

Chafer Theological Seminary

Albuquerque, NM

**NT 231 - NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM**

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NT 231 NEW TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM (2 credits)  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course the student will study the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, the history, methods, and status of NT Textual Criticism (TC), and collation practice. The history of the printed Greek NT, apparatuses in the Greek NT, and practical applications of textual data are covered. Textual, translation, and preservation theories are evaluated.

### **COURSE RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES:**

Textual Studies are important issues in biblical Christianity today. The servant of Jesus must know about the history of the NT text to avoid mistakes and to appreciate what God has done through faithful men and women. Upon completion of the course, students will:

1. Know the basics concerning NT textual criticism
2. Appreciate historic textual studies and the reliability of the inerrant Word of God
3. Use Greek NT textual apparatuses and do research in NT texts and translations

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Read Aland, Barbara and Kurt. *The Text of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. ISBN 0-8028-3662-3  
Other items, mostly online, will be required reading for discussion in class. Turn in a short reading report before the final exam. Clarity and completeness will help determine the grade on the reading report. Read the textbook as soon as possible because it will help you throughout most of the course.
2. In this class, the Greek New Testaments USB4, NA 27, and H&F, 2 will be used. You must have access to these Greek NTs.
3. Write a two-page critique of "The Making and Preservation of the Bible" by Ron Minton (details to be discussed).
4. Subscribe to this TC group: We will use it for some TC research and discussions. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/textualcriticism>
5. In TC, vocabulary is important. Keep a list of every new vocabulary word you read for this course. Give the word or phrase, the meaning, and where you saw it.
6. Quizzes and final exam

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

1. The grading scale is as published in the catalog.
2. Exams may combine both essay and objective questions.
3. Any written papers must be done and emailed in an acceptable form using proper grammar and syntax. Papers should reflect cognizance of argument, understanding of material, good attitudes, and good organization.
4. The final grade will be determined as follows:  
Reading 20%    Discussions 20%    Book Critique and Vocabulary list 20%  
Quizzes 20%    Final Exam 20%

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

Listen to all class lectures, do all assigned reading and writing assignments, and participate in discussions. Take the exams, do the reading, and turn in any written work on dates given in this syllabus. Regular discussions are important in this course.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

This is a two-credit course. There are 14 lessons. We will go by the following schedule. Changes must be approved by the professor.

- Lesson 1. Listen to the lecture on Introduction, Vocabulary for textual studies, and Introduction to Textual Criticism.  
Be ready to discuss your reading progress.
- Lesson 2. Listen to the lecture on Sources of the New Testament Text, and Kinds of Copyist Errors and Evidence in Textual Criticism.  
Be ready to discuss “Fallible Manuscripts-Infallible Autographs” by R. Nicole.
- Lesson 3. Listen to the lecture on Greek Manuscripts, General Information, and Papyri mss.  
Be ready to discuss *The Journey from Texts to Translations* reviewed by Ron Minton and *The Text of the New Testament* by Aland and Aland reviewed by Ron Minton.  
Quiz # 1 - on Lessons 1 & 2 [Introduction, Vocabulary, Sources of the NT Text, and Kinds of Copyist Errors and Evidence in Textual Criticism]
- Lesson 4. Listen to the lecture on Uncial mss.  
Be ready to discuss *The Ecclesiastical Text* by Ted Letis reviewed by Ron Minton and *The Debate Over 1 John 5:7* by Maynard - reviewed by Ron Minton.
- Lesson 5. Listen to the lecture on Minuscule mss. and Lectionary mss.  
Be ready to discuss “Dean Burgon and the Received Text” by W. Pierpont and “What Difference Does it Make?” by W. Pickering.  
Online: [http://www.revisedstandard.net/text/WNP/ap\\_h.html](http://www.revisedstandard.net/text/WNP/ap_h.html)
- Lesson 6. Listen to the lecture on Ancient Versions and Church Fathers.  
Be ready to discuss “Why I Became a Majority Text Advocate” by Art Farstad and “Gender-Inclusive Bible Translations” by Ron Minton Online: [http://www.chafer.edu/images/images/stories/docs/journal/v9n1/v9n1\\_6.pdf](http://www.chafer.edu/images/images/stories/docs/journal/v9n1/v9n1_6.pdf)  
Quiz # 2 - on Lessons 3 - 5 [Greek Mss. - Papyri, Uncial, Minuscule, and Lectionary]
- Lesson 7. Listen to the lecture on Manuscripts and Text-types  
(See “The Making and Preservation of the Bible”).  
Be ready to discuss “The Majority Text Theory ... A Critique” by Dan Wallace  
Online: [http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/37/37-2/JETS\\_37-2\\_185-215\\_Wallace.pdf](http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/37/37-2/JETS_37-2_185-215_Wallace.pdf)  
And “Westcott and Hort vs. Textus Receptus” by Doug Kutilek.

Online: [http://www.kjvonly.org/doug/kutilek\\_westcott.htm](http://www.kjvonly.org/doug/kutilek_westcott.htm)  
Quiz # 3 - on Lesson 6 [Ancient Versions and Church Fathers]

Lesson 8. Listen to the lecture on The History of the Printed Greek New Testament.  
Watch the Wallace Ehrman debate of October 2011 at SMU. What is your reaction?  
Read critiques of the debate:

<http://bibletranslation.ws/2011/12/06/ehrman-and-wallace-smu-debate/>

<http://www.dts.edu/about/news/20111019-wallace-debate/>

<http://wellthoughtoutlife.blogspot.com/2011/10/bart-ehrman-vs-daniel-wallace-is-text.html>

Lesson 9. Listen to the lecture on The New Testament in English and Textual Variants.  
Be ready to discuss “Whom He Also Named Apostles: A Textual Problem in Mark 3:14” by Skinner

Online: <http://christopherwskinner.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/article-whom-he-also-named-apostles-a-textual-problem-in-mark-3-14.pdf>

and “Galilai, a or vIoudai, a in Luke 4:44” by James Davis.

Quiz # 4 - on Lessons 7 & 8 [Mss. and Text-types, History of the Printed Greek NT]

Lesson 10. Listen to the lecture on Using NA27, Using UBS4, and Using MT2.

Be ready to discuss the English Bible and textual variants.

Quiz # 5 - on Lesson 9 [NT in English and Textual Variants]

Lesson 11. Listen to the lecture on Practice Using the Textual Apparatuses.

Be ready to discuss “OT Quotations in the NT – A Textual Study” by Ron Minton and “The Conundrum of Acts 12:25” by Maurice Robinson.

Quiz # 6 - on Lesson 10 [Using NA27, Using UBS4, and Using MT2]

Lesson 12. Be ready to discuss the Online TC list and text families (especially Dec. 2011).

Lesson 13.

Prepare for the final exam. Be ready to suggest and discuss TC issues.

Lesson 14.

Prepare for the final exam. The final exam is over everything covered in the course, but approximately 50% of the questions will come from the quizzes.

**Take final exam.**

## **COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY: (Basic Bibliography with a few notes for NTTC)**

The first entries are valuable websites. There are more, but these are enough for one lifetime.

1. A good basic dictionary is here: <http://www.skypoint.com/members/waltzmn/>  
More links are here also <http://www.skypoint.com/members/waltzmn/Links.html>

2.

3.

4.

5.

\*\*Aland, Kurt. *Kurzgefasste Liste der Griechischen Handschriften des Neuen Testaments*, 2nd ed. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1994. This is the “official” list of all NT Greek manuscripts. It is the must have for every serious textual scholar.

\*\*Aland, Kurt, and Barbara Aland. *The Text of the New Testament: An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism*. Translated by Erroll F. Rhodes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. This is our textbook and likely the best (with Metzger – see below) general textbook on NT TC.

\*\*Aland, Barbara, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger, eds. *The Greek New Testament*, 4<sup>th</sup> rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, United Bible Societies, 1993. This is the Greek NT used most in the USA. It has a simple apparatus, but it gives more details on the evidence it does present.

\*\*\_\_\_\_\_. *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 27<sup>th</sup> ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993. This is the Greek NT used most in the Europe. It has a more extensive and complex apparatus.

Black, David A., ed. *Rethinking New Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. This is the result of a NTTC symposium at SE Baptist Theological Seminary.

Black, Matthew, and Robert Davidson. *Constantin von Tischendorf and the Greek New Testament*. Glasgow: University of Glasgow Press, 1981.

Clark, Kenneth W. *A Descriptive Catalogue of Greek New Testament Manuscripts in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1937.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Studies in Methodology in Textual Criticism of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

- Comfort, Philip Wesley. *Encountering the Manuscripts: An Introduction to New Testament Paleography & Textual Criticism*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005. This book is used as a text by some seminary profs. It is basic, but covers more in the area of ancient writing.
- Daniels, Boyd L., and M. Jack Suggs, eds. *Studies in the History and Text of the New Testament in Honor of Kenneth Willis Clark*. Studies and Documents, ed. Jacob Geerlings, vol. 24. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1967.
- Ehrman, Bart D., and Michael Holmes, eds. *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research: Essays on the Status Quaestionis*. Studies and Documents, ed. Eldon J. Epp, Vol. 46. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Elliott, J. K. *Essays and Studies in New Testament Textual Criticism*. Cordoba: Ediciones el Almendro, 1992.
- \*\*Epp, Eldon J., and Gordon D. Fee. *Studies in the Theory and Method of N T Textual Criticism*. Studies and Documents, ed. Irving Alan Sparks, vol. 45. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. This book is loaded with good information on text-types.
- Fee, Gordon D. *Papyrus Bodmer II (P<sup>66</sup>): Its Textual Relationships and Scribal Characteristics*. Studies and Documents, ed. Jacob Geerlings, vol. 34. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1968.
- \*\*Greenlee, J. Harold. *Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*, rev. ed. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995. This is a basic but useful book on NTTC. It has been used as a class text many times, but is short and limited.
- Kenyon, Frederic. *Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the Greek New Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Macmillan, 1926.
- Haines-Eitzen, Kim. *Guardians of Letters: Literacy, Power, and the Transmission of Early Christian Literature*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2000.
- Hodges, Zane and Art Farstad. *The Greek NT According to the Majority Text*. Nashville: Nelson, 1982. This is the only Majority Greek NT with a useful apparatus.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *Text-Critical Methodology and the Pre-Caesarean Text: Codex W in the Gospel of Mark*. Studies and Documents, ed. Irving A. Sparks, vol. 43. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
- Kutilek, Doug. *J. Frank Norris and His Heirs*, 1999. This book documents that historically, Baptist were not KJVO and many favored the critical text.

Letis, Theodore. *The Majority Text: Essays and Reviews in the Continuing Debate*. Ft. Wayne, Ind.: The Institute for Reformation Biblical Studies, 1987. Letis was the leading scholar to defend the TR.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Ecclesiastical Text*. Philadelphia: The Institute for Renaissance and Reformed Biblical Studies, 1997.

Longenecker, Richard N., and Merrill C. Tenney, eds. *New Dimensions in New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974.

Metzger, Bruce M. *Chapters in the History of New Testament Textual Criticism*. New Testament Tools and Studies, ed. Bruce M. Metzger, vol. 4. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968.

\*\* \_\_\_\_\_. *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Palaeography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

\*\* \_\_\_\_\_. *The Text of the New Testament*, 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992. ISBN-13: 978-0195072976 In many ways, this is the best book on NTTC.

\*\* \_\_\_\_\_. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*, 2nd ed. Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 1994. Here is provided the reasons why the editors chose the textual variant they chose in UBS3.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Bible in Translation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. Articles published in *BibSac*.

Metzger, Bruce M. and Bart Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. rev. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. This fourth edition of Metzger did not improve the quality of the third enough to recommend it.

Patzia, Arthur G. *The Making of the New Testament: Origin, Collections, Text, and Canon*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.

Pickering, Wilbur. *The Identity of the NT Text*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nashville: Nelson, 1980.  
Online: <http://www.revisedstandard.net/text/WNP/index.html> Pickering is a Majority Text advocate. Not all receive his ideas.

Roberts, C. H. *Manuscript, Society and Belief in Early Christian Egypt*. London, Oxford Univ. Press, 1979.

Roberts, C. H., and T. C. Skeats. *The Birth of the Codex*. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1983.

Scrivener, F. H. A. *A Plain Introduction to the Criticism of the New Testament for the Use of*

*Biblical Students*. 2 vol. Revised by Edward Miller. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1894. Reprint. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1997. This old book is a classic.

Soden, Herman Freiherr von. *Die Schriften des Neuen Testaments in Ihrer Altesten Erreichbaren Textgestalt Hergestellt auf Grund Ihrer Textgeschichte, I Teil: Unterschungen*, 3 vols. Berlin, 1902-10; 2nd ed. *II Teil: Text mit Apparat* Gottingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 1913. Von Soden produced an extremely complex textual apparatus – so complex that it was never used widely. His work was used heavily by Hodges and Farstad.

Sturz, Harry A. *The Byzantine Text Type and New Testament Textual Criticism*. Nashville: Nelson, 1984. Sturz showed that the old papyri manuscripts had Byzantine readings. His work showed the Byz Txt was older than many had thought, but he did not always favor one text over the other.

\*\*Swanson, Reuben, ed. *New Testament Greek Manuscripts: Variant Readings Arranged in Horizontal Lines against Codex Vaticanus*. Pasadena: William Carey University Press, 1995. This work lays out the text of several mss in an easy to compare fashion. It was the result of an enormous amount of collation work by a dedicated man.

Taylor, D. G. K., Ed. *Studies in the Early Text of the Gospels and Acts: The Papers of the First Birmingham Colloquium on the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*. Atlanta: SBL, 1999.

Turner, E. G. *Greek Papyri: An Introduction*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968.

Westcott, B. F., and F. J. A. Hort. *The New Testament in the Original Greek*. 2 vols. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1882; reprint, *Introduction to the New Testament in the Original Greek*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1988. Their introduction and arguments were so strong that few challenged them for a few generations. Their basic premises are now considered incorrect.

Wisse, Frederik. *The Profile Method for Classifying and Evaluating Manuscript Evidence as Applied to the Continuous Greek Text of the Gospel of Luke*. Studies and Documents, ed. Irving A. Sparks, vol. 44. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.

\*\* Recommended for special use



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