

NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM SEMINAR (NTGR9401)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
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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 “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.

The Ph.D. degree requires a research-intensive program that emphasizes specialization in the area of the degree major. This seminar is offered within the New Testament Ph.D. program as a specialized study of the textual background to the Greek New Testament.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar builds upon the M.Div. course on textual criticism to establish a grasp of the current state of research in the field of NT TC. Major attention is given to three aspects of the field of NT TC:

- (1) methodology and theory in the evaluation of the various types of witnesses to the text;
- (2) the evaluation of individual textual witnesses, including manuscripts, versions, and patristic sources;
- (3) the role of special features of paleography associated with the NT textual witnesses.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the state of research in the field of NT TC
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how the study of NT TC relates to the field of NT studies
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize and analyze the data associated with NT TC for both information and research purposes

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures and class discussion, student research papers, computer resources, readings and book reviews, and student presentations in class.

TEXTBOOKS:

As indicated in the schedule of class meetings, the required texts include those by Metzger, Ehrman and Holmes, Parker, Gamble, Haines-Eitzen, Ehrman, Hurtado, Elliott, Horton, and Epp and Fee. Other reading assignments are noted on the class schedule or will be given during the seminar meetings.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** All seminar members are to read the required texts and bring a brief review of the text to class on the day set for discussion of the book. The review should include the following items: bibliographic data, statement of the purpose and thesis of the book, and a list of questions/points of interest that can serve as a basis for discussion in class. (1-2 typed pages, single spaced)
- B.** Each student will analyze the paleographic details and collate a section of one manuscript as assigned by the professor. The collations are due on Oct. 29th. A practicum will be offered as an aid for this exercise following one of the seminar meetings in late September in the CNTTS.
- C.** Each student will research the themes designated for class discussion. Students should bring an annotated bibliography of primarily periodical sources on the theme to class in written form for class distribution. The bibliography should include 5-10 sources, only one English book per 5 entries (mostly journals, with at least 1 in a different language), and be submitted with copies for all seminar participants (plus a disk copy for the professor or an e-mail copy in addition to the hard copy).
- D.** Each seminar member will present a formal paper on an approved theme. The problem statement and outline for the study must be approved before work begins. All seminar papers are due to the professor by 8 am on Thursday, December 4th. After incorporating the feedback from the professor (a reply will be sent via e-mail later in the day on Thursday, December 4th, noting changes that must be made prior to the final copies being submitted), copies should be made for all seminar members, including one for the professor. These copies are due by 8 am on Monday, December 8th, via e-mail with a pdf format used. Papers that are not submitted on time for either of the deadlines (to the professor and to the seminar participant) will automatically be failed and will not be presented to the seminar.
- E.** Each seminar member will turn in a reaction/criticism of the papers on the date of the presentation of the paper. These may be either hand-written or typed, 1 (full page) to 3 pages in length, single-spaced. A copy will be given to the author of the paper and to the professor.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: (meetings are on Tuesdays from 12:30 until 3pm)

- Aug. 19 Introduction (Dr. Warren)
 Assignment: Review Metzger/Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament*; Metzger, *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible*; and Aland and Aland, *The Text of the New Testament* prior to class (no written review required for any of the books this week)
- Aug. 26 The State of Research and Collation Methodology:
 Ehrman and Holmes, *The Text of the NT in Contemporary Research*
- Sept. 2 Manuscripts, Their Production and Use:
 Gamble, *The Books and the Readers*
 Haines-Eitzen, *Guardians of Letters*

- Sept. 9 Versions
Metzger, *The Early Versions of the New Testament*
- Sept. 16 Church Fathers
Horton, *The Earliest Gospels*
- Sept. 23 Manuscript Details and Variant analysis:
Hurtado, *The Earliest Christian Artifacts*
- Sept. 30 PRACTICUM IN THE CNTTS ON ANALYZING THE PALEOGRAPHIC
FEATURES OF A MS AND COLLATING A MS
- Oct. 10 NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE TO A FRIDAY MEETING, FOR THIS WEEK ONLY
Manuscript Details and Variant analysis:
Elliott, *Essays and Studies in New Testament Textual Criticism*
- Oct. 14 Methodology
Epp and Fee, *Studies in the Theory and Method of NT TC*

COLLATIONS/MANUSCRIPT ANALYSES DUE OCTOBER 29TH

- Oct. 29 Text-types: Discussion
Read one of the following and present a written review of 2-4 pages plus a copy of the table of contents of the book:
(max = 2 students per volume, but with all chosen. Reviews can be team efforts.)
Westcott and Hort, *The New Testament in the Original Greek* (Introduction volume, available in reprint from Hendrickson, 1988)
Gregory, *Prolegomena*. Novum Testamentum Graece, ed. Constantin von Tischendorf, vol. 3, 8th ed.
Scrivener, *A Plain Introduction to the Criticism of the NT* (Vol. 1 or 2, your choice)
Colwell and Tune, *Studies in Methodology in Textual Criticism of the NT*
Zuntz, *The Text of the Epistles*
- Nov. 4 Specialized Studies:
Ehrman, *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture*
Parker, *The Living Text of the Gospels*
- Nov. 11 Discussion of TC Methods
- Nov. 18 ETS/SBL meetings, Philadelphia
- Nov. 23 NOBTS dinner in Philadelphia, SBL meeting
- Dec. 2 NO SEMINAR MEETING, WORK TIME FOR MAJOR PAPERS
- Dec. 9 Major Papers (MEETING TIME IS EXTENDED ON THIS DAY)
- Dec. 16 Major Papers (MEETING TIME IS EXTENDED ON THIS DAY)

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Manuscripts and Critical Editions

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