



**INTERPRETING THE NEW TESTAMENT 1:  
THE GOSPELS (NTEN 5351) Hybrid**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Biblical Studies Division  
**Charlie Ray III**  
**Fall 2023 Oct. 20-21**

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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 5352, 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. Students 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. Students 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 throughout the class.
2. 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.

**EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT (EXEGESIS PAPER):**

This course will be assessed for quality and improvement through the use of an embedded assignment. The exegesis paper will serve as the basis for this assessment. Information on the exegesis paper is under the section labeled as Course Requirements.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

The following textbooks are required for the course:

The Bible (any major translation or the Greek NT)

Burge, Gary M. and Gene Green. *The New Testament in Antiquity: A Survey of the New Testament Within Its Cultural Contexts*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2014.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:****A. Reading (10% of Final Grade)**

The assigned readings must be completed. The reading and lecture videos are the core of this course; therefore, they are considered essential for the successful completion of the course. Students are expected to view all lecture videos and read all required materials for the course. Canvas keeps a record of how much of each video is viewed by each student. Discussion posts and quizzes will be drawn from the topics of the readings and lecture videos as a means of verifying that students are both completing the readings and understanding the content of the readings. At the end of each unit, students will acknowledge in Canvas the amount of reading they did.

**B. Quizzes (10% of Final Grade)**

There will be **weekly quizzes** related to the lecture videos and the readings. Each student is expected to take all quizzes at the scheduled times. The quizzes are **closed-book/closed-note**. Unit quizzes will consist of **objective questions** (true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, etc.). The 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).

**C. NT Chats (10% of Final Grade)**

On the five dates listed below, students will participate in a 30 minute “Chat” with the professor and other members of the course. Students who are able to participate live in the discussion receive full credit. Students who cannot attend the conversation must write a 200 word summary of the conversation and submit it via Canvas by the end of the week (Saturday at 11:59 pm) to receive credit.

Chat Schedule

August 29 @7PM

September 12 @7PM

September 26 @7PM

October 10 @7PM

#### **D. Worksheets (40% of Final Grade)**

Students will complete 4 worksheets which cover material relevant to the Old Testament. Worksheets are guided research that will require students to engage particular questions using specific sources and methodologies. Worksheets are to 1,500-2,000 words in length (not counting the title page, footnotes, or bibliography). Worksheets must be submitted on Canvas by the dates given in the Course Outline below.

#### **E. Exegesis Paper (15% of final grade)**

The exegesis paper is an embedded assignment. Using the method taught in the course, the student is to write a 2000-word exegesis paper (not counting bibliography, cover page, and footnotes) 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. Students are to demonstrate the use of appropriate tools, methods, and resources in the application of sound exegetical principles.
3. Students are to communicate the meaning of the text, keeping in mind the contemporary audience.

The paper should exhibit well-structured arguments and a proficient grasp of grammar, spelling, and style. Student is to write a double-spaced paper using a twelve-point Times New Roman font for the entire paper, including notes and page numbers. Student may choose to use parenthetical citations or Turabian style footnotes in the body of the paper. However, the paper must contain a bibliography in Turabian format with a minimum of two critical sources, excluding the textbook(s). This paper must be submitted via Canvas by **December 2, 2023**.

#### **Exegesis Paper Checklist**

- I have double-spaced the paper with a twelve-point font and one-inch margins.
- The paper has a title page that includes the required information.
- The paper is the required length (2000-word), excluding the Title Page, Footnotes, and Bibliography.
- My introduction previews the main ideas of the passage.
- I discuss both the historical and literary contexts of the passage.
- I explain the meaning of critical words in my passage.
- I have consulted and cited the required number of reputable sources (at least two sources, excluding the textbooks).
- I discuss several applications of this passage for a contemporary audience.
- I added page numbers to the paper.
- I include a bibliography of sources cited in the paper.
- I used a twelve-point Times New Roman font for the entire paper, including notes and page numbers.
- I have proofread the paper.

## **F. Exams (20% of final grade)**

There are two sectional exams:

1. Sectional Exam #1: Background and Hermeneutics
2. Sectional Exam #2 (Final): Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John

## **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Reading: 10%  
 Quizzes: 10%  
 NT Chats: 5%  
 Worksheets: 40%  
 Exegesis Paper: 15%  
 Exams: 20%

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the hybrid, students who miss more than four hours may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

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

- [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System.
- [itchehelpdesk@nobts.edu](mailto:itchehelpdesk@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.).
- [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - Website for general NOBTS technical help information.

## **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](https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf).

## **HELP FOR WRITING PAPERS AT “THE NOBTS WRITING CENTER”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to become better writers. Please contact them to secure help with writing. <http://nobts.edu.writing>

## **POLICY ON LATE SUBMISSIONS:**

An automatic 10-point deduction will be taken for work submitted after the due date. Additional points will be deducted based on the number of days the submission is late.

## **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 posts, or any other course requirement.

Be aware that lack of academic integrity will have consequences on your success in this course. You will receive an automatic F if you are caught committing any of the following infractions:

1. Cheating – intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
2. Fabrication – intentional and unauthorized invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
3. Plagiarism – intentionally representing the words, images, or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.
4. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty – intentionally helping or attempting to help another commit act of academic dishonesty.

### **POLICY FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS:**

Graduating students are responsible for alerting the professor of their intention to graduate. Therefore, if you are planning to graduate this semester, please inform your professor via email as soon as possible. Please note that all of your assignments must be completed by noon (12PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

### **HELPFUL RESOURCES:**

[www.Denverseminary.edu](http://www.Denverseminary.edu) has an updated OT & NT bibliography on the Library section of their website.

[www.bestcommentaries.com](http://www.bestcommentaries.com) is another great website for finding commentaries.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**(B = Burge & Green; F= Fee & Stuart; W = Williams)**

Unit	Topic	Reading	Assignments
<b>Unit 1</b> Aug 14-19	1. The Development of the NT Canon 2. NT Text and Translation	B: Chapters 1 and 27 F: Chapter 2	
<b>Unit 2</b> Aug 21-26	1. The Need to Interpret 2. History of Interpretation	F: Chapter 1 B: Chapter 2	
<b>Unit 3</b> Aug 28-Sep 2	1. Hermeneutical Method 2. Exegesis Papers		NT Chat: 8/29 at 7 pm
<b>Unit 4</b> Sep 4-9	1. Intertestamental History 2. The Jewish World of Jesus	B: Chapters 2 and 3	
<b>Unit 5</b> Sep 11-16	1. Intertextuality 2. Biblical Theology	B: Chapters 5 and 6	NT Chat: 9/12 at 7pm <b>Worksheet #1 due by Sep 16 at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Unit 6</b> Sep 18-23	1. Gospel Genre and Parables	F: Chapters 7 and 8	<b>Sectional Exam #1</b>
<b>Unit 7</b> Sep 25-Sep 30	1. Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels 2. Introduction to the Gospel of Mark	B: Chapter 9 Mark 1-8	NT Chat: 9/26 at 7pm
<b>Fall Break</b> Oct 2-7	<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>
<b>Unit 8</b> Oct 9-14	1. Key Passages in Mark 2. Theological Teachings in Mark	Mark 9-16	NT Chat: 10/10 at 7 pm <b>Worksheet #2 due by Oct 14 at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Unit 9</b> Oct 16-21	Hybrid Weekend meets Oct 20-21	B: Chapter 9 Matthew 1-14	
<b>Unit 10</b> Oct 23-28	1. Key Passages in Matthew (continued) 2. Theological Teachings in Matthew	Matthew 15-28	<b>Worksheet #3 due by Oct 28 at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Unit 11</b> Oct 30-Nov 4	1. Introduction to the Gospel of Luke 2. Interpreting Parable in Luke	B: Chapter 10 Luke 1-12	
<b>Unit 12</b> Nov 6-11	1. Key Passages in Luke 2. Theological Teachings in Luke	Luke 13-24	<b>Worksheet #4 due by Nov 11 at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Unit 13</b> Nov 13-18	1. Introduction to the Gospel of John 2. Key Passages in John	B Ch.11 John 1-10	

<b>Thanksgiving Break</b> Nov 20-25	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Unit 14</b> Nov 27-Dec 2	1. Theological Teachings in John	John 11-21	<b>Exegesis Paper due by Dec 2 at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Unit 15</b> Dec 5-6	Sectional Exam #2 (Final Exam): Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John		