



**NTSR9304 PhD Supervised Reading Colloquium
New Testament Introduction and Pauline Studies
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Spring 2021**

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The four Ph.D. supervised reading colloquiums in New Testament are comprised of structured discussions based upon assigned bibliography covering New Testament areas of backgrounds, methodology, linguistics, semantics, Johannine studies, New Testament theology, Synoptics, Jesus research, text and canon, critical introduction, and Pauline studies. Colloquiums meet once a month, or four times in the semester. Reading lists for each colloquium are available from the New Testament secretary's office. Assignments for each meeting are derived from the reading list for that particular colloquium.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following are the student learning outcomes of this course:

- The student will be able to understand thoroughly New Testament methodology and its current trends, the genre and purpose of New Testament introduction, and Pauline studies.
- The student will be able to apply adequately New Testament methodology and its current trends, the genre and purpose of New Testament introduction, and Pauline studies.
- The student will be able to communicate clearly New Testament methodology and its current trends, the genre and purpose of New Testament introduction, and Pauline studies to a contemporary audience.

REQUIRED TEXTS

New Testament Backgrounds, Introduction, and Rhetorical Methodology:

- Neusner, Jacob. *Mishnah: A New Translation*. New Haven: Yale University, 1988
- Yonge, C. D. Translator. *The Works of Philo: Complete and Unabridged*. Wipf and Stock, 1993
- Logan, Alistair and A. Wedderburn, eds. *The New Testament and Gnosis*. T&T Clark, 2004
- Schneemelcher, Wilhelm, Editor. R. M. Wilson, Translator. *NT Apocrypha: Gospels and Related Writings*. Vol. 1. Rev Ed. John Knox Press, 1991

- Schneemelcher, Wilhelm, Editor. R. M. Wilson, Translator. *NT Apocrypha: Writings Relating to the Apostles, Apocalypses, and Related Subjects*. Vol. 2. Rev. Ed. John Knox Press, 1992 (or most recent ed.)
- Introduction to all OT books from the Anchor Bible Dictionary. Doubleday, 1990
- Keener, Craig S. *Acts: An Exegetical Commentary*. Vol. 1 (ONLY). Baker, 2012
- Black, C. Clifton and Duane F. Watson, eds., *Words Well Spoken: George Kennedy's Rhetoric of the New Testament*, Baylor University Press

Pauline Studies:

- Richards, E. Randolph. *Paul and First-Century Letter Writing: Secretaries, Composition and Collection* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004)
- Sanders, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism: A Comparison of Patterns of Religion* (Fortress, 1977)
- Beker, J. Christiaan. *Paul the Apostle: The Triumph of God in Life and Thought* (Fortress, 1980)
- Dunn, James D. G. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* (Eerdmans, 1998)
- Watson, Francis. *Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith* (London, New York: T&T Clark, 2004)
- Wright, N. T. *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013

Apocalyptic Studies:

- Murphy, Frederick J. *Apocalypticism in the Bible and its World: A Comprehensive Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012
- Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination*. 2nd ed. Eerdmans, 1998
- Reddish, Mitchell G, ed. *Apocalyptic Literature: A Reader*. Hendrickson, 2015
- Stevens, Gerald L. *Revelation: The Past and Future of John's Apocalypse*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2014

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Bibliography:** All colloquium members will read texts highlighted in bold on the syllabus assignments. For non-highlighted books, all colloquium members at least should be broadly familiar with the thesis, outline, content, development, and conclusions, as applicable.
- **Assignments:** The colloquium has two basic assignments. One is a set of book reviews. The other is an annotated bibliography. During the colloquium, book reviews are submitted. After the colloquium, an annotated bibliography is submitted. The following is a description of these two assignments.

1. **Book Reviews:**

Note that reading every book on the colloquium bibliography is not feasible in a semester. However, the colloquium still is charged with covering all the books in the bibliography for the purposes of preparation for program exams. The student needs a working knowledge of every book for either the qualifying or oral exam.

Classifying reviews into two types will make this coverage goal feasible. One type is general summary reviews. The other type in-depth reviews. The non-highlighted books in the schedule below are general summary reviews. Highlighted books are in-depth

reviews. *All students do all the in-depth reviews* (in bold in schedule). General summary reviews are assigned and the load is spread among colloquium members.

- a. *General Summary Reviews*: All non-highlighted books in the schedule below are general summary reviews. The intent is that every colloquium member contribute something during the semester toward covering these books, but no one student responsible for reading all of them. Typically, students with the most seminars under their belt help organize and supervise this process.
- b. *In-Depth Reviews*: All highlighted book reviews in the schedule below are in-depth reviews every student writes. Eight books are assigned during the semester as in-depth reviews.

As the schedule works out, half of the in-depth reviews occur in Session 3 on Paul. To cope with this concentration of in-depth reviews, the student should plan ahead. The suggestion is to do two in-depth Pauline reviews from Session 3 in addition to doing Sessions 1 and 2 (even though not turned in for those first two sessions). If the student can manage two extra Pauline reviews, one for each of the first two sessions, during the first half of the colloquium, the student will be ready for Session 3 without overload, averaging two in-depth reviews per colloquium session. This strategy would provide a steady production pace throughout the colloquium.

Written book reviews have two formats, one for general summary and one for in-depth. General summary reviews should be typed, 12 point, single-spaced, *no more than one, no less than one-half page*. In-depth book reviews should be typed, 12 point, single-spaced, *no more than two, no less than one and a half pages*. Copies of all reviews should be made available for all colloquium members.

Format of the general summary review is:

- *Header*: a header with bibliographic and author data
- *General summary*: review the basic outline and content

Format of the in-depth review is:

- *Header*: a header with bibliographic and author data
- *One-word summary*: one word/phrase encapsulating the essence of the book
- *One-sentence summary*: one sentence that unpacks this essential word
- *General summary*: review the basic outline and content
- *Journal summary*: two academic journal reviews (except for dictionary articles)
- *Evaluation*: a paragraph of solid critique and significance for Biblical Studies

2. **Annotated Bibliography**: The second assignment in the colloquium is to produce an annotated bibliography of all the books in the colloquium. This assignment is a collective effort of all colloquium members. Colloquium members will organize and work cooperatively and corporately to provide an annotated bibliography of all books on the reading list for the colloquium. Each annotation should include bibliographic and author data, followed by *one to two paragraphs* of no more than 300 words that synthesizes and integrates the book reviews submitted to the colloquium. The colloquium will be expected to organize itself for this assignment and to share responsibilities. The annotated bibliography is due *one week after the last colloquium meeting*. All colloquium members get a copy of this product.

- **Participation:** dialogue and discussion are the essence of the colloquium. Each colloquium member will be required to participate actively and regularly in all session discussions. Participation will be monitored closely. Should the degree of participation be unsatisfactory, the colloquium member will be notified after the session by e-mail and expected to increase participation in future meetings.
- **Absence:** the colloquium meets only four times. Thus, no absence is excused. A missed session will require a make-up session with the professor before the next scheduled meeting. *Any assigned work is still due the date of the assigned session.* Two missed sessions generate an automatic failing grade for the colloquium.

PROFESSOR WEBSITE

Dr. Stevens's personal website is: <http://www.drkoine.com>. This website is for students in classes taught by Stevens. The site has a dual purpose: (1) to provide personal information about Dr. Stevens for his students to get to know their professor in more dimensions than just a classroom, and (2) to support his seminary teaching. The personal pages include background, family, photography, and music. The professional pages include Dr. Stevens's published textbooks, the courses he teaches with related files for downloading, travelogues of educational travel videos, podcasts, and blogs.

COURSE SCHEDULE

NTSR9304—SUPERVISED READING COLLOQUIUM (SPRING 2021)

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION BACKGROUNDS Jan. 22	(1) Discussion of <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> , OT Intros (2) Discussion of Neusner, <i>Mishnah</i> (3) Discussion of Yonge, <i>Philo</i> (4) Discussion of Logan and Wedderburn, <i>Gnosis</i>
SESSION 2: NON-CANONICAL RHETORIC PAULINE Feb. 12	(1) Discussion of Schneemelcher, <i>Gospels, Apocalypses</i> (2) Discussion of Black and Watson, <i>Words Well Spoken</i> (3) Discussion of Dunn, <i>Theology of Paul</i> (4) Discussion of Richards, <i>Paul and First-Century Letter Writing</i>
SESSION 3: PAULINE March 12	(1) Discussion of Sanders, <i>Paul and Palestinian Judaism</i> (2) Discussion of Beker, <i>Paul the Apostle</i> (3) Discussion of Watson, <i>Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith</i> (4) Discussion of Wright, <i>Paul and the Faithfulness of God</i>
SESSION 4: APOCALYPTIC April 16	(1) Discussion of Collins, <i>The Apocalyptic Imagination</i> (2) Discussion of Reddish, <i>Apocalyptic Literature</i> (3) Discussion of Murphy, <i>Apocalypticism</i> (4) Discussion of Stevens, <i>Revelation</i>

Example Preparation—Session 1:

General Summary Reviews: 39 OT dictionary articles, two books

- OT Intros = 39 books, partitioned among colloquium members
- Neusner, *Mishnah*, partitioned among colloquium members
- Yonge, *Philo*, partitioned among colloquium members

In-Depth Reviews: two (one required; one advised)

- Required: **Logan/Wedderburn**, *Gnosis*, each student submit in-depth review
- Advised: one in-depth review from Sanders, Beker, Watson, or Wright (Session 3)

Example Organization—Session 1:

Obvious in the design of a class that meets only four times in a semester is that colloquium members will have to prepare before Session 1 to accomplish its goals. Students will need to come to the session ready to take off running in discussion of OT Intros and the three books by Neusner, Yonge, and Logan/Wedderburn. The professor will be in contact with students prior to the colloquium to facilitate this process and answer any questions.

SAMPLE REVIEWS

- **Book Review:** A sample book review is attached to this syllabus. The review is solid, but could have included a sentence about the author's confessional/teaching context.
- **Dictionary Review:** A sample dictionary article review is attached to this syllabus. Dictionary articles are a slightly different animal. For example, finding author information can be harder.