



# **SOCIAL SETTINGS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT ONLINE/NOLA2UFLEX (NTEN5395)**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Biblical Studies Division**

**Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and  
Greek  
Fall Semester, 2023**

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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 is to involve the student in an extensive study of various social, political, religious, and economic backgrounds that can serve as aids for understanding the message of the New Testament. An introduction to the study of social settings is followed by an analysis of the various backgrounds based upon the historical documents from the NT period.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the history and state of research related to NT social settings
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how understanding the NT social settings aids in the study of the NT
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply their understanding of NT social settings 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, discussions, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook discussions, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

## **TEXTBOOKS:**

1. David DeSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking NT Culture*
2. Richard Rohrbaugh, ed. *The Social Sciences and NT Interpretation*
3. Bruce Malina, *Windows on the World of Jesus*

*Book Options for Extra Credit: (plus others with approval by the professor)*

Paul Hiebert, *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*

Brian Howell & Jenell Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*

## **REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:**

1. Students are expected to participate in the class conversations and take notes on the class lectures and presentations. 10%
2. Students are expected to read the textbooks by DeSilva, Rohrbaugh, and Malina as per the assignments on the class schedule below. Quizzes may be given on the readings. 15%
3. Each student will prepare an exegesis paper on a New Testament passage that incorporates insights from the social setting of the NT for unfolding the background and historical meaning of the passage. Due date = Wednesday, Nov. 15. 30%
4. A sectional exam will be given on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 9 am). 20%
5. A take-home final exam will be given that will be due on the date of the final exam (Wednesday, Dec. 6, 11 am). 25%
6. **EXTRA CREDIT OPTION:** Students can earn 1 point extra on the final average for every 150 pages of additional reading on the class topic. A maximum of 3 points extra credit can be gained this way. A 1-page written report on the reading must be submitted to the professor, with the items listed below to be included in the report. Readings from the books by Hiebert and by Howell and Paris are pre-approved for this option. The 1-page summary is due on November 29.
  - 1) Bibliographic Entry, including pages read
  - 2) Statement of the Author's Purpose
  - 3) A two to three paragraph summary of the book's content

## **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Participation/Attendance	10%	Reading Quizzes	15%
Research Paper	30%	Sectional Exam	20%
Extra Credit	(up to + 3 points on the final average)	Final Exam	25%

## **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

## **If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:**

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [assignment by professor] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.

3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

### **Technical Assistance**

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

1. [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.)
2. [Canvas.NOBTS.com](http://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](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, & valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

[https://www.nobts.edu/\\_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf](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.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS: (R = Rohrbaugh, M = Malina, DS = DeSilva)**

Week 1: Aug. 16	Introduction to the course and to the study of the social setting of the NT Methodology for studying the NT social setting (R 1-18, DS 17-21, M xi-xv)
Week 2: Aug. 23	Topic #1: Honor and Shame Intro to the concept of Honor and Shame in the NT (R 19-37, DS 23-42) Examples of Honor and Shame (M 1-19)
Week 3: Aug. 30	Topic #1: Honor and Shame (cont.) Source Materials and NT texts related to Honor and Shame (DS 43-94) An Evaluation of NT texts based on Honor and Shame (R 41-56)
Week 4: Sept. 6	Topic #2: Interpersonal Behavior Intro to the concepts of group/grid and group/indiv. (R 62-76) Examples of Interpersonal Behavior (M 21-45)

- Week 5: Topic #2: Interpersonal Behavior & Patronage(cont.)  
 Sept.13 Source Materials and NT texts related to Interpersonal Behavior and kinship  
 Examples of kinship from Malina (M 47-70, DS 95-120)
- Week 6: Topic #2: Interpersonal Behavior & Patronage (cont.)  
 Sept.20 Introduction, source materials and NT texts related to in-groups and out  
 -groups (M 71-101, DS 121-156)
- Week 7: Patronage and Kinship (DS 157-240)  
 Sept.27 General Discussion of NT texts
- Week 8: **Sectional Exam**  
 Oct. 11
- Week 9: Topic #3: Purity Laws and the System of Purity (R 80-101, DS 241-278)  
 Oct. 18 Intro to the concepts of Purity/Taboo and Clean/Unclean  
 Examples of Purity Laws from Malina, (M 103-153)
- Week 10: Topic #3: Purity Laws and the System of Purity (cont.) (DS 279-320)  
 Oct. 25 Source Materials & NT texts related to the Purity System  
 An Evaluation of NT texts based on the Purity System
- Week 11: Topic #4: First Century Social Institutions  
 Nov. 1 Intro to the social institutions of the first century (R 107-140)  
 Source Materials and NT texts related to social institutions
- Week 12: Topic #4: First Century Social Institutions (cont.)  
 Nov. 8 An Evaluation of NT texts based on the social institutions (R 144-179)  
 Introduction to ancient reading  
 Literacy in the Greco-Roman Empire
- Week 13: Topic #5: First Century Social Dynamics  
 Nov. 15 **Major Papers due**  
 Introduction to the concepts of table fellowship and event time  
 Examples of event time from Malina (M 155-171)
- Week 14: Topic #5: First Century Social Dynamics (R 206-225)  
 Nov. 29 Source Materials and NT texts related to these concepts  
 An Evaluation of NT texts based on these concepts
- Week 15: Final Exam  
 Dec. 6

## SUGGESTED NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES FOR PAPERS

Mt. 2:1-23	Acts 4:32-5:11
Mt. 5:1-12	Acts 6:1-7
Mt. 19:1-15	Acts 8:26-40
Mt. 22:1-14	Acts 23:1-11
Mt. 23:1-39	Rom. 2:17-29
Mk. 2:18-28	Rom. 5:12-21
Mk. 3:31-35	1 Cor. 5:1-13
Mk. 7:1-23	1 Cor. 11:17-34
Mk. 14:3-11	1 Tim. 3:1-13
Mk. 15:25-39	Philemon
Lk. 1:26-45	Heb. 1:1-14
Lk. 2:1-20	James 2:1-13
Lk. 9:28-36	1 Pet. 2:1-17
Lk. 11:1-13	Rev. 4:1-11
Lk. 18:1-14	
Jn. 3:1-15	

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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