

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT (NTEN 5300)

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North Georgia Campus
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
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(Key this into your browser
without any http or www.)

NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of 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, 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. 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.

NOBTS also 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 teachings of the New Testament books will be discussed.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should 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 as well as have an essential understanding of the historical and cultural milieu of the NT period
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how a formal, historically-based study of the NT enhances Biblical interpretation
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize the information from the course as well as foundational resources in their on-going study of the New Testament resulting in the sound interpretation of the text

4. The student shall read the entire New Testament from a translation of his/her choice.

COURSE TEACHING METHODS

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, computer resources, and class discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. The Bible (any English version or the Greek New Testament)
2. D.A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 2nd edition, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading Quizzes: 20%

The assigned readings must be completed. Readings form the core of this course, and so are considered essential for the successful completion of this course. A quiz will be given at the beginning of each class. Some quizzes may be dropped from the final score. Students arriving after the quiz has started will not be able to take the quiz and will have a zero for that day's quiz. There will be no make-up quizzes. Absences or tardies will count as a zero or dropped quiz.

2. Social Context Paper: 20%

An 8-10 page double spaced, Turabian format, and Times Roman 12 paper will be written on a topic from the list at the end of the syllabus or a topic chosen by the student and approved by the professor. At least 10 sources will be used including no more than 3 internet sources and at least three journal articles. Journal articles downloaded from First Search on the internet do not count against the internet sources limit. The paper will be due on November 6. **Late penalty of one grade per day late.**

3. Sectional Exams: 20% X 2= 40%

Two sectional exams, to be given as indicated in the class schedule. The sectional exams will come from the material covered in the weekly quizzes. Questions will be similar to but not exactly the same as the weekly quizzes.

4. Final Exam: 20%

The final will be a take home project.

5. Bible Reading Plan

The entire Seminary family is embarking on a regular Bible reading schedule that will allow you to read through the entire Bible in the coming year. As part of the New Testament class, you will be expected to participate in the Seminary reading plan as well as reading through the New Testament. When I have done this in the past, I have always been fascinated with the New Testament and Old Testament parallels and connections that show up in the readings. I am looking forward to seeing how this reading schedule will enhance our study of the New Testament. A full copy of the reading plan is posted on my web site listed under **NOBTS Read Through the Bible - Fall Schedule**. Please download a copy and follow along with the rest of us.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Textbook Readings: Moo and Carson (Note also the Examination Schedules)</i>	<i>English Bible Readings (Reading Assignments Are Due on the Day Scheduled)</i>
Aug 17	Chapters 1 & 26	Introduction and Background
Aug 24	“ 2	Synoptic Gospels Overview
Aug 31	“ 3 & 4	Matthew & Mark
Sept 7	“ 5 & 6	Luke and John
Sept 14	“ 7 Exam One	Acts
Sept 21	“ 8 & 9	NT Letters and Paul
Sept 28	“ 10 & 11	Romans, 1-2 Corinthians
Oct 5	“ 12 & 13	Galatians & Ephesians
Oct 12	“ 14 & 15	Philippians & Colossians
Oct 19	Spring Break	
Oct 26	Chapters 16 & 17	1-2 Thess, 1-2 Tim, Titus
Nov 2	“ 18 & 19 Paper Due	Philemon & Hebrews
Nov 9	“ 20 & 21 & 22	James, 1-2 Peter
Nov 16	“ 23 & 24	Jude, 1, 2, 3, John
Nov 30	“ 25 Exam Two	Revelation
Dec 7	Take Home Project Final Exam	

POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS

1st Century Mediterranean Cultural Values and Their Impact on the New Testament
 Patron/Client Relationship
 Honor/Shame
 Slavery
 Family
 Healing in the New Testament
 Impact of House Architecture on The Early Church
 Emperor Worship
 Role of Women in The Roman Empire
 Letter Writing in the 1st Century
 Apocalyptic Literature
 1st Century Judaism
 Qumran Community
 1st Century Messianic Expectations
 Travel in the 1st Century
 Name Calling and Deviancy in the 1st Century
 Literary Analysis of a Gospel
 Canonical Process

ADDITIONAL SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary 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.
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- 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.
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History and Background

- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 2d 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.
- McRay, John. *Archeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.
- 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

- Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- _____. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1960.
- MacDonald, Lee. *The Formation of the Christian Biblical Canon*. Rev. ed. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1995.
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- _____. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. 3d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

New Testament Introductions

- Brown, Raymond. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3d rev. ed. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1970.
- 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.

Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Mills, Watson E., gen. ed. *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1990.

Gospel Studies

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels, English Edition*. New York: American Bible Society, 1982.

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

Malina, Bruce, and Richard Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*, 1992

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

Pauline Studies

Beker, J. Christiaan. *Paul's Apocalyptic Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.

Bruce, F. F. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1984.

Jewett, Robert. *A Chronology of Paul's Life*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.

Sander, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.