

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

*Course Syllabus*

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**NBST 515**

**New Testament Orientation I**

**Course Description**

A general introduction to the New Testament Gospels, General Epistles, and Revelation, emphasizing matters of text, canon, authorship, date, authorial purpose, and theme development. Also a special introduction, involving current issues of criticism and interpretation, such as the synoptic problem. The general principles of interpretation (hermeneutics) will be introduced as well as the special principles concerning parables, symbols and types, and prophecy.

**Rationale**

This course will provide the student with an overview of both the background and content of the New Testament. A broad look at the New Testament as well as the historical, cultural, political, and religious context allows the student to see how the specific message of a New Testament document interfaces with the whole.

**I. Prerequisite**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

**II. Required Resource Purchase**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

**III. Additional Materials for Learning**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word
- D. The Holy Bible. A study Bible, such as the NIV Study Bible or NASB Study Bible, is recommended but not required.

**IV. Measurable Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Describe the social, economic, geographical, and political context of the New Testament.
- B. Describe the major Jewish religious beliefs and religious movements of first-century Judaism.
- C. Explain the Synoptic Problem and the main scholarly theories that resolve it.
- D. Describe the major events of Christ's life and ministry.

- E. Define the main characteristics of each New Testament book covered.
- F. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical setting, major themes, interpretive issues, and literary genres of the New Testament documents covered in the course.
- G. Demonstrate an ability to think critically and perform evidence-based research by writing a biography of a key character in the Gospels.

## V. Course Requirements and Assignments

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion Boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads except for the final forum, which only requires 1 reply. Each reply must be at least 200 words. If sources are used, the student must use parenthetical citation. Acceptable sources include the following: the Bible; course textbooks; and other peer-reviewed, scholarly sources. Popular sources and Internet sources are not allowed.

- D. Biographical Study

1. Topic Approval  
The student will choose a biblical character from a provided list on which to write his/her Biographical Study. The student will submit his/her topic to the instructor for approval.
2. Bibliography  
The student will prepare a bibliography with a minimum of 6 peer-reviewed, scholarly sources. At least 1 of the scholarly sources must be a scholarly commentary.
3. Outline  
The student will write an outline to include a working title of the Biographical Study, a paragraph describing his/her research methodology, the outline, and his/her revised bibliography from the previous module/week's assignment in current Turabian format. The outline itself must include an overall introduction and conclusion to the study as well as a description of all the lessons or sections that the study will contain.

4. **PowerPoint**  
The student will create a PowerPoint presentation in conjunction with his/her Biographical Study to be used in church settings. There is no required number of slides, but the PowerPoint must include the following: a title slide, an introduction slide, at least 1 slide for each lesson or section of the study, a conclusion slide, and a bibliography slide.
5. **Paper**  
The student will write a 10–20-page research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the Biographical Study he/she has been working on throughout the course. The paper must include at least 6 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

E. **Exams (4)**

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the modules/weeks in which it is assigned. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and have a 40-minute time limit except for Exam 4. Exam 4 will contain 2 essay questions as well as 18 multiple-choice and true/false questions.

**VI. Course Grading and Policies**

A. **Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Biographical Study	
Topic Approval	0
Bibliography	30
Outline	40
PowerPoint	30
Paper	200
Exam 1 (Modules 1–2)	100
Exam 2 (Modules 3–4)	100
Exam 3 (Modules 5–6)	100
Exam 4 (Modules 7–8)	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. **Scale**

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

C. **Style Guidelines**

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## Course Schedule

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### NBST 515

Textbooks: Lea & Black, *The New Testament: Its Background and Message* (2003).  
 Scott, *Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament* (2000).

Module/ Week	Reading & Study	Assignments	Points
1	Lea & Black: ch. 1 Scott: Introduction, chs. 1–7 2 presentations 1 case study	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread Biographical Study – Topic Approval	10 0 50 0
2	Lea & Black: chs. 2–3 Scott: chs. 8–12 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies Biographical Study – Bibliography Exam 1	50 30 100
3	Scott: chs. 13–18, Appendices A–H 1 presentation	Biographical Study – Outline	40
4	Lea & Black: chs. 4–6 Bible Readings: Matthew, Mark, Luke 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread Exam 2	50 100
5	Lea & Black: chs. 8–11 Gospel of John 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Replies Biographical Study – PowerPoint	50 30
6	Lea & Black: ch. 7 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread and Reply Exam 3	100 100
7	Lea & Black: chs. 19–21 Bible Readings: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter 1 presentation	Biographical Study – Paper	200
8	Lea & Black: chs. 22–24 Bible Readings: 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation 1 presentation	Exam 4	100
<b>Total</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.