

NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPT STUDIES AND ANALYSES: NTGK9405

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 and Leavell College is to prepare students to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

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. Spiritual Vitality is the focus for this year at the seminary. 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, Group-Readings method, and the CBGM. A prerequisite for entrance into the seminar is the course NTGK6390, Introduction to NT TC, or its equivalent.

LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

- a. The student will acquire knowledge of the methodologies used in the field of NT TC & Paleography for the study and dating of NT Greek manuscripts.
- b. The student will realize and appreciate the value of studying the features of NT manuscripts.

- c. The student will develop the skills needed for analyzing and accurately dating NT Greek MSS

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.

TEXTS

Besides the manuscripts available in the VMR, on microfilms in the Center for New Testament Textual Studies, and online at other sites like the CSNTM, the readings for the seminar will include several standards in the field of New Testament manuscript studies 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*

David Parker, *Codex Bezae: An Early Christian Manuscript and Its Text*

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

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

Dirk Jongkind, *Scribal Habits of Codex Sinaiticus*

Andrew Smith, *A Study of the Gospels in Codex Alexandrinus: Codicology, Palaeography, and Scribal Hands*

Peter Gurry & Tommy Wasserman, *An Intro to the Coherence-Based Genealogical Method*

Brent Nongbri, *God's Library*

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

- a. Frederic G. Kenyon, *The Palaeography of Greek Papyri*, 1970.
- b. Roger S. Bagnall, *The Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*, 2009.
- c. Ruth Barbour, *Greek Literary Hands, A.D. 400–1600 (Palaeographical Handbooks)*, 1981.
- d. Nigel Wilson, "Greek Palaeography." Pages 101-114 in *The Oxford Handbook of Byzantine Studies*, 2008.
- e. Ralph W. Mathisen, "Palaeography and Codicology." Pages 140–68 in *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies*, 2008.
- f. Michael Philip Penn, "Using Computers to Identify Ancient Scribal Hands," *Studia patristica* 44 (2013), 261–65.
- g. James Royce, *Scribal Habits in Early Greek NT Papyri*, 2010.
- h. Bruce Metzger, *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Intro to Palaeography*, 1981
- i. Peter Gurry, *A Critical Investigation of the CBGM in NTTC*, 2017
- j. Rowan Watson, *Illuminated MSS and their Makers*, 2003
- k. PJM Marks, *The British Library Guide to Bookbinding: History & Techniques*, 1998
- l. Others with approval by the professor

ORIGINAL SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

- Plates accompanying *An Introduction to the New Testament Manuscripts and Their Texts* by D. C. Parker at <http://cal-itsee.bham.ac.uk/itseeweb/parker/introduction/>
 - Plates in *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Palaeography* by Bruce M. Metzger
 - Dated MS volumes in the NOBTS & CNTTS libraries and Dr. Warren's personal library
 - MS Images online: the VMR, British Library, French National Library, CSNTM, etc.
1. Textbooks, Chapters, Articles:
 - a. Frederic G. Kenyon, *The Palaeography of Greek Papyri*, 1970.
 - b. Roger S. Bagnall, *The Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*, 2009.
 - c. Ruth Barbour, *Greek Literary Hands, A.D. 400–1600 (Palaeographical Handbooks)*, 1981. *Reviewed in class sessions
 - d. Roberts, Colin H. *Greek Literary Hands, 350 B.C.-400 A.D.* Oxford Paleographical Handbooks. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1956. *58 repro. *Reviewed in class sessions
 - e. Canart, Paul. *Paleografia e codicologia greca. Una rassegna bibliografica.* Littera antiqua 7. Vatican City: Scuola vaticana di paleografia, 1991.
 - f. Cavallo, Guglielmo. *Ricerche sulla maiuscola biblica.* Florence: Le Monnier, 1967. * 115 reproductions. *Reviewed in class sessions
 - g. Hatch, William H. P. *The Principle Uncial Manuscripts of the New Testament.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1939. *Reviewed in class sessions
 - h. _____. *Facsimiles and Descriptions of Minuscule Manuscripts of the NT.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1951. * 100 reproductions. *Reviewed in class sessions
 - i. Nigel Wilson, "Greek Palaeography." Pages 101-114 in *The Oxford Handbook of Byzantine Studies*, 2008.
 - j. Ralph W. Mathisen, "Palaeography and Codicology." Pages 140–68 in *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies*, 2008.
 - k. Michael Philip Penn, "Using Computers to Identify Ancient Scribal Hands," *Studia patristica* 44 (2013), 261–65.
 - l. James Royce, *Scribal Habits in Early Greek NT Papyri*, 2010.
 - m. Nongbri, Brent. "Reconsidering the Place of Papyrus Bodmer XIV–XV (P75) in the Textual Criticism of the NT." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 135 (2016): 405–37.
 - n. Nongbri, Brent. "The Limits of Palaeographic Dating of Literary Papyri: Some Observations on the Date and Provenance of P.Bodmer II (P66)." *Museum Helveticum* 71 (2014): 1–35.
 - o. Nongbri, Brent. "The Use and Abuse of P52: Papyrological Pitfalls in the Dating of the Fourth Gospel." *Harvard Theological Review* 98 (2005): 23–48.
 - p. Nongbri, Brent. "Grenfell and Hunt on the Dates of Early Christian Codices: Setting the Record Straight," *Bulletin of the Amer. Society of Papyrologists* 48 (2011): 149–62.

ASSIGNMENTS

- a. Each student will write a review on each of the assigned textbooks (Bibliographic entry, info on the author/s, response to the book, and a list of reviews in journals)
- b. Each student will write a review on one other book from the additional readings list and present a summary and critique of it to the seminar (3-5 pages)

- c. Each student will prepare a minor paper on a topic related to the dating of NT Greek MSS in light of current research and developments in the area. Topic must be coordinated with the professor so as to avoid duplication of topics. (6-8 pages)
- d. Each student will research the paleographic features of a specific Greek NT MS and present the findings to the seminar in the form of a PPT presentation.
- e. Each student will prepare a major paper on the analysis of a MS, the best methods for dating ancient Greek manuscripts, or another paleographical topic for Greek MSS. The topic must be submitted to the professor by the June 26 seminar meeting.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: (7 MEETINGS, 5 HRS EACH)

MAY 29

- Read/review the text by Thompson (only the Intro & part on Greek Palaeography)
- Assignments on additional books for review
- Intro lecture by Dr. Warren on paleography
- A practicum on MS features

JUNE 5

- Read/review the text by Parker
- Begin on the exercises on dating NT MSS (examples supplied by the professor)
- A practicum on describing the features of Greek MSS

JUNE 12

- Read/review the text by Jongkind and the one by Gurry/Wasserman
- Two Presentations of reviews on additional books
- A practicum on dating Greek Papyri MSS

JUNE 26

- Read/review the text by Nongbri and the one by Smith
- Two Presentations of reviews on additional books
- A practicum on dating Greek Majuscule MSS

JULY 3

Review of paper proposals, research questions, thesis, hypothesis (indiv. mtgs.)

JULY 10

- Read/review the text by Colwell & Tune and the one by Wisse
- A Practicum on dating Greek Minuscule MSS
- Presentations of minor papers

JULY 24

Presentations of major papers

EVALUATION

Textbook Readings and reviews	20%
Additional Book Review	10%
Minor Paper	15%
Paleography Features Presentation	15%
Research Paper	40%

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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.

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