

**Ph.D. READING COLLOQUIUM NTRC9203:
SYNOPTIC GOSPELS, HISTORICAL JESUS, & TEXT AND CANON**
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department
Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and Greek
Fall 2008

Office: Hardin 260

Phone: ext. 8190/3735

E-Mail: Wwarren@nobts.edu

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” and “Christian Theological Heritage” competencies by helping students gain tools for interpreting the Bible accurately and for understanding the historical background of early Christianity and the text and canon of the NT.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Ph.D. reading colloquiums in New Testament consists of discussion periods covering various readings in the field of New Testament. This colloquium centers on readings in the areas of Synoptic studies, Historical Jesus studies, and Text and Canon studies. Besides one preliminary meeting at the beginning of the semester, the colloquium will meet once a month during the semester for discussion periods. The meetings will include the discussion of entire books as well as shorter selections from other related works read by all colloquium members and the presentation by colloquium members of works that they have individually reviewed.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should gain a general knowledge of the larger scope of NT studies in the areas covered by the readings as a way to augment the material covered in the NT seminars
2. Students should be able both to research and to outline the material covered in a manner suitable for presenting the material in a classroom in the future
3. Students will gain an appreciation for value of a solid understanding of the historical underpinnings of the NT

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

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

TEXTS:

The reading list for the colloquium is listed below. Colloquium members should note the meeting assignments with regard to which books will be covered at which stage of the semester.

Synoptic Studies

Hultgren, Arland. *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*. Eerdmans, 2000.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. InterVarsity, 1990.

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

Michie, Donald and David M. Rhoads. *Mark as Story*. Fortress, 1982.

Stein, Robert. *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Baker, 1987

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Baker Book House, 1991.

The following volume from the *Guides to Biblical Scholarship* series (Fortress):

Elliott, John H. *What Is Social-Scientific Criticism?*

New Testament Jesus Research

Dawes, Gregory W., Editor. *The Historical Jesus Quest: A Foundational Anthology*. Deo Publishing: Leiden, 1999.

Witherington, Ben. *The Jesus Quest: The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth*. 1995.

Wright, N. T. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Vol. 2, 1996.

Bultmann, Rudolf. *Jesus Christ and Mythology*. Prentiss Hall, 1997 (Fortress Press, 1984 = *Jesus Christ and Mythology and Other Basic Writings*)

Text and Canon

Ehrman, Bart, and Michael Holmes. Eds. *The Text of the NT in Contemporary Research*. 1995.

Aland, Kurt and Barbara Aland. *The Text of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Eerdmans, 1989.

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

Campenhansen, Hans von. *The Formation of the Christian Bible*. Fortress, 1972. (available in the NOBTS library)

III. REQUIREMENTS:

A. All colloquium members are to read the required texts as stipulated in the schedule of meetings below. For one book per meeting, a brief review of the text should be brought to class as per the class assignments below. Normally the review should include the following items: bibliographic data, a clear statement of the purpose and thesis of the book, a summary of the development of the book, and a reaction/criticism of the book. In addition, a listing of at least 3 reviews of the book in academic journals should be included. (4-5 typed pages, single spaced)

B. Colloquium members are expected to participate actively in the discussions of the readings. Failure to participate will greatly affect the final grade for the colloquium.

C. Due to the nature of the colloquium, no absences are allowed. If a student misses a session, a make-up session with the professor must be scheduled. Work is still due on the day of the assignment as per the schedule of meetings below even if the student is absent from the meeting. Two missed meetings will result in having to repeat the colloquium.

IV. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: (Friday's, 9-11 am)

Aug. 22 Introduction and assignments (Dr. Warren)

1. Discussion of the format and assignments.
2. Discussion of the two works on NT TC (no written reviews are required):
Ehrman & Holmes, eds. *The Text of the NT in Contemporary Research*. 1995.
Kurt and Barbara Aland. *The Text of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Eerdmans, 1989.

Sept. 12 Text and Canon Studies:

1. All members read the book by Metzger, *The Canon of the NT: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. A review is required (see above under course requirements for the format and content of the review). Students should be prepared to discuss the book plus give input from the reviews that they consulted on the work.
2. Review chapters 3-5 of von Campenhausen, *The Formation of the Christian Bible* (pages 62-209 in my edition). Be prepared to discuss the crisis of the OT in the Christian church as well as Campenhausen's thesis regarding the key factors that led to the development of the NT canon. Bring a clear statement of von Campenhausen's thesis and your response to it, noting both positive and negative aspects.

Oct. 3 Synoptic Studies:

1. All members read the book by Stein, *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. A review is required. Students should be prepared to discuss the entire work plus give input from the reviews that they consulted on the work.
2. Review the first two chapters (pp. 13-69 in my edition) of Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables*. Bring an outline (1 page only) of the historical development of parable research.
3. Review the method section of Michie and Rhoads, *Mark as Story*, and submit an outline of the narrative method that they employ, noting especially terms and topics that are covered.

Nov. 7 Synoptic Studies and Methodologies:

1. All members read the "Mark" section of Malina and Rohrbaugh, *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. A review is required, but should be limited in the summary section, resulting in only 3-4 pages total for the review. Students should be prepared to discuss the work with input from the reviews that they consulted on the work.
2. Review the first two chapters of McRay, *Archaeology and the New Testament* (pages 37-90). Bring a teaching outline for one of the two chapters and be ready to discuss both chapters. The teaching outline should be 2-3 pages only.

Dec. 5 Historical Jesus Studies:

1. All members read the book by Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Vol. 2, 1996. A review is required. Students should be prepared to discuss the entire work plus give input from the reviews that they consulted on the work.
2. Each student will be assigned one of the chapters in the work edited by Dawes, *The Historical Jesus Quest: A Foundational Anthology*. A one-page summary outline of the chapter is required, with copies made for other colloquium members.
3. All students review the work by Bultmann, *Jesus Christ and Mythology*. A one-page reaction to the book is required for submission to the professor.