

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT (NTEN 5300-01)

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 “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The emphasis for this year at the seminary is “SERVANT LEADERSHIP,” with that being represented throughout the seminary.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters 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:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. The student will be able to understand thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes.
2. The student will be able to apply adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to contemporary church needs.
3. The student will be able to communicate clearly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to a contemporary audience.

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

1. The primary method of instruction in the course will be by way of class lectures, media clips, discussions, and other resources that will be mentioned during the class.
2. The readings will be evaluated by quizzes at the beginning of the class periods.
3. Written assignments and tests will also be used to provide students with an opportunity to assimilate the course material and demonstrate competency in the subject matter.

TEXTBOOKS: The following textbooks are required for the course:

The Bible (any major translation or the GNT for NT portions)

Burge, Cohick, and Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity*

Simon Jones, *The World of the Early Church: A Social History*

Either Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the NT World*

Or Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. The assigned readings must be completed. Readings form the core of this course, and so are considered essential for the successful completion of this course. A quiz may be given at any class session on the assigned readings for that day. 15%
2. An Embedded Assignment that will be in the form of a take-home research exercise. See below for more details. 15%
3. A two page, double-spaced critique of one of the two listed books (*The Lost Letters of Pergamum* or *The King Jesus Gospel*—your choice on which you read) is due Thurs., Apr 2 (after spring break). The critique should include the following: An affirmation of having read the entire book, a bibliographic entry, brief info on the author, a 2 paragraph summary, and a 2 paragraph critique/reaction. The contents of the books will be discussed on the date on which the critique is due. 10%
4. Two sectional exams, to be given as indicated in the class schedule. 20% x 2 = 40% total
5. A comprehensive final exam, to be given as scheduled by the seminary. 20%

EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION: The course includes an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is given here. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.

1. A summative question will be answered thoroughly by the students as a take-home assignment. The question (or research problem) will require research of the historical context, genre, theology, and/or interpretive concerns of a selected period, event, or passage. Answers should be well-developed and provide thorough documentation and appropriate use of tools and resources. Students should use Times 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced, approximately two pages in length. (2 pages)
2. The student should show adequate application of the research to a selected need of the Christian community. (1 page)
3. The student should communicate clearly how the answer of the research question might impact the faith and life of Christian believers with focus on the contemporary audience. (1 page)

ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION AND RUBRIC:

0 = Inadequate, 1 = Basic, 2 = Competent, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

DOMAIN	LEVEL	EVALUATION				
		0	1	2	3	4
UNDERSTANDING The Student:	Understood thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected themes of the New Testament					
APPLICATION The Student:	Applied adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to contemporary church needs					
COMMUNICATION The Student:	Communicated clearly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to a contemporary aud.					

COURSE EVALUATION

Session Quizzes: 15%

Book review: 10%

Major Exams: 60% (20% for each exam)

Embedded Assignment: 15%

COURSE SCHEDULE (B = Burge/Cohick/Green; J = Jones)

Week 1:	1.	Introduction to the course, The NT Canon	
Jan. 23,25	2.	The New Testament World: History The New Testament World: Greco-Roman Culture	B 15-52; J 9-11
Week 2	1.	The New Testament World: Hellenistic Judaism	B 53-78; J 12-33
J 30, Feb 1	2.	The New Testament World: Palestinian Judaism	B 79-106, J 34-53
Week 3	1.	The Ministry of Jesus: The Synoptic Gospels, Mark	B 107-124, 179-194
Feb. 6, 8	2.	The Ministry of Jesus: Matthew and Luke	B 165-178; 195-212
Week 4	1.	MARDI GRAS, NO CLASS	
Feb. 13, 15	2.	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Message and Teachings	B 147-164
Week 5	1.	The Ministry of Jesus: John, Overview of Content	B 213-228, 125-146
Feb. 20, 22	2.	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Actions	J 54-73
Week 6	1.	The Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' Death and Resurrection	J 74-98
F 27, Mar 1	2.	SECTIONAL EXAM	
Week 7	1.	The Early Church: Acts 1-7	B 229-248
Mar. 6, 8	2.	The Early Church: Acts 8-28	B 249-266
Week 8	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Galatians	B 279-292; J 99-118
Mar. 13, 15	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: 1-2 Thes.	B 267-278; J 119-125
Week 9	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: 1 Corinthians	B 293-310; J 126-142
Mar. 27, 29	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: 2 Corinthians	B 311-320
Week 10	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Romans	B 321-336; J 143-165
Apr 3, 5	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: The Prison Epistles	B 337-362

Critique on "The Lost Letters of Pergamum" or "The King Jesus Gospel" due Apr. 3

Week 11	1.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Prison & Pastoral Epistles	B 363-374
Apr. 10, 12	2.	Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: The Pastoral Epistles	J 166-189
Week 12	1.	The General Epistles: Hebrews	B 385-396
Apr. 17, 19	2.	SECTIONAL EXAM	
Week 13	1.	The General Epistles: James	B 375-384
Apr. 24, 26	2.	The General Epistles: 1 Peter	B 397-410
Week 14	1.	The General Epistles: 2 Peter, Jude	
May 1, 3	2.	The General Epistles: 1-3 John	B 411-424
Week 15	1.	The Book of Revelation	B 425-440
May. 8, 10	2.	The Book of Revelation	B 441-458
Week 16		FINAL EXAMS	
May 15-17			

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