



## EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT: NTEN5300

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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 focuses on 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 “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. Characteristic Excellence is the core value focus for the academic year 2016-2017.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Master’s degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course especially addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by means of helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the literature of the New Testament by means of studying both the Biblical text and the historical and cultural factors that shaped it. The historical background, certain aspects of contemporary scholarship, and especially the themes and general teachings of the New Testament books will be discussed.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Students should know the basic content of the New Testament and be able to give a brief description of the major themes and emphases of the New Testament books as well as have an essential understanding of the historical and cultural milieu of the NT period.

2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how a formal, historically-based study of the NT enhances Biblical interpretation.
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize the information from the course as well as foundational resources in their on-going study of the New Testament resulting in the sound interpretation of the text.

## COURSE METHODS

The primary method of instruction utilized to present the material of the course will be in a lecture format. The students will be responsible to read the New Testament and the material in the textbooks. The students will demonstrate their comprehension of the message of the New Testament and the contents of the lectures and required readings through scheduled quizzes, examinations, and in-class projects.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- The Bible (any fairly recognized translation or the GNT for NT portions)
- Gary Burge, Lynn Cohick, & Gene Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity*
- Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
- Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation:  
Students are expected to read the assignments and the New Testament books as they are covered in order to be able to participate in class regularly.
2. Readings/Quizzes:  
The assigned readings must be completed **before each meeting**. Quizzes will be given each meeting on the assigned readings.
3. Book Critique:  
A two-page, single-spaced critique of the book *The King Jesus Gospel* is due the **Tuesday after Fall Break**.

In regard to format, the paper must be 750 words, single-spaced and typed in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1" margins.

In regard to content, the critique is exactly what it sounds like--a critique. To put it negatively, it is NOT a summary. In your critique, state the purpose or thesis of the book. What is the argument that is driving the book? Why did the author write this particular book? Also, discuss strengths and weaknesses. The discussion of strengths and weaknesses should comprise most of the critique. Finally, you should include a statement of whether or not the author achieved his goal and why you think that he did or did not. Note that reading the preface of this particular book should help you all with your critiques.

Keep in mind, simply summarizing the book is not a critique and will not lead to the highest possible grade for this assignment. We want you to interact with this book using the information you are learning from this course. You all will do fine should you stick to these guidelines found here.

4. Notebook:

A notebook must be kept including the following items: notes from the readings and class discussions and completed worksheets on each of the New Testament books. The format of the notebook can vary, but a suggested organization would be to use the outline of introductory notes and then a book-by-book (sometimes with some grouping of the books) overview of the NT books. The notebook is **due at the time of the final exam** and can be submitted either physically in person or in **Word or in PDF format** on-line. The late penalty for this and other work is **5 points per day**, so be sure to submit it by the deadline. Arrangements must be made as soon as possible with the professor to avoid this penalty if extenuating circumstances occur.

5. Examinations:

Three major exams will be given as indicated in the class schedule. Anyone taking the test after the date listed on the syllabus must get **prior approval** from the professor. According to the Registrar's office, no early final exams will be given.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Session Quizzes:	15%
Book Critique:	10%
Notebook:	15%
Minor Exam:	15% (7.5% each)
Major Exams:	45% (15% each)

## ATTENDANCE

Class attendance for all sessions is expected. In a three-hour semester class, you are allowed to miss a total of nine classroom hours, which is **less than six 80-minute class periods**. Class periods missed because of late enrollment are counted as absences. Absence due to illness or emergency must be accompanied by documentation acceptable to the professor to be an excused absence with no penalty. Any student missing more than the allowed absences must petition the Registrar in order to continue in the class.

## ETIQUETTE

Please silence cell phones before class begins. Otherwise, you may disrupt the entire class. If you expect an extremely important call, wait for that call outside class. Also, please do not disrupt class by leaving to take a cell phone call. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a positive learning environment.

## SCHEDULE

BEC = Backgrounds of Early Christianity

TNTIA = The New Testament in Antiquity

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Aug 23, 25	Introduction to the Course Text and Canon TNTIA: 441-458	Studying the New Testament & Historical Setting TNTIA: 15-52 BEC: 5-47
Aug 30, Sep 1	Jewish Backgrounds: Jesus TNTIA: 53-78 BEC: 396-426 & 513-582	<b>Minor Exam: Backgrounds</b> What is a Gospel? TNTIA: 107-123
Sep 6, 8	The Life of Jesus TNTIA: 125-146	The Teachings of Jesus TNTIA: 147-164
Sep 13, 15	Gospels: Matthew TNTIA: 165-178	Gospels: Mark TNTIA: 179-194
Sep 20, 22	Gospels: Luke TNTIA: 195-212	Gospels: John TNTIA: 213-228
Sep 27, 29	<b>Major Exam: Jesus and Gospels</b>	Acts TNTIA: 220-248
Oct 4, 6	James TNTIA: 375-384	1-2 Peter & Jude TNTIA: 397-410
Oct 11, 13	1-3 John TNTIA: 411-424	<b>Minor Exam: Acts &amp; Catholics</b>
Oct 18, 20	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	
Oct 25, 27	Roman Backgrounds: Paul TNTIA: 79-106 <b>Book Reviews Due</b>	Life and Teachings of Paul TNTIA: 249-266
Nov 1, 3	Romans TNTIA: 321-336	1 & 2 Corinthians TNTIA: 293-320
Nov 8, 10	Galatians TNTIA: 267-278	Ephesians and Colossians TNTIA: 337-248
Nov 15, 17	Philippians and Philemon TNTIA: 349-362	<b>Major Exam: Paul's Letters 1</b>
Nov 22, 24	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
Nov 29, Dec 1	1 & 2 Thessalonians TNTIA: 279-292	Hebrews TNTIA: 385-396
Dec 6, 8	Pastoral Letters TNTIA: 363-374	Revelation TNTIA: 425-440 BEC: 182-212
Dec 12-16	<b>Final Exam: Paul's Letters 2 and Revelation</b> <b>DEC 13, 9-11 AM</b>	

## Selected Bibliography

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