



NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM SEMINAR (NTGK9401)

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 special emphasis for this year at NOBTS is spiritual vitality, with all encouraged to focus on that value during the 2019-20 academic year.

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, & patristic sources;
- (3) The role of special features of paleography associated with the NT textual witnesses.

STUDENT OUTCOME OBJECTIVES:

The student outcome 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 & Holmes, Parker, Gamble, Ehrman, Knust & Wassermann, Cosaert, Wassermann & Gurry, Epp & Fee, and Blumell & Wayment. Other texts with options include those by Haines-Eitzen, Carriker, Houghton, Ehrman, Kannady, Westcott & Hort, Zuntz, Colwell and Tune, Horton, Chazelle, Nässelqvist, and Farnes. Some additional articles are mentioned on the class schedule (11/19).

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 transcribe a section of a manuscript as assigned by the professor. These studies are due on Oct. 27th (to be submitted to Megan in the CNTTS). A practicum will be offered as an aid for this exercise as part of the seminar meeting on September 22, with the practicum to be offered 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 4 to 5 sources, with only one book (so mostly journals) and at least 1 entry from an article or book in a different language. These should be submitted with electronic copies for all seminar participants placed in the course dropbox folder.
- 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 to the professor on or before Nov. 5th. Seminar papers are due on Monday morning, 8 am, the day before presenting the paper, with a copy also emailed directly to the professor and the one responsible for the primary critic of the paper. Papers that are not submitted on time will automatically be lowered on the possible grade and may not be presented to the seminar if the delay is too much to allow for reviews by others.
- 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 put into the appropriate dropbox folder and should be 1 to 2 pages in length, single-spaced. 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. The written copy should be emailed directly to the professor and the writer of the paper.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: (meetings = Tuesdays 8:30 to 11:00 am unless noted otherwise)

- Aug. 20 Introduction (Dr. Warren). Assignment: Read Metzger, *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible* prior to class (*no written review required*)
- Aug. 27 Manuscripts, Their Production and Use:
David Parker, *An Introduction to the NT Manuscripts and Their Texts*
- Sept. 3 Manuscripts, Their Production and Use:
Gamble, *The Books and the Readers*
Read one of the following and present a written review of 2-4 pages:
Haines-Eitzen, *Guardians of Letters*
Carriker, *The Library of Eusebius of Caesarea*
Houghton, editor, *Early Readers, Scholars and Editors of the New Testament*
Houghton, *The Latin New Testament*
- Sept. 10 Versions & Church Fathers
The State of Research: Ehrman & Holmes, *The Text of the NT in Contemporary Research* (2014 edition), 2-4 page review
- Sept. 17 Manuscript Studies
David Parker, *Codex Bezae: An Early Christian Manuscript and Its Text*
Carl Cosaert, *The Text of the Gospels in Clement of Alexandria*
- Sept. 24 Variant Studies
Knust & Wassermann, *To Cast the First Stone* (2-4 page review)
Read one of the following and present a reaction/critique of 1 ½ to 2 pages:
Ehrman, *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture*
Wayne Kannady, *Apologetic Discourse and the Scribal Tradition*
- Oct. 1 Historical Methodologies
Read one of the following and present a written review of 2-4 pages:
Westcott & Hort, *The NT in the Original Greek*, Intro, Hendrickson, 1988.
Colwell and Tune, *Studies in Methodology in Textual Criticism of the NT*
Zuntz, *The Text of the Epistles*
Horton, *The Earliest Gospels*
- Oct. 8 Contemporary Methodologies: (no reviews required)
Epp & Fee, *Studies in the Theory and Method of NT TC*
Wassermann & Gurry, *A New Approach to TC: An Intro to the CBGM*
- Oct. 22: Specialized Studies:
Read one of the following and present a review of 2-4 pages plus a copy of the TOC:
Celia Chazelle, *The Codex Amiatinus and Its "Sister" Bibles*
Dan Nässelqvist, *Public Reading in Early Christianity*
Alan Taylor Farnes, *Simply Come Copying*

- Oct. 29 Specialized Studies:
Parker, *The Living Text of the Gospels*
Lincoln Blumell & Thomas Wayment, *Christian Oxyrhynchus*
- Nov. 5 Due date for research questions, hypothesis, paper description, and methodology to be
emailed or given to the professor.
- Nov. 12 Week off for working on Major Papers
- Nov. 19 Discussion of Variants: Bring ½-1 page synopses of 3 current articles on NT variants
- Dec. 3 4 Major Papers (MEETING TIME WILL BE EXTENDED: 8 am to 11:00 am)
- Dec. 10 6 Major Papers (MEETING TIME WILL BE EXTENDED: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY
(not including the actual seminar books)

Manuscripts and Critical Editions

Aland, Barbara, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger, eds. *The Greek New Testament*, 4th rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, United Bible Societies, 1993.

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Champlin, Russell. *Family II in John*. Studies and Documents, ed. Jacob Geerlings, vol. 23. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1963.

Hatch, H. W. P. *The Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament at Mount Sinai: Facsimiles and Descriptions*. Paris: Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner, 1932.

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Books

Aland, Kurt. *Kurzgefasste Liste der Griechischen Handschriften des Neuen Testaments*, 2d ed. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1994.

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- Ehrman, Bart D., Gordon D. Fee, and Michael W. Holmes. *The Text of the Fourth Gospel in the Writings of Origen*. In *The New Testament in the Greek Fathers*, ed. Bruce M. Metzger, no. 3. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1992.
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