



**INTERPRETING THE NEW TESTAMENT:
THE GOSPELS (NTEN 5351) Online
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
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Fall 2022**

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NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course and the related course NTEN5352, Interpreting Acts through Revelation, is to introduce students to the literature of the New Testament. Besides an overview of the history of the canonization and text of the NT, this course especially focuses on studying the content and theology of the Gospels, the historical and cultural contexts surrounding them, the hermeneutical considerations for interpreting them, and certain questions addressed by contemporary scholarship related to them.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course seeks to realize the following in student learning:

1. Students should understand thoroughly the history, background, hermeneutical considerations, text and canon history, and overall content and theology of the Gospels.
2. The student should be able to apply adequately the history, background, hermeneutical considerations, text and canon history, and overall context and theology of the Gospels to a historically-based interpretation of the text.
3. The student should be able to communicate clearly the historical context, exegetical meaning, and theological implications of the text 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. Internet resources may be used or referenced, with Canvas normally being used as well for the class.
3. Written assignments and tests will be used to provide students with an opportunity to assimilate the course material, show understanding of the assigned readings/topics, and demonstrate competency in the subject matter.

TEXTBOOKS: The following textbooks are required for the course:

The Bible (any major translation or the Greek NT for NT portions)
 Gary Burge, Lynn Cohick, Gene Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity*, 1st ed.
 Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*, 4th ed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading (10% of Final Grade)

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. Discussion Board and Quiz questions will be drawn from the topics from the readings as a means of verifying that students are both completing the readings and understanding the content of the readings. 10% of final grade.

Quizzes (15% of Final Grade)

There will be weekly quizzes related to the lecture videos and the readings. Quizzes will be timed and must be completed by the due date (late quizzes will count as zeros unless permission was obtained by the professor for an extension). 10% of final grade.

Discussion Boards and Interpretive Assignments (25% of Final Grade)

There will either be a weekly discussion board or interpretative assignments.

Discussion Boards [DB]

There will be discussion board forum assignments designed to facility a classroom discussion on a topic or question related to the course material. 15 % of final grade.

Students will submit a **500-word** thread/post on the topic or question. The post should represent a thoughtful focused and informed reflection on the topic. It must include footnotes of at least two sources aside from the assigned textbooks.

Students must also read and write a reply to at least two of threads/posts of their classmates. The reply must be a minimum of **250 words**. Be kind and polite but engage their post with substantive feedback. While one does not have to disagree, the reply should offer insights, challenges, and other considerations.

Interpretive Essays [IE]

Instead of a discussion board, students will do an interpretive assignment over a passage in the gospels (a narrative, a parable, a discourse/teaching). Interpretive assignments will be between **800—1000 words**. Students will post in a discussion board forum. In addition, students must respond/reply to at least two of their classmates post with a reply of at least **250 words**.

- **Procedure**
 - **Read** the NT Book Completely (in one sitting if possible)
 - **Choose** a passage with based on the assigned subgenre (narrative, parable, discourse) a minimum of five verses (but may be longer).
 - **Examine** the literary context (what does it say in the preceding verses/chapters and succeeding verses/chapter.
 - **Identify** main characters or the author, audience, and occasion.
 - Identify topics or themes in your selected passage.
 - Identify the main idea(s) of the passage.
 - Identify any difficult concepts, words, or phrases that are hard to understand.
 - **Consult** the textbooks, commentaries, and other resources.
 - **Type** your interpretive assignment using Times New Roman 12 pt. font and upload or post it.

- **Presentation** (*follow this outline exactly*)
 1. **Introduction:** State what passage (chapter and verses) you studied. Explain why you chose them. Write a short sentence or to that summarized what you learned in them.
 2. **Context**
 - **Historical Context:** Say something about the historical, social, and cultural background of your passage/book.
 - **Literary Context:** Where does your passage fit within the context of the book. What does it say before and after your passage.
 3. **Content:** Main characters or author, audience, and occasion?
Topic or Theme Addressed
Main Idea(s)
Interpretive Difficulties
Summary of the Text with Interpretation from using sources.
 4. **Conclusion**
Discuss the things you learned
Discuss ways you can personally apply what you learned

Exegesis Paper (25% of final grade) [Embedded Assignment]

Choose 1 of the following:

- Matthew 6:25-34
- Mark 12:1-12
- Luke 9:28-36
- John 16:25-33

Using the method taught in the course, the student is to write a 2000-word exegesis paper (not counting bibliography) demonstrating their own exegesis of a particular passage in the Gospels.

1. Students should clearly demonstrate an understanding of a sound method for exegesis
2. They are to demonstrate the use of appropriate tools, methods, and resources in the application of sound exegetical principles.
3. They are to communicate the meaning of the text, keeping in mind the contemporary audience.

Exams (25%)

There are three sectional exams.

1. Sectional Exam #1: Background and Hermeneutics
2. Sectional Exam #2: Gospel Genre, Mark, and Matthew
3. Sectional Exam # 3: Gospels of Luke and John

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Online Classes: Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of “F” for the course

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

WRITING STYLE GUIDE:

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

PLAGIARISM ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

COURSE EVALUATION

Reading:	10%
Quizzes:	15%
DB & IE:	25%
Exegesis Paper:	25%
Sectional Exams:	25%

COURSE SCHEDULE (B = Burge/Cohick/Green; F&S = Fee & Stuart)

UNIT	DESCRIPTION	ASSIGNMENTS	READING
1	1) Introduction to the course, The Text of the NT & Inspiration 2) The Text of the NT, The Development of the NT Canon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board [DB]: Personal Introductions • Quiz 	B Ch. 27
2	1) The NT World: Jewish Backgrounds (2 nd Temple Period) 2) The NT World: Jewish Background (1 st Cent. Judaism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 	B Ch. 2 & 3
3	The NT World: The Greco-Roman Backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB: Why does know the background history and culture important for understanding the New Testament (give some examples and explain them) • Quiz 	B Ch. 5
4	Interpreting the Bible: Hermeneutics—History & Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 	F&S Ch. 1

5	Interpreting the Bible: Hermeneutical Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sectional Exam #1: Background & Hermeneutics 	F&S Ch. 2
6	1) Gospel Genre 2) Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels and the Life of Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DB: What are some significant considerations involved with studying the gospels? ● Quiz 	F&S Ch. 7; B Ch. 7, F&S Ch. 8
7	1) Introduction to the Gospel of Mark 2) Key Passages in Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 	B Ch. 9; Read Mark
8	1) Key Passages in Mark (continued) 2) Theological Teachings in Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interpretative Essay [IE]: Narrative ● Quiz 	B 337-362
9	1) Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew 2) Key Passage in Matthew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 	B Ch. 8; Read Matthew
10	1) Key Passages in Matthew (continued) 2) Theological Teachings in Matthew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IE: Discourse ● Sectional Exam #2: Gospel Genre, Mark, and Matthew 	
11	1) Introduction to the Gospel of Luke 2) Interpreting Parables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 	B Ch. 10
12	1) Key Passages in Luke 2) Theological Teachings in Luke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IE: Parable 	Read Luke; B 397-410
13	1) Introduction to the Gospel of John 2) Key Passages in John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 	B Ch. 11; Read John
14	Key passages and theological teaching in John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exegesis Paper 	B 425-458
15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Sectional Exam: Gospels of Luke and John 	

Helpful Resources

www.Denverseminary.edu has an updated OT & NT bibliography on the Library section of their website.

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