COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Description/Purpose

BE5315: The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the social and cultural milieu of Israelite, Jewish, and Greco-Roman life in the Old and New Testament periods. It is intended to aid the student who wishes to do historical-grammatical interpretation of the Bible by introducing him/her to the information and resources available in carrying out the historical and cultural part of the interpretive process.

NT8315: A study of the cultural context of the New Testament, utilizing ancient sources to which the student was exposed in BS8102 New Testament Backgrounds and relevant secondary sources in order to facilitate understanding of the cultural context of and daily life in the first century. Topics such as honor/shame, patronage, family life, and religion will be discussed. The class will meet in conjunction with BE5315 Bible Manners and Customs. Doctoral students in the class will be required to prepare and teach on a topic during the semester.

II. Course Objectives

A. To expose the student to the cultural institutions and practices of the Old and New Testament world in which the people of Israel, Judaism, and the early church originated and developed.

B. To provide background and illustrative material conducive to the student’s better understanding and more effective teaching of the Bible.

C. To introduce the student to relevant literature of both a primary and secondary nature in order to stimulate interest and provide a basis for further study.

III. Course Textbooks


IV. Course Requirements

A. Reading: Read the King and Stager, Ebeling, and deSilva texts according to the schedule. Choose 150 pages of Ferguson to be completed before the end of the semester.

B. Small Research papers #1: Write an 8-10 page paper on one of the following topics: honor/shame or patronage. Describe the topic for half of the paper and demonstrate how an understanding of this impacts one’s interpretation of a biblical passage(s). This paper is intended to be more methodological and reflective. Although you may wish to consult books other than the required texts and commentaries, your focus should be on how the knowledge of the topic in the ancient world affects our understanding of the Bible.

C. Small Research papers #2: Write an 8-10 page paper on one aspect of following topics: family or religion. These are broad topics and you will need to focus on a specific area. It may be worthwhile to discuss your topic with the professor. Describe the topic for half of the paper and demonstrate how an understanding of this impacts one’s interpretation of a biblical passage(s). As with paper #1, this paper is intended to be more methodological and reflective. Although you may wish to consult books other than the required texts and commentaries, your focus should be on how the knowledge of the topic in the ancient world affects our understanding of the Bible.

D. Research paper (be5315 only): Write a 20 page paper on a significant cultural area and its impact on the Bible. Demonstrate your study’s impact on interpretation. Half the description should describe the cultural phenomenon and the other should focus on the biblical text. This may be done through focusing on a specific passage(s) or on a theme.

E. Research paper (nt8315 only): In consultation with the professor early in the semester, write a 25 page paper on a significant cultural area and its impact on the Bible (focus on the NT but this not need be exclusive). Demonstrate your study’s impact on interpretation. Half the description should describe the cultural phenomenon and the other should focus on the biblical text. This may be done through focusing on a specific passage(s) or on a theme. The PhD student will also prepare to teach a session on his or her topic at the end of the semester. Therefore, meeting with the professor early in order to determine a topic not covered in class will be necessary. Also, the student may wish to meet with the professor a few times during the semester to discuss teaching strategies, etc. The paper is due on the day the student teaches; however, it is suggested the student submit it early for feedback before teaching.

V. Course Supplemental Information

Dallas Theological Seminary works to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with psychological, medical, physical, and learning disabilities. A student desiring or needing accommodations on the basis of such disabilities or of medical incidents such as hospitalization or severe injury is to contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (https://students.dts.edu/studentlife/disability-services/). If the student is aware of a condition that may impact his/her studies, the student should contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities at prior to the beginning of the semester or at the onset of a crisis.
Receive Weather and Emergency Alerts by Text Message
DTS wants you to be aware of our emergency texting service. We strongly urge you to go to https://www.dts.edu/account/alerts/ and sign up to receive emergency texts related to weather or disaster school closing.

VI. Course Policies

A. Letter/numerical Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-98</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>94-95</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>70-71</td>
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B. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Percentage breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>BE5315</th>
<th>NT8315</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small paper 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep and teaching</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>10%</td>
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VII. Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Work Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; history</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 3</td>
<td>Honor/Shame</td>
<td>deSilva, ch 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>King &amp; Stager, ch 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>honor/Shame</td>
<td>deSilva, ch 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>King &amp; Stager, 2 (pp. 21-35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>Patronage</td>
<td>desilva, ch 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>Patronage</td>
<td>deSilva, ch 4</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Family (including marriage and members)</td>
<td>deSilva, ch 5, Ebeling, intro, chs 1-2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Family (including members)</td>
<td>King &amp; Stager, ch 2 (pp. 36-61), Ebeling, chs 3-6</td>
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<td><strong>Small paper #1 due</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Family (including slavery)</td>
<td>deSilva ch. 6, Ebeling, ch 7, conclusion</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>deSilva, ch 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>King &amp; Stager, ch 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>deSilva, ch 8</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Miscellaneous topics</td>
<td>King &amp; Stager, ch 2 (pp. 61-84), <strong>Small paper #2 due</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 16 - 20</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td>No Classes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 23 - 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Miscellaneous topics (PhD Student lead)</td>
<td>King &amp; Stager, chs 4-5 [read pp. 285-300; skim the rest]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NT8315: Research paper due on the day the student teaches; however, it is suggested the student submit it early for feedback before teaching</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Miscellaneous topics (PhD Student lead)</td>
<td>Have completed 150 pages of Ferguson BE5315: Research paper due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exams (Dec 14-17)</td>
<td>No exam</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**OT Reading List**


*Great People of the Bible and How They Lived*. Pleasantville: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1956.


**For specific topics the following should be consulted:**


OT Topics List

1. Marriage, women, and children
2. Hebrew social life and classes
3. Israelite political life
4. Israelite economic life
5. Israelite legal institutions
6. Armies and war
7. Death and funeral rites
8. Time and the calendar
9. Weights and measures
10. Agriculture
11. Education
12. Medicine and healing
13. Arts and crafts
14. Sabbaths and holy days
15. The priesthood and Levites
16. Sanctuaries, altars, and sacrifice

NT Bibliography (Other sources mentioned in class)

A. Jewish Culture

1. Primary sources
   Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the OT, ed. R. H. Charles
   Babylonian Talmud translated into English, ed. I Epstein
   Dead Sea Scriptures, trans. M. Burrows, A. Dupont-Summer,
   T. Gaster, G. Vermes (The Hebrew is available in Die Texte aus Qumran, E. Lohse).
Josephus
Legends of the Jews, ed. L. Ginzburg
Mishnah, trans. H. Danby, P. Blackman
Philo
Targum of Isaiah, ed. J. Stenning
Targums of Onkelos and Jonathan ben Uzial on the Pentateuch with Fragments of the Jerusalem
Targum,
ed. J. Etheridge
Rabbinic Anthology, ed. C. Montefiore and H. Loewe

2. Secondary Sources
Bailey, K. Poet and Peasant, 1976
Bowker, J. The Targums and Rabbinic Literature, 1960
Dalman, G. Jesus-Jeshua, 1929
Derrett, J. Law in the NT, 1970; Jesus's Audience
_______, Studies in the NT, 1977 (vol. 1), 1980 (vol. 2), 1983 (vol. 3)
Edersheim, A. Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, 1889
_______, Sketches of Jewish Social Life, 1876
_______, Temple, 1908
Farmer, W. Maccabees, Zealots, and Josephus, 1956
Finegan, J. Archeology of the NT, 1969
Goodenough, E. Jewish Symbols in the Greco-Roman Period, 1953-68
_______, Jurisprudence of Jewish Courts in Egypt, 1968
Grant, F. Economic Background of the Gospels, 1926
Hoehner, H. Herod Antipas, 1972
Jeremias, J. Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus, 1969
Jewish People in the First Century, ed. S. Safrai et. al., 1974
MacNamara, Targum and Testament, 1972
Moore, G. Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era, 1927
Neusner, J. Christianity, Judaism and other Greco-Roman Cults, 1975
_______, Early Rabbinic Judaism, 1975
_______, First Century Judaism in Crisis, 1975
_______, History of the Mishnaic Law of Purities, 1974
Oppenheimer, A. Am ha-aretz: A Study in the Social History of the Jewish
People in the Hellenistic-Roman Period, 1977
Rost, L. Judaism Outside the Hebrew Canon, 1976
Schürer, E. The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ, rev. ed.,
1973
Sevenster, J. Do You Know Greek? How Much Greek Could the First Jewish
Christians Have Known? 1968
Smallwood, M. The Jews under Roman Rule, 1976
Urbach, E. The Sages, 1979

B. Greco-Roman Culture

1. Primary Sources
Ammianus Marcellinus
Ausonius
Austin, M. The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest, 1981
Bagnall, R. and Derow, P. Greek Historical Documents:
_______, The Hellenistic Period, 1981
Barrett, C. K. NT Background: Selected Documents, 1956
Caesar
Cato
Celsus
Cicero
Columella
Dio Cassius
Dio Chrysostom
2. Secondary Sources
Amos, H. and Lang, A. These Were the Greeks, 1979
Bar-Kochba, B. The Seleucid Army, 1976
den Boer, W. Private Morality in Ancient Greece and Rome, 1979
Cambridge Ancient History, vol. 10, 1934
Carcopino, J. Daily Life in Ancient Rome, 1940
Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities, 1870
Dill, S. Roman Society from Nero to Marcus Aurelius, 1920
Earl, D. The Moral and Political Tradition of Rome, 1967
Foakes-Jackson, F. and Lake, K. Beginnings of Christianity,
vols. 1, 2, 5, 1920-33
Glover, T. World of the NT, 1931
Grant, F. Roman Hellenism and the NT, 1962
Grant, M. World of Rome, 1960
Harris, H. Sports in Greece and Rome, 1972
Hooper, F. Roman Realities, 1979
Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Classical World, 1975
Jaeger, W. Paideia: The Ideals of Greek Culture, 1947
Jones, A. Cities of the Eastern Roman Provinces, 1971
Kurtz, D. and Boardman, J. Greek Burial Customs, 1971
Lacey, W. The Family in Classical Greece, 1968
Landels, J. Engineering in the Ancient World, 1978
Luttwak, E. The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire, 1976
MacMullen, R. Roman Social Relations, 1974
Majie, D. Roman Rule in Asia Minor, 1950
Maiuri, A. Roman Painting, 1953
Mazzolani, L. Idea of the City in Roman Thought, 1970
Mommsen, T. The Provinces of the Roman Empire, 1909
Oxford Classical Dictionary, 1970
Perowne, S. Roman Mythology, 1969
Pfitzner, V. Paul and the Agon Motif: Traditional Athletic Imagery in the Pauline Literature, 1967
Ramsey, W. Cities of St. Paul, 1907
C. General Works

Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt, 1972-
Benko, S. and O'Rourke, J. The Catacombs and the Colosseum, 1971
Bible Almanac, 1980
Bouquet, A. C. Everyday Life in NT Times, 1953
Budden, C. The Local Colour of the Bible, vol. 3, 1925
Dictionary of Life in Bible Times, 1960
Encyclopedia of Bible Life, 1955
Encyclopedia Judaica, 1964
Fairweather, W. The Background of the Gospels, 1920
______, Jesus and the Greeks, 1924
Foerster, W. From the Exile to Christ, 1964
Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible 1962, Supplement 1976
Lohse, E. The NT Environment, 1976
New Bible Dictionary, 1962
Reicke, B. The NT Era, 1968
Wight, F. Manners and Customs of Bible Lands, 1953
NT TOPICS LIST

Family Life
  parent-child
  husband-wife
  marriage
  divorce

Army

Social Classes
  Sadducees
  Pharisees
  Herodians

Housing
  furniture
  clothing
  food

Social Classes
  Essenes
  Zealots
  patrician
  plebian
  citizens
  slaves
  freedmen

Hospitality
  feasting
  banqueting
  dancing

Travel

Death
  mourning
  burial

Correspondence

Economics
  trades
  taxes

Art

Education

Music

Language

Entertainment

Law
  courts
  punishment
  legislation

Government

Diaspora

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