



Exploring the New Testament (NTEN 5300)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Spring 2021 (NOLA2U Flex)

Dr. Alan S. Bandy
Robert Hamblin Chair of New Testament Exposition
Professor of New Testament and Greek
Dodd 206
405-788-5421
abandy@nobts.edu

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 introduce the student to the literature of the New Testament by means of studying both the Biblical text and the historical and cultural factors that shaped it. The historical background, certain aspects of contemporary scholarship, and especially the themes and general teachings of the New Testament books will be discussed.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course seeks to realize the following in student learning:

1. The student should understand thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and the NT teachings on selected NT themes.
2. The student should be able to apply adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected New Testament themes to contemporary church needs.
3. The student should be able to communicate clearly the message of the various writings of the New Testament.

NOLA2U Flex Students

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 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 Dr. Bandy 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.

NOBTS Style Guide

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>

Embedded Assignment

The course includes an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is given here. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.

1. A summative question will be answered thoroughly by the students as a take-home assignment. The question (or research problem) will require research of the historical context, genre, theology, and/or interpretive concerns of a selected period, event, or passage. Answers should be well-developed and provide thorough documentation and appropriate use of tools and resources. Students should use Times 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced, approximately two pages in length. (2 pages)
2. The student should show adequate application of the research to a selected need of the Christian community. (1 page)
3. The student should communicate clearly how the research question answer might impact the faith & life of Christian believers, focusing on the contemporary audience. (1 page)

ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION AND RUBRIC:

0 = Inadequate, 1 = Basic, 2 = Competent, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

Textbooks

The Bible (any major translation or the Greek NT for NT portions)

Burge, Gary M., Lynn H. Cohick, and Gene L. Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity: A Survey of the New Testament within its Cultural Context*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Croteau, David A., *Urban Legends of the New Testament: 40 Common Misconceptions*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015.

Longenecker, Bruce W. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum*. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2003.

Course Teaching Methodology

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. The readings will be primarily evaluated by quizzes and/or discussion boards located in Blackboard.
3. Written assignments and tests will also be used to provide students with an opportunity to assimilate the course material and demonstrate competency in the subject matter.

Course Requirements

1. Reading and Participation (5% of final grade)

- a. Students are required to read and listen to the biblical text as well as complete readings from textbooks.
- b. Students are to read the entire New Testament during the course of this semester.
- c. Students should attend every class period, be alert.
- d. The professor may assign quizzes, discussion board forums, or additional work related to the reading. The professor will announce in class and post quizzes, discussions, or other assignments on blackboard.
- e. Students will be occasionally be asked to discuss a passage, issue, or topic related to the New Testament. This will primarily focus on difficult questions that arise when reading, interpreting, or considering the biblical text. Sometimes the question is related specific passage, theology, or hermeneutics. Each discussion will have a prompt question that the students will answer. The answer should at least be about 4 paragraphs long. Students will also reply to at least two of their peer's posts. The replies should be at least about 2 paragraphs long and should interact with specific points raised in the post.

2. Pergamum Assignment (15 % of final grade)

- a. Read the *Lost Letters of Pergamum* and take notes on the various important historical elements that are revealed in this fictional account. Think about what this book is teaching about these things related to the background of the New Testament.
- b. This assignment should be 5-7 pages in length.
- c. See Topics after course schedule.

3. Bible Reading Journals (30% of the final grade)

- Students will submit 7 Journal Entries and each journal entry will cover at least 5 chapters of a NT Book.
- Each week's entry should be between 1000-2000 words (about 4-7 pages double-spaced). Large blocks of quoted Scripture text will not count toward to the overall word count. Please include a total word count at the end of your entry.
- Students are free to choose any five chapters in any NT book, but students should include at least 2 entries from the gospels, at least 2 from Paul's epistles, and 2 from the General Epistles and Revelation.

- **Procedure**
 - **Read** the NT Book Completely (in one sitting if possible)
 - **Choose** 5 chapters. These may be sequential chapters, or a selection of chapters drawn from throughout the book.
 - **Examine** the literary context (what does it say in the preceding and succeeding chapters).
 - **Identify** main characters (if gospel or acts) or the author, audience, and occasion (if an epistle).
 - Identify topics or themes in your selected chapters.
 - Identify the main idea(s) of the chapter.
 - Identify any difficult concepts, words, or phrases that are hard to understand.
 - **Consult** the textbook, commentaries, and other resources.
 - **Type** your journal entry using a double-spaced Times New Roman 12 pt. font and upload it to the proper assignment link in blackboard.
- **Presentation (*follow this outline exactly*)**
 1. **Introduction:** State what book and chapters you studied. Explain why you choose them. Write a short sentence or two that summarized what you learned in them.
 2. **Context**
 - **Historical Context:** Say something about the historical, social, and cultural background of your book/chapters.
 - **Literary Context:** Where do your chapters fit within the context of the book. What does it say before and after your chapters.
 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

Book Interaction (15% of the final grade)

- Students will write a 5–10 page, double-spaced) book interaction on *Urban Legends of the New Testament* by David A. Croteau. Students must submit their book interaction on Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on the date it is due (). All late work submitted after that time

will receive a letter grade deduction for every day that it is late. Upon reading the book write a brief summary of the content and structure of the book (1-2 pages), then choose 5 or more of the 40 “urban legends” to interact with and discuss (3-8 pages) and conclude by provided your overall assessment of the book (1-2 pages). In your interaction of the individual lessons include the following:

- What is the legend and related texts of Scripture (include a reference to the page #s)?
- What is the issue with the interpretation he refers to as an “urban legend”?
- How does the author address the issue (what are his arguments)?
- Do you agree? Explain why.
- Do you disagree? Explain why.
- How does this change or influence your understanding of the NT text?

4. Exams (35% of final grade)

The course material will be divided into three or four sections for testing purposes:

- (1) New Testament Background and the Gospels
- (2) Acts and the Pauline Epistles
- (3) The General Epistles and Revelation

An exam will be given at the conclusion of each section testing the student on the material covered in that section. *It is possible that there will be three sectional exams, but expect just a mid-term and a final (This may be adjusted to best accommodate the semester).

Evaluation of Grade

Each course requirement is accorded a percentage value for the overall grade. This distributes the weight of each assignment so that no one assignment will determine the final grade. Grades will be assessed according to the following scale:

Reading	5%
Pergamum Assignment	15%
Bible Reading Journals	30 %
Book Interaction	15%
Exams	35%

A = 93–100 B = 92–86 C = 85–79 D= 72–84 F= 72 or less

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. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
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.

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, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

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 Schedule

COURSE SCHEDULE (*SUBJECT TO CHANGE THROUGH THE SEMESTER)

Date		Reading and Assignments Due
Week 1 1.19	Syllabus Second Temple Period Daily Life in the NT period: Secular Setting	<i>New Testament in Antiquity</i> [NTA] 15-52
Week 2 1.26	Daily Life in the NT period: Religious Setting	NTA 53-106
Week 3 2.2	Introduction to Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels Mark	Due: Lost Letters of Pergamum (2.216 by midnight) NTA 107-124, 179-194 Gospel of Mark
Week 4 2.9	Mark (continued) Matthew	Gospel of Matthew NTA 165-178
Week 5 2.16	Matthew Luke	Gospel of Luke NTA 195-212 Journal Entry #1
Week 6 2.23	Luke (continued) John	Gospel of John NTA 213-228 Journal Entry #2
Week 7 3.2	John (continued) Review Exam #1: NT Background and the Gospels	Exam #1
Week 8 3.9	Acts 1-12: Early Church and the Jewish Mission	The Book of Acts 1–12 NTA 229-248 Journal Entry #3
Week 9 3.16	Spring Break	
Week 10 3.23	Acts 13-28: Early Church and the Gentile Mission Introduction to the Mission and Theology of Paul	The Book of Acts 13-28 NTA 249-266 Journal Entry #4

Week 11 3.30	Paul's Early Epistles: Galatians 1 & 2 Thessalonians	Galatians NTA 279-292 1 & 2 Thessalonians NTA 267-278 Journal Entry #5
Week 12 4.6	Paul's Chief Epistles: The Corinthian Correspondence Romans	1 & 2 Corinthians NTA 293-320 Romans NTA 321-336 Journal Entry #6
Week 13 4.13	Paul's Prison and Pastoral Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus Review Exam #3: Acts and the Pauline Epistles	Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus NTA 337-362; 363-374 Exam #3
Week 14 4.20	The General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, Jude	Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude, 1, 2, 3, John, NTA 385-424 Journal Entry #7
Week 15 4.27	The General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, Jude Johannine Epistles	Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude, 1, 2, 3, John, NTA 385-424 Book Interaction Due: 4.27
Week 16 5.4	Revelation	Revelation NTA 411-424; 425-458
5.11	Final Exam	

Lost Letters of Pergamum

Read the *Lost Letters of Pergamum* and write down what it says about various important historical elements that are revealed in this fictional account. Think about what this book is teaching about these things related to the background of the New Testament.

This assignment should be 5-7 pages in length. **Follow this outline and include all topics listed. You may give your answers in bullet points or in short sentences but be sure to include all page numbers for where you find your answers.**

ANCIENT CUSTOMS

Form of letters
 Life of noblemen, peasants, and slaves
 Greek and Roman gods (Zeus, Apollo, Asklepios, Jupiter, etc.)
 Roman Calendar
 Coliseums and gladiator fights
 Cities (Rome, Alexander, Ephesus, Pergamum, Antioch, Caesarea, etc.)
 Travel (land and sea)
 Hospitality
 Libraries
 Role of secretaries
 Homes
 Syncretism
 Taxation
 Emperor worship

IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Roman Emperors (Nero, Domitian, Titus, etc.)
 Pontius Pilate
 Herod the Great
 Herod Antipas
 Authors (Homer, Pliny, Josephus, Philo, Ignatius)

IMPORTANT GROUPS

Essenes
 Dead Sea community
 Pharisees
 Samaritans
 Philosophers (Stoics, Cynics)

BIBLICAL CONCEPTS

Role of John the Baptist
 Jesus' teachings
 Jesus' disciples
 The Lord's Supper
 Crucifixion
 Demons
 Jesus' use of "the Son of Man"
 Ancient worship services

Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

- Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1995.
- Charles, R. H., trans. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*, Vol. 2: Pseudepigrapha. London: Epworth, 1913.
- Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, Vol. 2: Apocalyptic Literature & Testaments. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1983.
- Danby, Herbert, trans. *The Mishnah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933.
- Hennecke, Edgar, and Wilhelm Schneemelcher, eds. *The New Testament Apocrypha*. English trans. ed. by R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1963.
- Kee, Howard Clark. *The NT in Context: Sources and Documents*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984.
- Lightfoot, J. B. and J. R. Harmer, eds. and trans. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations of Their Writings*. 2d ed. Ed. and rev. by Michael W. Holmes. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Robinson, James M., gen. ed. *The Nag Hammadi Library in English*. New York: Harper & Row, 1977.
- Vermes, Geza, ed. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. New York: Penguin Books, 1975.
- Whiston, William, ed. & trans. *The Works of Josephus: Complete & Unabridged*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1987.

History and Background

- Bruce, F.F. *New Testament History*. New York: Doubleday, 1971.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- House, H. Wayne. *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.
- Keener, Craig. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Malina, Bruce. *The New Testament World: Insights From Cultural Anthropology*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1981.
- McRay, John. *Archeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.
- Reicke, Bo. *The NT Era: The World of the Bible from 500 B.C. to A.D. 100*. Trans. by David Green. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1969.

Text and Canon

- Brooks, James A. "The Text and Canon of the New Testament," in *Broadman Bible Commentary*, Vol. 8: "General Articles, Matthew-Mark," pp. 15-18. Clifton J. Allen, gen. ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1969.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- _____. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.
- Metzger, Bruce. *The Canon of the NT: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.
- _____. *The Text of the NT: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. 3d ed. New York: OUP, 1992.

New Testament Introductions

- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the NT*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- Feine, Paul, J. Behm, and W. G. Kummel. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3d rev. ed. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1970.
- Kummel, Werner Georg. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Trans. Howard Clark Kee (based on the 17th German edition). Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.
- Lea, Thomas D. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.

Bible Dictionaries

- Bromiley, Geoffrey, et al., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Rev. ed. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-1988.
- Buttrick, George A., gen. ed. *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.
- Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Green, Joel, Scot McKnight & I. Howard Marshall. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove:

IVP, 1992

Hawthorne, Gerald & Ralph Martin, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downer's Grove: IVP, 1993.

Martin, Ralph P. & Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the latter New Testament and Its Developments*. Downer's Grove: IVP, 1997.

Mills, Watson E., gen. ed. *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1990.

Ryken, Leland, James Wilhoit, Tremper Longman III. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downer's Grove: IVP, 1998.

Gospel Studies

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*, English Edition. New York: American Bible Society, 1982.

Beardslee, William A. *Literary Criticism of the New Testament*. Nashville: Fortress, 1970.

Dodd, C. H. *The Apostolic Preaching and Its Developments*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.

Stein, Robert. *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.

Pauline Studies

Beker, J. Christiaan. *Paul's Apocalyptic Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.

Doty, William G. *Letters in Primitive Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1973.

Ellis, E. Earle. "Paul and His Co-Workers." *New Testament Studies* 17 (1970-71):437-52.

Jewett, Robert. *A Chronology of Paul's Life*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.

Munck, Johannes. *Paul and the Salvation of Mankind*. Trans. F. Clarke. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1959.

Roetzel, Calvin J. *The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1975.