



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE **(BSHS 5302 Spring 2021)**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT & Greek

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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:

This course is a study of the history of the Bible from the time of the first written documents until the modern English translations. The three aspects of the study are the process of canonization, the transmission of the handwritten texts, and the history of the texts in print.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course seeks to realize the following in student learning:

1. Students should gain a general knowledge of the history of the formation and textual transmission of the Old and New Testaments.
2. Students should gain a general knowledge of the history of the English Bible from the time just prior to the reformation to the modern period of multiple English translations.
3. Students should be equipped for presenting the material in this course in a local church setting as a study course.
4. Students should gain an appreciation for the benefits of studying and teaching about the history and transmission of the Bible from the original languages to modern translations.

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 readings, student presentations, and exams and quizzes. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

TEXTS: The basic texts are the following:

Clinton Arnold, *How We Got the Bible: A Visual Journey*

Paul Wegner, *The Journey from Texts to Translations*

And one of the following two books:

Sheeley & Nash, *Choosing a Bible: A Guide to Modern English Translations and Editions*

or

Donald Kraus, *Choosing a Bible: For Worship, Teaching, Study, Preaching, and Prayer*

EVALUATION METHODS/REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Students will read the three textbooks during the course. Quizzes will be given on the reading assignments. The readings from Sheeley & Nash or Donald Kraus will be incorporated into the translation reports. 20%

(2) Translation Reports. Each student will evaluate an English translation of the Bible. The history behind the making of the translation, the textual base, the intended readership, and an overall evaluation of the version should be included. Two written reports will be submitted. One is a brief, one page overview that will be made available to all of the class members and that is geared to a local church setting, with the outline serving as a handout for the church members. The second is a formal paper on the translation, with a suggested length of 12-15 pages in length, double-spaced and excluding the bibliography. The paper should include a logical, scholarly presentation of the material. The bibliography should include at least 15 resources and should include all sources consulted, not simply sources cited. Overview paper = 5%, full paper = 20%

(3) The translation report will be presented in class via a means like a PowerPoint or Keynote presentation that provides an overview of the content of the paper in a format that would be suitable for use in teaching about the translation in a ministry setting. 10%

(4) Three exams will be given basically covering the following topics: The OT Text and Canon; The NT Text and Canon; and Printed Texts and English Translations. 15% each

OVERVIEW OF THE GRADING EVALUATION:

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Quizzes over the Readings	20%
Translation Report, Overview paper	5%
Translation Report, Research paper	20%
Translation Presentation, PPT/Keynote, etc.	10%
Three Sectional exams, 15% each	45%

WRITING STYLE GUIDE:

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style**. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<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.

HELP FOR WRITING PAPERS AT "THE WRITE STUFF:"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center to help improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

NOLA2U FLEX STUDENTS:

NOLA2U Flex students, 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 Blackboard. 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 the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf>)
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 sending the Professor and Teaching

- Assistant (see the emails at the top of this syllabus) a statement of having viewed the recorded session after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session for each class 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.

NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE? CONTACT THE ITC TODAY!

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.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

COURSE SCHEDULE: *W = Wegner = chapters are listed. *A = Arnold = pages are listed

Week 1	Introduction to the course	Wegner 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6
Jan. 25	Ancient and Modern Divisions of the Bible	Arnold 6-9
	The Languages of the Bible, Alphabets, Literacy, and Ancient Books	
Week 2	The Canon of the OT	W= 5 & 7
Feb. 1		A=10-19
Week 3	The OT Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha	W= 8
Feb. 8		A= 20-21
Week 4	The Text of the OT	W= 11 & 12
Feb. 15	Ancient OT Versions, Use of the OT in the Early Church	A= 22-25
Week 5, Feb. 22: OT SECTIONAL EXAM		
Week 6	The Canon of the NT in the first three Centuries	W= 9, 10
Mar. 1	The Canon of the NT in the Fourth Century and Beyond	
Week 7	The Text of the NT: Witnesses and Text-types	W= 13 & 14; A=26-31
Mar. 8	Biblical Manuscripts: Practicum	
Week 8	Early Versions of the NT	W= 15; A= 32-37
Mar. 22	The NT Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha	
	Read one of the following: Barnabas, Didache, 1 Clement, or Shepherd of Hermas	
Week 9	The Text of the NT: Transmission to the TR	W= 16;
Mar. 29		A= 38-43
Week 10	The Text of the NT: The TR to Today	readings = see the
Apr. 5		Files on Blackboard
Week 11, April 12: NT SECTIONAL EXAM		
Week 12	The Bible and Missions, Early English Versions	W= 17, 18 & 21
April 19	The King James Version	
	Translation Efforts and Practices, How to Evaluate a Translation	A= 44-71
Week 13	Modern English Versions & Translations	W= 19 & 20
April 26	Student Presentations	A= 72-89
Week 14	Modern & Unusual English Translations, Student Presentations	
May 3		
Weeks 15	FINAL EXAM (take home final, distributed on or before Monday, May 3, due	
May 10	on Monday, May 10, 4 pm)	

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Kurt Aland and Barbara Aland, *The Text of the NT*
American Bible Society, *A Concise History of the English Bible*
Clinton Arnold, *How We Got the Bible: A Visual Journey*
Kenneth L. Barker, *The NIV: The Making of a Contemporary Translation*
Margaret Baxter, *The Formation of the Christian Scriptures*
James Bentley, *Secrets of Mount Sinai: The Story of the World's Oldest Bible*
F. C. Bratton, *A History of the Bible*
R. C. Briggs, *Interpreting the New Testament Today*
F. F. Bruce, *History of the Bible in English*
_____. *The Books and the Parchments*, 3d ed.
_____. *The Canon of Scripture*
The Cambridge History of the Bible (three volumes)
Philip Comfort, *Encountering the Manuscripts*
J. v. W. Cronje, *Style and Discourse*
Christopher de Hamel, *An Illustrated History from Papyrus to Print Bibles*
Bart Ehrman and Michael Holmes, eds, *The Text of the NT in Contemporary Research*
David Ewert, *From Ancient Tablets to Modern Translations: A General Introduction to the Bible*
David C. Fowler, *The Bible in Early English Literature*
H. Y. Gamble, *The NT Canon*
E. J. Goodspeed, *How Came the Bible?*
R. M. Grant, *The Formation of the New Testament*
John H. Hayes, *An Introduction to Old Testament Study*
Robert Hull, *The Story of the New Testament Text*
Ralph W. Klein, *Textual Criticism of the Old Testament: From the Septuagint to Qumran*
Donald Kraus, *Choosing a Bible: For Worship, Teaching, Study, Preaching, and Prayer*
Jack P. Lewis, *The English Bible from KJV to NIV: A History and Evaluation*
Eduard Lohse, *The Formation of the New Testament*
Geddes MacGregor, *A Literary History of the Bible: From the Middle Ages to the Present Day*
_____. *The Bible in the Making*
Lee M. McDonald, *The Formation of the Christian Biblical Canon* (Revised ed.)
David G. Meade, *Pseudonymity & Canon*
Bruce M. Metzger, *The Canon of the NT: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*
_____. *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Greek Palaeography*
C. F. D. Moule, *The Birth of the NT*
Eugene A. Nida, *Good News for Everyone: How to Use the Good News Bible*
E. A. Nida, J. P. Louw, A. H. Snyman, and R. C. Briggs, *Interpreting the New Testament Today*
E. A. Nida and C. R. Tabor, *The Theory and Practice of Translation*
G. S. Paine, *The Men Behind the KJV*
David Parker, *Codex Sinaiticus*
Steven Sheeley & Robert Nash, *Choosing a Bible: A Guide to Modern English Trans & Editions*
Beryl Smalley, *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages*
Paul Wegner, *The Journey from Texts to Translations*