

NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPT STUDIES AND ANALYSES: NTGK9405

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division

Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and Greek

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Office: Hardin 260

Phone: ext. 8171

E-Mail: Wwarren@nobts.edu

Ph.D. Assistant: Steven Whatley

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.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This study will center on the student learning advanced aspects of Greek paleography by means of both reading textbooks and hands-on work with Greek New Testament manuscripts. The content of this course is oriented to guide the student to a high level of specialization in the area of reading and analyzing the text and associated paleographic features of various types of New Testament textual witnesses.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar builds upon a working knowledge of New Testament textual criticism and manuscript collation procedures. The emphasis in the seminar is on the study and analysis of the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament with special attention to paleographical features and analyses. Data is compiled by collating manuscripts or portions of manuscripts, then the results are analyzed utilizing a variety of methods such as the Claremont Profile method, the Quantitative Analysis method, and Group-Readings method. A prerequisite for entrance into the seminar is the course NTGK 6290, Introduction to NT TC, or its equivalent.

OBJECTIVES

- A. The student will become knowledgeable with respect to the current state of research for New Testament Textual Criticism
- B. The student will understand and be able to apply various methods for analyzing textual relationships

- C. The student will gain skills for developing the materials studied in the seminar into formats suitable for use in classroom teaching
- D. The student will gain skills in reading minuscule and majuscule hands and the related marginalia and other features of NT manuscripts
- E. The student will gain skills in research and writing
- F. The student will come to appreciate the history behind our New Testament text through the study of various NT Greek manuscripts

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.

TEXTS

Besides the manuscripts available in microfilm and hard-copy forms in the Center for New Testament Textual Studies, the readings for the seminar will include several standards in the field of New Testament Textual Criticism as well as specialized works on paleographical features of manuscripts and the methodologies used in the field. The following texts are to be read by all seminar members:

Edward Maunde Thompson, *An Introduction to Greek and Latin Palaeography*

D. C. Greetham, *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*

Bruce Metzger, *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Palaeography*

D. C. Parker, *Codex Bezae: An Early Christian Manuscript and Its Text*

Wayne C. Kannaday, *Apologetic Discourse and the Scribal Tradition*

E. C. Colwell and E. Tune, *Studies in Methodology in Textual Criticism of the NT*

F. Wisse, *The Profile Method for Classifying and Evaluating Manuscript Evidence*

Westcott and Hort, *Introduction to the New Testament in the Original Greek*

REQUIREMENTS

- A. Each student will read the required texts and bring a review of the text to class on the day set for the discussion of the book. The review should include the following items: bibliographic data, statement of the purpose and thesis of the book, a summary of the book, and a list of at least 5 discussion points that arose from reading the book.
- B. Each student will read an additional book and write a review of the book that will be presented to the seminar. The review should follow the format for reviews in either JETS or JBL.
- C. Each student will collate the manuscripts assigned by the professor, noting also the paleographical features of each manuscript. Various paleographical details of the manuscripts will be studied in detail that goes well beyond a simple collation of the manuscript, as per the guidance of the professor.
- D. Each student will participate in an exercise designed to aid in learning how to determine the date of a New Testament manuscript based upon paleographical features (handwriting styles, marginalia, etc.). This exercise will take place over a period of several weeks, with reports on the exercises reviewed at designated seminar meetings.

- E. Each student will present a formal paper on an approved theme. The problem statement and outline must be approved by the professor before work begins.

TIME FRAME

This study will begin on May 16, 2005 and conclude on August 1, 2006. Each week will incorporate twenty hours or more of work on the part of students. The meeting dates are as follows: (10 am to 4 pm each meeting) May 16, May 30, June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, and August 1. In addition to these meeting dates, students will meet with the professor at arranged times individually or in small groups for additional guidance.

EVALUATION

Textbook Readings and reviews	20%
Additional Book Review	5%
Collations	20%
Paleography work	15%
Research Paper	40%

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

MAY 16

Read and review the texts by Metzger and Greetham
Assignments on additional books for review
Select manuscripts for study and begin noting paleographic features

MAY 30

Read and review the text by Thompson
Begin on the exercises on dating NT mss.
Assemble data on the manuscripts and write initial descriptions of the manuscripts

JUNE 13

Read and discuss Kannaday book
Presentations of reviews on additional books
Continue collating the manuscripts and noting paleographic features

JUNE 27

Read and review the text by Parker
Work on the dating of mss racticum
Submit the collations of manuscripts
Work on the take-home exercise on dating NT mss.

JULY 11

Read and review the texts by Colwell & Tune and Wisse
Review various systems for classifying manuscripts: von Soden, INTF, etc.
Work on major papers

JULY 25

Paper submissions, presentation, and evaluation

AUGUST 1

Paper submissions, presentation, and evaluation

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