

TEXTUAL CRITICISM OF THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT (NTGK 6390)

**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 seminary is emphasizing the core value of spiritual vitality this year and encourages all at the seminary to focus especially on this emphasis.

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:

A study is made of paleography, the ancient witnesses to the text of the New Testament, the history of the handwritten text of the New Testament, and the actual practice of textual criticism. In connection with the last of these subjects, students learn to read the critical apparatuses of the Nestle-Aland and the United Bible Societies editions of the Greek New Testament and to evaluate significant variant readings.

STUDENT OUTCOME OBJECTIVES:

The student outcome objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the history and state of research for the field of NT TC
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how TC aids in the study of the NT
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize the textual apparatus in the Greek New Testament (UBS and N-A) and apply this ability to sound interpretation of the text

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, and student presentations in class. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning NT TC will be utilized.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. *The Greek New Testament*, UBS 5th ed.
2. *Novum Testamentum*, 28th ed.
3. Bruce M. Metzger and Bart Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament*, 4th Ed. Rev.
4. Bruce M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the GNT*, 4th UBS ed. (or the edition by Roger Omanson)

REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:

1. Class participation and readings. Complete the assigned readings according to the schedule. Quizzes may be given over the material periodically. (10%)
2. Transcribe a portion of the NT from a NT Greek manuscript. The results will be evaluated and then discussed in class. Due Nov. 6 at the beginning of class with discussion on the results and implications that day and the following week. (15%)
3. An analysis of two textual variants will be made by each student with the results presented in class on the day for which the variant is listed. The presentation should include an overview of the issues involved and manuscript information for the variant, the analysis of the textual data, an analysis of the internal considerations, reflections from some relevant critical commentaries, and a conclusion regarding the variant's authenticity and likely origin. A copy of the presentation is to be submitted to the professor on the day assigned for the variant. All students are to look over the variants that are assigned for each day of that portion of the course, including reading the information in at least one of the textual commentaries. (25%)
4. A sectional exam and a final exam will be given. Each exam will cover only the material covered in that part of the course. (25% each exam)
5. **EXTRA CREDIT:** Additional readings in the area of NT TC approved by the professor will be credited at the rate of 1 point on the final average for each 150 pages read, up to a maximum of 3 points. A brief (1 page per 150 pages of readings) report must be submitted for credit. These must be submitted by the time of the final exam.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS: (M=Metzger, The Text of the N.T.)

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

- Week 1: Aug. 21 Introduction to the course, Greek Manuscripts Introduction
Paleography M. 3-33, Tour of the Bible & Archaeology Museum
- Week 2: Aug. 28 Witnesses to the text of the NT M. 33-94
- Week 3: Sept. 4 Witnesses to the text of the NT M. 94-134
Reading NT Greek Manuscripts

UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY

- Week 4: Sept. 11 Creating a Critical Apparatus and Scribal Traits
The Manuscript Period M. 137-152
- Week 5: Sept. 18 The Printed Period M. 152-194

The development of textual methods: textual streams

- Week 6: Sept. 25 Recent Developments in the Field M. 197-249
The use of the UBS and Nestle-Aland apparatuses.
Read U.B.S., GNT, pp. v-xlvi, and N-A, 59-84 (intro)
- UNDERSTANDING THE PRACTICE**
- Week 7: Oct. 2 How to Analyze a Textual Variant: Theory. M. 250-299
John 1:21(UBS and N-A^ϵ), John 1:18 (UBS and NA^ϵ)
- Week 8: Oct. 9 **SECTIONAL EXAM**
- Oct. 16 FALL BREAK
- Week 9: Oct. 23 Analyzing Textual Variants: Acts 8:36, Eph 1:1. M. 316-43
- Week 10: Oct. 30 1Jn 5:7-8, Jn 20:31 NA^ϵ, Mk 6:3 NA^ϵ, Mk 9:29 NA^T, 1Cor 14:34-35
- Week 11: Nov. 6 **TRANSCRIPTIONS DUE, BEGIN REVIEWING THEM**
- Week 12: Nov. 13 Review of Transcriptions
- Week 13: Nov. 20 Mt. 27:16, Mk 16:8 (9-20), Rev. 13:18 NA^ϵ, Lk 2:14; Mt. 24:36 NA[□]
- Nov. 22 THANKSGIVING BREAK
- Week 14: Dec. 4 Jn 7:53-8:11, Luke 22:43-44, Luke 23:34, Other Variants
Using Textual Criticism in the Exegesis Process

Week 15: Final, Dec. 11

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