

**NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM SEMINAR (NTGR9401)**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division**  
**Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and Greek**  
**Fall Semester, 2010**

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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 works by Metzger, Ehrman and Holmes, Parker, Gamble, Haines-Eitzen, Ehrman, Hurtado, Kannaday, Cosaert, Croy, Elliott, Horton, and Epp and Fee. Other reading assignments are noted on the class schedule or will be given during the seminar meetings. Some of the books that are out-of-print may be made available by the professor for seminar members.

## **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/or collate a section of a manuscript as assigned by the professor. These studies are due on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. 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 a briefly 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), at least 1 entry written in a different language, and be submitted with copies for all seminar participants (plus a copy for the professor, including an electronic copy for use in a bibliography database).
- D.** Each seminar member will present a formal paper on an approved theme. The problem statement for the study must be approved before work begins and are to be submitted as noted in the schedule below (Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>). All seminar papers are due on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, with copies made for all seminar members, including one for the professor. Papers that are not submitted on time will automatically be lowered on the possible grade and may not be presented to the seminar.
- E.** Each seminar member will turn in a brief reaction/criticism of the papers on the date of the presentation of the paper. These may be either hand-written or typed, 1 to 2 pages in length, single-spaced. A copy will be given to the author of the paper and to the professor. Also, each student will be the major critic for one of the papers, with a more thorough review to be presented on that paper in both written and oral form.

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: (meetings = Tuesdays 1:00 to 3:30 pm unless noted otherwise)**

- Aug. 24 Introduction (Dr. Warren). Assignment: Review Metzger, *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible* prior to class (*no written review required*)
- Aug. 31 The State of Research: Ehrman & Holmes, *The Text of the NT in Contemp. Research*
- Sept. 7 David Parker, *An Introduction to the NT Manuscripts and Their Texts*
- Sept. 14 Manuscripts, Their Production and Use:  
Gamble, *The Books and the Readers*  
Haines-Eitzen, *Guardians of Letters*
- Sept. 21 Versions & Church Fathers  
Metzger, *The Early Versions of the New Testament*
- Sept. 28 Manuscript Details & Variants 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:  
Wayne Kannady, *Apologetic Discourse and the Scribal Tradition*  
David Parker, *Codex Bezae: An Early Christian Manuscript and Its Text*  
Carl Cosaert, *The Text of the Gospels in Clement of Alexandria*  
Clayton Croy, *The Mutilation of Mark's Gospel*
- Oct. 1 (Special Friday class, 12 to 2:30 pm) Hurtado, *The Earliest Christian Artifacts*
- Oct. 12 Research Class: Paper abstracts with research question/s, thesis, and hypothesis/es & assigned collations/paleographic studies due at the next meeting
- Oct. 26 Methodology: Epp and Fee, *Studies in the Theory and Method of NT TC*
- Nov. 2 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:  
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*  
Horton, *The Earliest Gospels*
- Nov. 9 Specialized Studies:  
Ehrman, *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture*  
Parker, *The Living Text of the Gospels*
- Nov. 12 Time of meeting = 9-11 am, Discussion of TC Methods (read one of these two books)  
Elliott, *Essays and Studies in New Testament Textual Criticism*  
Westcott & Hort, *The NT in the Original Greek* (Intro vol, reprint = Hendrickson, 1988)
- Nov. 30 All Major Papers Due, Discussion of TC Methods
- Dec. 7 Major Papers Presented (MEETING TIME MAY BE EXTENDED ON THIS DAY)
- Dec. 14 Major Papers Presented (MEETING TIME MAY BE EXTENDED ON THIS DAY)

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