



Exploring the New Testament NTEN5300 (Online)

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Biblical Studies Division

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*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.*

Purpose of Course

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.

Our Core Values

The seminary has five core values. The focal core value for 2018-2019 is Doctrinal Integrity: "Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the 'Articles of Religious Belief' and the 'Baptist Faith and Message 2000.'" In this course for the fall 2018, we will examine the NT background and contents and dialogue about critical issues so that we may become not only better interpreters of Scripture but also that we might become better communicators and apologists of the gospel. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the "Articles of Religious Belief" and the "Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following seven areas:

Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.

Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.

Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.

Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

Worship Leadership: To facilitate worship effectively.

The primary curriculum competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes Statement: The following student learning outcomes are employed to demonstrate the student's proficiency in each of these areas. The student must demonstrate accomplishment of each of the items described under the assessment area in order to pass this course. Assessments will be conducted throughout this course.

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.

The Embedded Assignment

1. A summative question will be answered thoroughly by the students as a take-home portion of the final exam. 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 New Roman 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced, and approximately two pages in length.

2. The student should show adequate application of the research to a selected need of the Christian community.

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.

Embedded Assignment (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.					

Required Textbooks

The Bible

(any major translation or the Greek NT for NT portions, but we highly recommend the newly released (2015) NIV Study Bible edited by our textbook authors D. A. Carson & Doug Moo)

D. A. Carson and Douglas Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Zondervan, 2005.

Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd ed. Eerdmans, 2003.

Bruce Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*. Baker Academic, 2003.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly Quiz

In each Unit, there is a quiz based upon the textbook readings for that given week. These quizzes are based upon the readings and power points from the Unit materials for the given week. They are to be completed each week by Saturday night. 20% of total grade.

2. Textbook and Bible Reading Reports:

Each week the student will report on the percentage of the reading he/she completed. This is the honor system reporting and will be calculated by 100%, 90%, 80%, etc. by the student and recorded in the weekly Unit. Due weekly by Saturday night of each week. 10% of total grade.

3. Book Critique:

A two page, single-spaced critique of the book *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* will be submitted. By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book. **Due Feb. 23rd**. 10% of total grade.

Follow these steps:

- a. Read the entire book, making notes along the way.
- b. Title your Book Review and state your name.
- c. State the book's bibliographic reference in correct Turabian form.
- d. Write a paragraph on the author and his background.
- e. State the thesis/purpose of the book: "The thesis of this book is..."
- f. Write a "brief" overview summary of the book (no more than half of the review).
- g. Give your opinion of the strengths and weaknesses of the book
(at least equal length of summary section).
- h. Summarize and conclude your review.

4. Two Major Exams

Two major exams will be given as indicated in the class schedule. Anyone taking the test after the last day listed on the syllabus may incur a late penalty of 5% per day late. 50% of total grade.

5. Embedded Assignment

An embedded assignment is required for this course. This assignment will be submitted **by May 11th**. Here are the parameters of the question:

Write a two-page essay (single spaced), 12-point font with 1-inch margins on the following question. Upload your answer into the Upload Assignment area in Blackboard before the termination of the semester (see catalog for semester closing dates). This question is an open-book, take-home project and is worth 10% of your final grade for this course.

The Question:

Select from a NT genre of your choice (Gospels, Letters, Acts, or Revelation) one book. Using your textbooks and any other sources of your choosing, write an essay answering *each* of the following questions. Do not plagiarize and document your sources in Turabian format.

1. What is the *background* for this book: authorship issues, date issues, where written, written to whom, and include how and when this book was entered into the Canon of the NT and other critical issues discussed by the authors of our textbooks.
2. State major themes and/or contributions of this book and these relate to *contemporary* church needs.
3. State *briefly* how you intend to apply this knowledge in your ministry context.

COURSE EVALUATION

Weekly Reading and Power Point Quizzes:	20%
Reading Reports for Each Unit:	10%
Book Review:	10%
Mid-term and Final Exams: (25% per exam)	50%
Embedded Assignment: Take home assignment to be uploaded by the student	10%

Quizzes and major examinations are timed, *open book/notes* and are taken online through the Blackboard course shell. Should you encounter an internet interruption or other technological difficulty, don't panic. Contact your Instructor and (s)he will assist you. We will work with you and re-set the exam or quiz.

We recommend that you keep up with all your work throughout each week in the semester. A wise strategy for test taking is to use the review study guides and prepare the questions ahead of time. A good recommendation would be to start no later than a week to prepare the study questions. Wise students will begin ten days to two weeks in advance.

Part of ministry preparation is learning how to prepare for deadlines. There is a Time Management Strategy below in this syllabus. Consider this or some similar strategy for managing your valuable time this semester. You will be working with deadlines for all of your ministerial career. Meeting your deadlines is a huge part of your professional and ministerial preparedness. Take your deadlines seriously, and you will be more highly respected in your places of service.

Course Policies

Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date in the syllabus. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by 5% per day late.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time during business hours. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in

the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/student-services/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, Selfserve, or other technical support, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here are other helpful links to ITC assistance.

- Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
- ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
- For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#)

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web,

digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Catalog & Policies

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog*](#).

Web-based Course Reminder/Warning

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating Seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Course Schedule

Each Unit begins on a Sunday and ends on the Saturday of that given week (except for the first and last weeks of the term). The due dates for assignments will be the ***Saturday night at midnight for each scheduled Unit***. For example, Unit 1 will begin on the opening day of the course as stated in the NOBTS *Academic Catalog* (see above under *Academic Catalog Policies*). Due dates will be Saturday night at midnight. Final exams are due by midnight on the day internet courses close, as listed in the *Academic Catalog*. The Information Technology Center will close all Blackboard shells at midnight Central Time on this date. Students will no longer have access to the Bb shell after this time. Such dates will be listed in the NOBTS catalog. Here are the calendar dates for the Blackboard course Units.

Unit 1 = 1/21-1/26	Spring Break – 3/17-3/23
Unit 2 = 1/27-2/2	Unit 9 = 3/24-3/30
Unit 3 = 2/3-2/9	Unit 10 = 3/31-4/6
Unit 4 = 2/10-2/16	Unit 11 = 4/7-4/13
Unit 5 = 2/17-2/23	Unit 12 = 4/14-4/20
Unit 6 = 2/24-3/2	Unit 13 = 4/21-4/27
Unit 7 = 3/3-3/9	Units 14–15 = 4/28-5/4
Unit 8 = 3/10-3/16	Unit 16 = 5/5-5/11
Midterm Exam (3/16)	Final Exam (5/10-11)

EACH UNIT REPRESENTS ONE WEEK'S WORK.

Online and Study Units	Beginning Date	Textbook Reading Reports & Bible Reading Report & Worksheets are due at the end of the week they are assigned.
Unit 1	Week of: 1/21-1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 1-2 Thinking About the NT & Intro to the Synoptic Gospels; Carson/Moo • Ferguson Read pages 5-147
Unit 2	Week of: 1/27-2/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 3-4 Matthew and Mark -Carson/Moo • Ferguson pages 300-316, 537-561 • Read the Gospels of Matthew & Mark
Unit 3	Week of: 2/3-2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 5-6 Luke and John -Carson/Moo • Read the Gospels of Luke & John
Unit 4	Week of: 2/10-2/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 7 Acts Carson/Moo • Bible Reading Reports Acts
Unit 5	Week of: 2/17-2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8-9 Intro to NT Letters & Paul: Apostle & Theologian -Carson/Moo • Ferguson pages 562-582 • Book Review on the <i>Lost Letters of Pergamum</i>: Due by midnight of Saturday this week
Unit 6	Week of: 2/24-3/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 Romans -Carson/Moo • Bible Reading Report on Romans
Unit 7	Week of: 3/3-3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 1-2 Corinthians -Carson/Moo • Bible Reading 1-2 Corinthians
Unit 8	Week of: 3/10-3/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 12, 13, 14 Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians - Carson/Moo • Bible Reading Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians • Ferguson 592-620 • Mid-Term Exam
Spring Break	Week of: 3/17-3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy your Fall Break!
Unit 9	Week of: 3/24-3/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 15-16 Colossians and 1-2 Thessalonians - Carson/Moo • Bible Reading Colossians and 1-2 Thessalonians

Unit 10	Week of: 3/31-4/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 17-18 Pastoral Epistles and Philemon – Carson/Moo • Bible Reading 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Unit 11	Week of: 4/7-4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 19-20 Hebrews and James - Carson/Moo • Bible Reading Hebrews and James
Unit 12 and 13	Week of: 4/14-4/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 21-22 1-2 Peter - Carson/Moo • Chapters 23-24 1-3 John and Jude - Carson/Moo • Bible Reading 1-2 Peter • Bible Reading 1-3 John and Jude
Thanksgiving	Week of: 4/21-4/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch up and enjoy Thanksgiving
Units 14–15	Week of: 4/28-5/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 25 Revelation -Carson and Moo • Chapter 26 Canon –Carson/Moo • Ferguson pages 182-212 • Bible Reading Revelation
Unit 16	Week of: 5/5-5/11	FINAL EXAM: The Exam will be open 5/10-5/11

How Can I Learn Time Management?

1. Use a personal calendar

As simple as this may sound, many ministers have not mastered the use of their calendar. Use a paper calendar or electronic calendar of your choice on your phone or computer--but use it! Here is one method for learning how to use your calendar:

a. Mark your Project Due Date:

Take your syllabus, right now, and mark EVERY assignment due date. Simply transfer this step to your professional project due dates as well. Do this immediately when you receive a due date of *any kind*.

b. Calculate your Project Start Date:

Give consideration to how long you think the assignment/project will *realistically* take to complete and ‘back up’ on your calendar that amount of time.

c. Add about 10-15% more time to allow for foreseen events that *always* come up:

In ministry, unforeseen events *always* occur. Learn to build in a *time cushion* that will absorb these events and keep your project on track.

d. Mark the adjusted, calculation for the *Project Start Date* on your calendar.

e. Discipline yourself to start the project on your calculated date.

This is the most critical and difficult part of time management. Discipline yourself to start on the timetable you set for yourself.

f. Adjust as needed

2. Use a “To Do List”

This is crucial for time management. Once you have your Project Start Dates on the calendar, your To Do List helps you visualize what you need to accomplish this particular day during your busy schedule. This is

3. Look at your calendar first thing as you start your day.

No exceptions! You MUST learn to view your calendar daily. You may miss deadlines and responsibilities if you fail simply to look at your calendar.

4. Prioritize your “To Do List”

Ask God during your morning prayers to help you prioritize and accomplish your tasks to His glory!

5. Work down your prioritized list

After step 4, discipline yourself to do each item! Check them off as a small reward for accomplishing each task.

6. Carry over unfinished items to the next day’s “To Do List”

Some days you just cannot get it all done and sometimes God rearranges your day. Be realistic and move unfinished items to the next day.

Mastering calendar use is primarily a self-discipline issue. Once you learn to mark your deadlines and follow your calendar, you will feel a wonderful sense of freedom. You will not miss any deadline in your life. All of your responsibilities will be right in your calendar and all you have to do is follow it. You will also have confidence to know that you will meet all of these deadlines in a professional manner. Much success in your ministry hinges upon three imperatives: “Show up!” “Show up on time!” “Show up prepared!”

Bibliography Sources

www.Denverseminary.edu has an annually updated bibliography for both OT and NT located in their Library section of their website.

www.bestcommentaries.com is another great website for finding commentaries.

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

This bibliography is somewhat comprehensive, but is presented for benefit of the student who desires to go further into New Testament studies and, possibly, doctoral work.

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