



**NTEN5317 NT Exegesis (English): James**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Biblical Studies Division**  
**Summer 2021 - Internet**

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**I. MISSION STATEMENT**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a thorough study of the Book of James through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis, comparison of various English versions, consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, and consultation with major literature and commentaries. The course emphasizes proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying that meaning in teaching and preaching. This course has two prerequisites: *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics* and *Exploring the New Testament*.

**III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

*Knowledge*

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know a basic thematic outline for the letter of James
- Know the literary and thematic connections with the teachings of Jesus
- Know James's literary purpose for writing the letter
- Know the historical setting of the letter of James
- Know the critical and historical problems associated with a study of James

*Attitudes*

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the richness of the letter of James for teaching and preaching
- Recognize the importance of James as a foundational document for the church
- Recognize the importance of historical-grammatical exegesis to interpreting James
- Be more confident in interpreting the letter of James

*Skills*

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- Supply a summary analysis on any assigned section of James demonstrating interaction with historical-grammatical exegesis and narrative reading
- Explain the significance of wisdom literature for interpreting James
- Be able to access good critical commentaries on the letter of James

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS:

##### Required Textbooks:

- Bible in modern translation: RSV, NRSV, NASV, NIV, GNB, NLT, *et al.*
- Craig L. Blomberg and Mariam J. Kamell, *James* in Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Clinton E. Arnold, gen. ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008)
- Douglas J. Moo, *James*, in Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Leon Morris, gen. ed. (Leicester, Eng.: InterVarsity Press; Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985)

##### Supplemental Texts (Optional):

- Craig Price, *Biblical Exegesis of New Testament Greek: James* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008)
- Peter H. Davids, *James*, in New International Biblical Commentary (Peabody, Mass.: Henrickson Publishers, 1989; and Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster Press, 1995)
- Ralph P. Martin, *James* in Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 48, David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker, gen. eds. (Waco: Word Books, Publishers, 1988)
- Peter H. Davids, *The Epistle of James: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, in The New International Greek Testament Commentary, I. Howard Marshall and W. Ward Gasque, gen. eds. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster Press, 1982)
- James B. Adamson, *The Epistle of James*, in The New International Commentary on the New Testament, Ned B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, and Gordon D. Fee, gen. eds. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1976)

#### V. COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course will involve the following methodologies: lecture, textbook readings, independent research and writing.

#### VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading Summaries:** The student will preserve information gained in commentary readings by summarizing in a brief, narrative outline forms the discussion, exegetical options pointed out, as well as specific positions taken by each commentator. These will be completed every other week and posted in Blackboard.
2. **Unit Quizzes:** A timed short quiz will be given over units with reading assignments. You may not advance to the next exegetical unit until the quiz for the previous unit is completed. You must take all quizzes. These will be completed every other week in Blackboard.
3. **Discussion Board Posts:** The student will participate in weekly threaded discussions online for each unit of the text assigned in the syllabus. The purpose is to discuss together:
  - (1) *Exegesis*—issues of exegesis, that is, the meaning of a given text in its *original* historical and grammatical setting, and

(2) *Application*—issues of application, that is, the application of the text to a *modern* setting.

Every student must participate in these threaded discussions regularly. Postings must be significant. They should demonstrate intelligent synthesis and interaction with commentary reading, podcasts, and other resources. The professor may redirect the direction of discussion with a comment or question, but the obligation for serious reflection and interaction remains with each student.

Courtesy and good online etiquette is expected in these discussions. The professor has zero tolerance for talking down, deriding, or ridiculing of persons or ideas shared. Violation of proper and respectful online behavior will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

5. **Mid-term Exam:** The mid-term exam has two components. The first is completed offline using any resources available to the student. The student can be working on this component all along the way during the first part of the course. The other component is completed online and is a timed, forced completion exam as scheduled in the syllabus. Detailed instructions for both components will be given on Blackboard.
6. **Final Paper: Exegesis Project:** In lieu of a final exam, the students will prepare an exegesis paper on an assigned text from James. Students will write an exegesis of the assigned biblical texts and will prepare an outline of the communication of the text in a sermon or Bible Study. The Exegesis will be done in the following order:
  - i. Students will begin with a reading of the text assigned in James.
  - ii. Students will use phrasing to breakdown the outline of the assigned text
  - iii. Students will then write a brief statement of the meaning of the assigned text as they understand it at this point.
  - iv. Students will write a verse-by verse explanation of the text using their own understanding of the writer's words before reading the assigned notes and commentary readings on the passages. This process is to enable the student to think through the actual text on his/her own before reading what the notes and commentaries say so they can reflect on their own thoughts about the meaning of the text before reading what the commentators say it means.
  - v. Students will then read the Dukes notes and the two commentaries, dialoging in brief notes with the writers about differences in the meaning of the text.
  - vi. Students will then write a summary of the meaning of the text as they process it in the light of the writing from the Dukes Notes and the commentaries.
  - vii. Finally, the students will then finalize their phrasing outline of the assigned passage in order to communicate the message of the text through a sermon or Bible study. From the phrasing outline of the text, a larger outline will be made containing the following information: should have an Introduction previewing what will be communicated, at least two or three main points expressed in complete sentences, and at least two subpoints

for each main point expressed in complete sentences, and a brief conclusion showing a call to action based on the text

## VII. EVALUATION OF GRADE

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1. Reading Summaries - 20%
2. Unit Quizzes - 15%
3. Discussion Board Posts - 15%
4. Mid-term Exam - 25%
5. Final Paper: Exegesis Project - 25%

## VIII. 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. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
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.

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

## X. 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.

## XI. COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit	Dates	James Text	Assignments
Unit 1	May 31-June 6	1:1-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Introductory Material and commentary in Dukes Notes, Moo and Blomberg to James 1:1-18.</li> <li>• Reading Assessment</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board post</li> </ul>
Unit 2	June 7-13	1:19-2:7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Dukes' notes, Moo, and Blomberg on James 1:19-2:7;</li> <li>• Reading Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post</li> </ul>
Unit 3	June 13-20	2:8-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Dukes' notes, Moo, and Blomberg on James 2:8-26</li> <li>• Reading Assessment</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post</li> </ul>
Unit 4	June 21-27	3:1-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Dukes' notes, Moo, and Blomberg on James 3:1-18</li> <li>• Reading Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post</li> </ul>
Unit 5	June 28-July 4	4:1-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Dukes' notes, Moo, and Blomberg on James 4:1-17</li> <li>• Reading Assessment</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post</li> </ul>
Unit 6	July 5-11	5:1-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Term EXAM POSTED, DUE JULY 11:</li> <li>• Reading: Dukes' notes, Moo, and Blomberg on James 5:1-12</li> </ul>
Unit 7	July 12-18	5:13-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading: Dukes' notes, Moo, and Blomberg on James 5:13-19</li> <li>• Reading Quiz</li> <li>• Discussion Board Post</li> </ul>
Unit 8	July 19-23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Exegesis Paper</li> </ul>
Final PROJECT		Due July 23	PAPER DUE BY 11:59PM, JULY 23

## XII. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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