

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

NBST 640

APOLOGETICS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation of key issues in the study of the New Testament with a focus upon defending the truthfulness of the New Testament. Focused attention will be given to the Synoptic Problem, historical Jesus studies, the historicity of Acts, as well as theories of the development of New Testament Christology and claims of early, competing Christianities.

RATIONALE

The study of the accuracy and historical reliability of the New Testament is vital to the defense of Christianity. This course will explore current, key issues related to the truth-claims of the New Testament in order to defend the core of Christianity. In doing so, it will equip the student to defend the veracity of the New Testament against recent criticisms of its claims.

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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Discuss key issues of methodology, history, and theology as it relates to the key issues of the New Testament.
- B. Evaluate critical issues related to the veracity of the New Testament.
- C. Assess scholarly approaches to the historical issues of the New Testament.
- D. Develop a defense of key historical issues in the New Testament.
- E. Integrate historical, biblical, and theological methodology into a cohesive whole in presenting a defense of the veracity of the New Testament.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- 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 (2)

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. For each thread, the student must integrate biblical principles and cite at least 2 scholarly sources other than the course textbooks and the Bible in current Turabian format. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. The student must include a word count at the end of each thread and reply.

- D. Research Paper – Topic and Bibliography

The student will submit the topic for his or her Research Paper along with 10 scholarly sources other than the course textbooks and the Bible cited in current Turabian format.

- E. Critical Evaluations (2)

For each Critical Evaluation, the student will write a 1,000–1,200-word paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the selected portions of the Ehrman and Kruger textbooks. Approximately half of each Critical Evaluation (500–600 words) must be a summary of the applicable textbook, while the other half must be a critique of the textbook's strengths and weaknesses. Each Critical Evaluation must include citations from the course textbooks and the Bible.

F. Research Paper

The student will write a 2,000–2,500-word, research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the subject of New Testament reliability or the defense of high Christology. The paper must reference at least 10 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible and include a bibliography.

G. Exams (4)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week and the immediately preceding module/week. Exams 1 and 3 will contain 15 multiple-choice and true/false questions, 1 matching question, and 1 short essay question. Exams 2 and 4 will contain 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions and 1 short essay question. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes and have a 30-minute time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums	
Threads (2 at 45 pts ea)	90
Replies (2 sets of 2 at 20 pts ea)	40
Research Paper – Topic and Bibliography	35
Critical Evaluations (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
Research Paper	175
Exams (4 at 90 pts ea)	360
Total	1010

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 [LUSD 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 Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

NBST 640

Textbooks: Bauckham, *Jesus and the God of Israel* (2008).
 Bock, *Studying the Historical Jesus* (2002).
 Ehrman, *Jesus, Interrupted* (2009).
 Köstenberger et al., *Truth in a Culture of Doubt* (2014).
 Kruger, *The Question of Canon* (2013).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Bock: Introduction Ehrman: ch. 1 Köstenberger et al.: Introduction–ch. 1 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread	10 0 45
2	Bock: chs. 1–6 Ehrman: ch. 5 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies Exam 1	20 90
3	Bock: chs. 7–11 Köstenberger et al.: ch. 4 1 presentation	Research Paper – Topic and Bibliography	35
4	Ehrman: ch. 2 Köstenberger et al.: ch. 2 1 presentation	Critical Evaluation 1 Exam 2	150 90
5	Ehrman: ch. 3 Köstenberger et al.: ch. 3 2 presentations	DB Forum 2 Thread	45
6	Ehrman: ch. 4 Köstenberger et al.: ch. 5 Kruger: Introduction–ch. 1 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Replies Exam 3	20 90
7	Kruger: chs. 2–5 1 presentation	Critical Evaluation 2	150
8	Bauckham: ch. 1 Köstenberger et al.: Conclusion 1 presentation	Research Paper Exam 4	175 90
TOTAL			1010

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**.