



NTEN5300 Exploring the New Testament (Hybrid)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division

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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 for 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

1. The student will be able to understand thoroughly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected themes of the New Testament.
2. The student will be able to apply adequately New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected themes of the New Testament to contemporary needs in the church.
3. The student will be able to communicate clearly New Testament history, background, and canon, and selected themes of the New Testament to a contemporary audience.

Embedded Assignment Description

1. *Paper*. The embedded assignment functions as a take-home portion of the final exam, and is **due when the final exam is taken**. For 1–2 Thessalonians the student will explain the historical context of the passage, the exegetical teaching of the passage (historical teachings), and how these teachings can be applied and communicated to a contemporary audience. 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. *Exegetical Principles*. Indicate the use of appropriate tools, methods, and resources in the application of sound exegetical principles. Be sure to, describe briefly the history that created the church at Thessalonica and explain why this history provides background for understanding the Thessalonian correspondence. What is the canonical problem for 2 Thessalonians? On the theme of eschatology, what is the difference between the two letters that becomes a critical problem? What elements of the situation of the establishment of the church at Thessalonica speak to the needs of the contemporary church? How does the eschatological emphasis in the two letters inform our understanding of the nature of Christian hope? How does an understanding of this hope meet the needs of the contemporary church?

3. *Communication Skills*. Communicate clearly through the embedded assignment the results of the research derived from using exegetical skills, including the original meaning and contemporary application of the text.
4. *Rubric*. The general grading rubric to be used in evaluating the embedded assignment performance of students in the class is outlined in the table below.

Domain	Level	Inadeq. (0 points)	Basic (1 point)	Competnt (2 points)	Good (3 points)	Excellent (4 points)
<i>Understanding</i> The student:	Understood thoroughly historical context, exegetical teachings, NT themes engaged in text					
<i>Application</i> The student:	Applied adequately results of research to contemporary church needs					
<i>Communication</i> The student:	Communicated clearly NT text, background, exegesis, meaning, and application					

Required Textbooks

- The Bible in any modern committee translation, such as RSV, NRSV, NIV, NASB, etc. Note that the 2015 NIV Study Bible is edited by our textbook authors D. A. Carson and Douglas Moo.
- Carson, D. A. and Douglas Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Zondervan, 2005.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Longenecker, Bruce. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*. Baker Academic, 2003.

Course Requirements

The following components comprise the student's grade for the course. Grades for each component will be calculated on the basis of the following percentages. Due dates are given in the Course Schedule below. This hybrid course combines Blackboard and on-campus work. Most of the work is done on Blackboard. The on-campus work is a weekend workshop.

- **Unit Quiz** will be given on the readings and PowerPoint presentations indicated in the assignments section of the course syllabus. The quiz is due each week by Saturday midnight. Quizzes are timed, *open book/notes* and are taken online through the Blackboard course shell. An Internet interruption or other technological difficulty is not a problem and can be remedied. Dr. Stevens will assist you to re-set the quiz.
- **Reading Report** on the percentage of reading completed (100%, 90%, 80%, etc.). The honor system is crucial. The report is due each week by Saturday midnight. Two different reading assignments are covered in this accountability area:
 1. Textbook reading report is given weekly for each unit.
 2. Bible reading reports are given cumulatively in specific weeks (Units 4, 6, etc.).
- **Book Review** on *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* will be submitted. The act of submission itself is the student's affirmation of having read the entire book. The review is due by Saturday midnight of Unit 5.

Follow these steps:

 1. Read the entire book, making notes.
 2. Give the book's bibliographic information in correct Turabian form.
 3. Give the author's biographical information, such as title, employment, career.
 4. State the thesis of the book: "The thesis of this book is . . ."
 5. Write summary overview of the sections of the book.

6. Suggest strengths and weaknesses of the book.
 7. Summarize and conclude the review.
- **Sectional Exams** will be given on the days scheduled. Late exams will incur a penalty of 5% per day past due date. Exams are timed, *open book/notes* and are taken online through the Blackboard course shell. An Internet interruption or other technological difficulty is not a problem and can be remedied. Dr. Stevens will assist you to re-set the quiz.
 - **Embedded Assignment** is a part of this class for Institutional Effectiveness purposes. This assignment is a short, single-spaced, two-page, written paper on 1–2 Thessalonians introducing the historical context with an exegetical overview of content and indication of contemporary application. The rubric will assess understanding, application, and communication skills related to New Testament study demonstrated in the paper. This assignment is a take-home part of the final exam. However, the assignment may be completed at any time in the semester (break week is suggested). The student should consider working on the embedded assignment during the spring break week in order to take pressure off of final exam preparation.
 - **Exam Preparation:** Keep up with all your work throughout each week in the semester. Use review study guides to *prepare questions ahead of time*. Start no later than a week to prepare the study questions, but good students will begin ten days to two weeks in advance.
 - **Managing Deadlines:** Part of ministry preparation is learning how to prepare for deadlines. The syllabus has a Time Management Strategy below. Consider this or some similar strategy for managing your valuable time this semester. You will be working with deadlines your entire ministerial career. Meeting your deadlines is a huge part of your professional and ministerial preparedness. *Take deadlines seriously, and you will be more highly respected in your places of service.*
 - **Weekend Workshop.** The class will meet on campus for a two-day weekend workshop with multiple sessions each day on:
 - **Friday, March 12 (1:00–5:00 and 6:00–9:00)**
 - **Saturday, March 13 (8:00–12:00 and 1:00–5:00)**

Here are a few important notes related to this weekend workshop:

- a. **Unit 8 Adjustments.** Unit 8 has to be adjusted to accommodate the workshop that happens the weekend of that same week. Therefore:
 1. Note that *all Unit 8 assignments* are due **Thursday of Unit 8, not Saturday**.
 2. Note also that the **Mid-Term Exam** *also is due Thursday of Unit 8*. The student will need to be aware of this schedule and be working on the study guide for this exam in advance of the exam to prepare adequately.

In short, the student must *plan ahead* to be prepared for these two necessary adjustments to the Unit 8 schedule to accommodate the workshop. Mark your calendar and discipline your preparation for both Unit 8 and the Workshop.
- b. **Pre-Workshop Reading.** The compressed timeframe of a workshop does not allow for reading textbook material covered in the workshop during the workshop. Thus, the student has to have a disciplined schedule that will facilitate reading this material in advance of the workshop. Some students achieve this goal before the semester begins. Some students achieve this goal by planning this reading on a weekly schedule they devise during the first half of the course. *Reading quizzes will be taken after the workshop* in the week after spring break, and reading reports will be offered at this time as well.
- c. **Workshop Quizzes.** The reading quizzes for each topic covered during the workshop **must be completed by the Saturday of the week after spring break**. For session topics during the workshop, see the special workshop schedule listed

after the main class schedule below.

- d. *Class Completion*. Note that, because of the compressed schedule of this hybrid course with its weekend workshop and the topics covered at that time, this class will be completed three weeks after spring break in advance of the regular semester ending.

Late Policy

Weekly assignments cannot be made up without direct appeal by email *to the grader* for valid reason (illness, death, catastrophe, technical, computer, Internet). *Normal ministerial activity is not a valid reason* (funeral, wedding, revival, D-Now, etc.). The late penalty is 5 points per day late, including weekends, adjusted for extenuating circumstances, evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the grader.

Evaluation of Grade

Unit Quiz	20%
Reading Report	10%
Book Review	10% (Unit 5)
Exams	50% (Unit 8, Unit 16)
Embedded Ass.	10%

Technical Assistance

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

1. <https://my.nobts.edu/cmportal/> is the login for the CMC Portal for access to grades and other academic information.
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](https://www.nobts.edu/blackboard).
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](https://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 for being a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism and can result in expulsion from school. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Professor Link

Dr. Stevens’s personal website is <https://www.drkoine.com>. This website supports his teaching ministry with personal, professional, and educational information.

Course Schedule

Unit	Due	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Unit 1	Jan 23 Sat	Introduction, Gospels Gospel Genre	C&M: Chs. 1–2 Ferg: 5–147 <i>Quiz, Reading Report</i>
Unit 2	Jan 30 Sat	Matthew, Mark Synoptic Gospels	C&M: Chs. 3–4 Ferg: 300–316, 537–61 <i>Quiz, Report, Matt, Mark</i>
Unit 3	Feb 6 Sat	Luke, John Synoptic and Johannine Gospels	C&M: Chs. 5–6 <i>Quiz, Report, Luke, John</i>
Unit 4	Feb 13 Sat	Acts Extending the Gospel Story	C&M: Ch. 7 <i>Quiz, Report, Acts</i>
Unit 5	Feb 20 Sat	Letters and Paul Letter Genre and Pauline Issues	C&M: Chs. 8–9 Ferg: 562–82 <i>Quiz, Report, Book Review Due</i>
Unit 6	Feb 27 Sat	Romans The Gospel of God	C&M: Ch. 10 <i>Quiz, Report, Romans</i>
Unit 7	Mar 6 Sat	1–2 Corinthians Major Church with Major Problems	C&M: Ch. 11 <i>Quiz, Report, 1–2 Cor</i>
Unit 8	Mar 6 Thurs	Gal, Eph, Phil Prison Epistles	C&M: Chs. 12–14; Ferg: 592–620 <i>Quiz, Report, Gal, Eph, Phil</i> <i>Mid-Term Exam (Thursday)</i>
Units 9–14	Mar 12–13	Weekend Workshop	See Pre-Workshop Readings and Workshop Schedule below.
Break	Mar 15–20	Spring Break	
Units 9–14	Apr 10 Sat	Post-Workshop Assignments	<i>Work on Embedded Assignment</i> <i>Take Workshop Reading Quizzes</i>
Unit 15	Apr 17 Sat	The New Testament Canon Development of Authoritative Texts	C&M: Ch. 26 <i>Quiz, Report</i>
Unit 16	Apr 24 Sat	Course Conclusion	<i>Embedded Assignment</i> <i>Final Exam</i>

Pre-Workshop Reading (Due before Workshop)

Topics	Reading
Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians	C&M: Chs. 15–16; <i>Col, 1–2 Thess</i>
1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon	C&M: Chs. 17–18; <i>1–2 Tim, Titus, Phile</i>
Hebrews, James	C&M: Chs. 19–20; <i>Heb, James</i>
1–2 Pet, 1–3 John, Jude	C&M: Chs. 21–24; <i>1–2 Pet, 1–3 John, Jude</i>
Revelation	C&M: Chs. 25; Ferg: 182–212; <i>Revelation</i>

Workshop Schedule

Friday		Saturday	
Time	Topics	Time	Topics
<i>Afternoon</i>		<i>Morning</i>	
1:00–2:20	Colossians, Philemon	8:00–9:20	1–2 Peter, Jude
2:30–3:50	1–2 Thessalonians	9:30–10:50	1–3 John
4:00–5:00	Group Discussion	11:0–12:00	Group Discussion
5:00–6:00	Break	12:00–1:00	Break
<i>Evening</i>		<i>Afternoon</i>	
6:00–7:20	1–2 Timothy, Titus	1:00–2:20	Revelation
7:30–8:50	Hebrews, James	2:30–3:50	Revelation
		4:00–5:00	Group Discussion

Bibliography

The following bibliography is suggested by the New Testament Department of Denver Seminary and available at this link:

<http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/new-testament-exegesis-bibliography-2009/>

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Major Commentaries

The lists of top eleven commentaries for each N.T. book are divided into three sections: the first contains those we consider the best detailed, critical commentaries using the Greek text; the second lists more mid-level works using the English text (some with references to the Greek in footnotes); and the third consists of commentaries that are briefer and/or have a special focus on application. At least one priority title is asterisked for each level.

Abbreviations for series:

AB = Anchor Bible BECNT = Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament BNTC =

Black's New Testament Commentary BST = Bible Speaks Today EBC = Expositor's Bible Commentary EC = Epworth Commentaries ECC = Eerdmans Critical Commentary ICC = International Critical Commentary Int = Interpretation NAC = New American Commentary NCB = New Century Bible NCBC = New Cambridge Bible Commentary NIBC = New International Biblical Commentary NICNT = New International Commentary on the New Testament NIGTC = New International Greek Testament Commentary NIVAC = NIV Application Commentary NTC = New Testament Commentary NTinC = New Testament in Context NTL = New Testament Library NTR = New Testament Readings PNTC = Pillar New Testament Commentary SP = Sacra Pagina THNTC = Two Horizons New Testament Commentary TNTC = Tyndale New Testament Commentary WBC = Word Biblical Commentary ZECNT = Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament

MATTHEW

Davies, W. D. and D. C. Allison, Jr. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel according to St. Matthew* (ICC, rev.), 3 vols. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1988-97.

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