISSION 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.

**COURSE PURPOSE**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of the New Testament. Through this opportunity, students will learn the message and practice implications of the text.

**CORE VALUE FOCUS**

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

**CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED**

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course seeks to increase the student's competency in "biblical exposition" through a careful study of the background and content of the New Testament.

## 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.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- A. The New Testament text in a modern translation.
- B. Thomas D. Lea and David Alan Black, *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*, 2ed. (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2003)
- C. C. K. Barrett, ed. *The New Testament Background Selected Documents: Writings from Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire That Illuminate Christian Origins*. Rev. and expanded edition. (San Francisco: Harper), 1995.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

### *Knowledge*

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know the basic historical, social, and cultural forces impacting the life and times of the New Testament world
- 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
- Know the current issues involved in the contemporary study of New Testament documents

### *Attitudes*

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the impact of the New Testament world on the New Testament documents and their interpretation
- Respect the complexity of applying ancient texts written thousands of years ago in modern contexts
- Appreciate the value of the moral, ethical, and practical teachings of the New Testament for guidance in daily living in family and society

### *Skills*

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- Contextualize New Testament texts within their ancient historical, cultural, social, and literary setting for the purpose of interpretation
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various modern translations of the New Testament
- Prepare the exegetical foundation for an intelligent, thoughtful, and relevant Bible study, devotional, or message based on a New Testament text
- Have a familiarity with resources for the study of the New Testament

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The assigned readings must be completed. Readings are an important part of this course, and so are considered essential for its successful completion. **A Test on the readings will be given at the beginning of each class session on the assigned readings for that week.**
2. A class notebook must be kept including items the student finds helpful for future study. Items like the following may be included.
  - A reading log for the assigned readings in the biblical text, Lea and Black, and Barrett including date, pages read, and any questions raised by the reading
  - Dated, personal notes from the student for each class session
  - Completed assignments on the applicable critical introductions of New Testament books (as assigned by the professor)
  - Assignments completed by other students and posted on Blackboard
    - Grades will be based on neatness, organization, and completeness of the notebook.
    - A copy of the unchecked portion of the notebook must be turned in at each class session. The final section should be emailed to the professor no later than one week after the last class session. Late penalties apply for late work.
3. *Assignments will be made for work on critical introductions to the New Testament books. These assignments are to be completed, posted on Blackboard for other students to access, and presented in class. Assignments will be made at the first meeting of the class.*

**The critical introduction must contain information on at least the following areas:**

- An introduction containing a general description of the book
  - Any special characteristics of the book (e.g. relationship between Luke and Acts)
  - Discussion on authorship, Date of writing, Place of writing, Destination, and Purpose
  - Brief discussion of **critical issues**
  - At least a 2-level outline of the book
  - Bibliography of at least ten commentaries on the book
4. A **comprehensive final exam** will be assigned on the third class day and will be due by email on **May 11, 2011**.
  5. **All students must enroll in Blackboard because it will be our source of course documents. Assignments will only be accepted in the Assignments section of Blackboard.**

## COURSE GRADING

- Assigned Readings and Reading Tests 30% of Semester Grade.
- **Notebook** Evaluation 25% of Semester Grade.
- Critical Introductions 30% of the Semester grade.
- **Final Exam 15% of the Semester grade.**

## CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	Lea and Black	Barrett	Biblical Text
Feb 5 8-11am C 9am-12pm E 12-3 pm C 1-4 pm E	Course Introduction; NT Canon; History; Synoptics	1-155 (To be read before the first class).	1-356, Noting especially pages 1-21; 51-57; 92- 118; 135-150; 177-215. (To be read before the first class).	Matthew, Mark, Luke (To be read before the first class).
Mar 5 8-11 am C 9am-12 pm E 12-3pm C 1-4pm E	Acts; Paul and His Letters; 1 & 2 Thessalonians; Galatians; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Romans Prison Epistles; Colossians, Philemon,	281-329; 333-429; 431-433; 449-462		Acts; Paul and his letters; 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 & 2 Corinthians; Romans Prison Epistles; Colossians, Philemon
Apr 2 8-11am C 9am-12pm E 12-3 pm C 1-4 pm E	Ephesians; Philippians; Pastoral Epistles: 1 & 2 Timothy; Titus; Hebrews; James	436-449; 463-524		Ephesians; Philippians; Pastoral Epistles: 1 & 2 Timothy; Titus; Hebrews; James
April 30 8-11am C 9am-12pm E 12-3 pm C 1-4 pm E	1 & 2 Peter; Jude; Johannine Letters; The Revelation; Gospel of John; Review	525-605; 156-169		1 & 2 Peter; Jude; Johannine Letters; The Revelation; Gospel of John; Review

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### General Sources

- Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1995.
- Charles, R. H., trans. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*, Volume 2: Pseudepigrapha. London: Epworth, 1913.
- Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, Volume 2: Apocalyptic Literature & Testaments. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1983.
- Danby, Herbert, trans. *The Mishnah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933.
- Hennecke, Edgar, and Wilhelm Schneemelcher, eds. *The New Testament Apocrypha*. English trans. ed. by R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1963.
- Kee, Howard Clark. *The New Testament In Context.- Sources and Documents*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984.
- Lightfoot, J. B. and J. R. Harmer, eds. and trans. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations of Their Writings*. 2d ed. Ed. and rev. by Michael W. Holmes. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Robinson, James M., gen. ed. *The Nag Hammadi Library in English*. New York: Harper & Row, 1977.
- Vermes, Geza, ed. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. New York: Penguin Books, 1975.
- Whiston, William, ed. and trans. *The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987.

### History and Background

- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3d ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.
- House, H. Wayne. *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus: An Investigation into Economic and Social Conditions During the New Testament Period*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.
- Malina, Bruce J. *The New Testament World: Insights From Cultural Anthropology*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1981.
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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.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove, 11: InterVarsity Press, 1988. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1960.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.

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### **New Testament Introductions**

Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Feine, Paul, J. Behm, and W. G. Kummel. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.

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Kummel, Werner Georg. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Trans. Howard Clark Kee (based on the 17th German edition). Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament.- Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.

### **Dictionaries**

Buttrick, George A., gen. ed. *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.

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Dodd, C. H. *The Apostolic Preaching and Its Developments*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.

Stein, Robert. *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.

### **Pauline Studies**

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Doty, William G. *Letters in Primitive Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1973.

Ellis, E. Earle. "Paul and His Co-Workers." *New Testament Studies* 17 (1970-71): 437-452.

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Munck, Johannes. *Paul and the Salvation of Mankind*. Trans. F. Clarke. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1959.

Roetzel, Calvin J. *The Letters of Paul.- Conversations in Context*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1975.