Course Description
A study of the text and canon of scripture, focusing critically on seminal writings from antiquity and on contemporary research. The course will consist of readings, discussions, some lectures, and student presentations of research.

Required Texts. Note: you may not need to buy them all but you will have some readings from each. We will be reading a number of articles as well, most of which will be posted online.
Holmes, Michael, ed., The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations (hardback) third edn. (Baker, 2007)
Kruger, Michael J., Canon Revisited (Crossway, 2012)

Recommended Texts. Consider adding many of these to your library!
Burke, Tony, Secret Scriptures: A New Introduction to the Christian Apocrypha (Eerdmans, 2013)
Comfort, Philip W. and David P. Barrett, The Text of the Earliest New Testament Greek Manuscripts (Wheaton; Tyndale House, 2001)


Köstenberger, Andreas, and Michael Kruger, *The Heresy of Orthodoxy* (Crossway, 2010)


McDonald, Lee and J. A. Sanders, eds., *The Canon Debate* (Hendrickson, 2002)


Tov, Emanuel, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* (Fortress, 3rd edn., 2011)


Classroom Procedure
Generally, at least half of the semester’s meetings will consist of the discussion of readings, with the occasional lecture/soliloquy by the instructor. The last classes will consist of seminar presentations by the students, presenting papers, approximately 40 minutes in length, and discussion of those papers.

Assignments and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>% OF GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Reading and Discussion</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminology Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>100</td>
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The Research Paper is to be on some aspect of the textual criticism of the Bible or the canon of the Bible. The particular topic must be approved in advance by the instructor. This could be the study of a selected text critical problem, the study of a particular manuscript or group of manuscripts, the study of the witness of a Father or a text, a synthetic study of a theme or topic in the history of the canon, focusing on Scripture or on post-canonical history. Alternatively, it may be a critical interaction with a modern author on the text or canon of Scripture. Students will be assigned a one-hour slot in class in which to present and then defend their papers. All other students will submit a grade for this presentation (to be considered by the instructor). The papers may then be rewritten and will be submitted at the end of the semester.

Paper Requirements for 2NT716 Text and Canon
(Note, these only apply to the final paper which you turn in, not to the paper you present in class.)
1. Length. The paper will have a strict word limit of 8,000 words, footnotes included but bibliographies not included (pictures and captions not included).
2. Format. The body of the paper should be in 12 point font, 1.5 line-spaced. Please use footnotes rather than endnotes. Footnotes may be no smaller than 10 point, single-spaced.
3. Citation. Any consistent system of citation is acceptable, within these parameters: first reference to a source must give full bibliographic information; thereafter simply cite the author, an abbreviated title (if your paper uses only one work by a particular author, you may omit the abbreviated title), and page number.
4. Bibliography. Begin the Bibliography on a separate page. List in alphabetical order (by author’s last name) all works cited in the paper.
Summary of Reading and Discussion means that two to four times in the semester (depending upon the enrollment) each student will be responsible for summarizing that week’s readings and leading a discussion based on notes/questions from the readings, for the first hour of class. The notes for your presentation must be handed in after the presentation.

Terminology Quiz. In addition, the student will take one quiz over basic terminology relevant to canon and textual criticism.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will prepare and orally deliver a paper on an aspect of the textual criticism or the canon of the New Testament.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Some of the content of Scripture is studied in detail in terms of its text and the manuscripts which represent it. The whole subject of canon is concerned with Scripture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Stress on the doctrine of Scripture as expressed in the WCF and other Reformed confessional documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Although one could be a complete louse and be an expert on technical matters of canon and textual criticism, a proper approach and appropriation of this material will of great advantage to the ongoing process of the believer’s sanctification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Understanding the origins of the text and the formation of the Biblical canon is foundational to an informed Christian world and life view.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Schedule for **2NT716 Text and Canon**, Fall 2018

C. E. Hill

The assignments are subject to change!

**KEY**

➢ = item on the course website

All other items in assigned texts, in library, or on internet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | S 4  | Intro. OT Canon | Nehemiah 8-10; Jer. 18.18; Ezek. 7.26; Luke 24.44-49; Heb. 1.1-2
Peter Gentry, Review of *The Septuagint as Christian Scripture*, *Near East Archaeological Society Bulletin* 51 (2006), 47-49 (3pp.)

Ed Gallagher, “The Date Criterion” (6pp.)


Canon Debate Appendix C (for reference)

b. B. Bathra 14b–15a (G/M 65-69)

About 90 pages

**Recommended**

Beckwith, Roger, *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church: And Its Background in Early Judaism*


W. Bredenhof, “Guy de Brès and the Apocrypha,” *WTJ* 74 (2012), 305-21


S. Mason, “Josephus and His Twenty-Two Book Canon,” in McDonald and Sanders, *Canon Debate*, 110–127;

Try to find: b. *Yoma* 21b; t. *Yad*. 2.13-14; b. Sota 48b

**IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, Professor Lecture:** Hill, “The OT Canon in the Early Church”


62 pages

**Recommended**

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, **Student**
SUMMARY of OT Text and Canon; Paper Ideas

4 S 25 NT Canon **Contemporary Views**
- Robert Funk, “The Once and Future NT,” in McDonald and Sanders, *Canon Debate*, 541-57 (27 pp.)
- Everett Ferguson, “Factors Leading to the Selection and Closure of the NT Canon: A Survey of Some Recent Studies,” in McDonald and Sanders, *Canon Debate*, 295-320 (26 pp.)
- Kruger, *Canon Revisited*, 15-122. (108 pp.)

161 total pages

**Recommended**
- Harry Gamble, “The NT Canon: Recent Research and the Status Quaestionis,” in McDonald and Sanders, *Canon Debate*, 267-94 (28 pp.)
- Lee McDonald, “Identifying Church and Canon … The Criteria Question,” in McDonald and Sanders, *Canon Debate*, 416-39 (24 pp.)

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, **Student**

5 O 2 NT Canon **Foundations and Primary Sources**
- Origen (G/M 87-99)
- Eusebius, *Historia Ecclesiastica* 2.15; 3.1-4; 3.24-25; 3.39 (G/M 99-110)
- The Muratorian Fragment
- Irenaeus, AH 3.praef. through 3.4.3; 3.11.7-9;
- Canon Debate Appendix D (for reference)
Recommended
Didache; 1 Clement; Polycarp, *To the Philippians*; Ps. Barnabas; Epistle to Diognetus; Shepherd of Hermas; *Epistula Apostolorum*,

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, Student

6 O 9 NT Canon Gospels
Hill, *Who Chose the Gospels?*

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, Hill, or Student

O 16 READING WEEK

7 O 23 NT Canon Dealing with Primary Sources
Fragments of Papias
Ignatius’ Letters (skim)
Read at least a smattering of pages from:
Gospel of Thomas; Gospel of Peter; Gospel of Judas. All can be found online.
Choose either:
and

Or

Recommended
Oskar Skarsaune, “Justin and His Bible,” in Sara Parvis and Paul Foster (eds.), *Justin Martyr and His Worlds* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007), 53–76

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, Student

8 O 30 NT Canon Final Overview
Kruger, *Canon Revisited*, 125-295

Recommended: Hill, “Deconstructio ad Absurdum?” *JETS* 52 (2009), 101-19
IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, Student
Possibly, Hill, “The Truth above all Demonstration” or Hill, “Irenaeus, the Scribes, and the Scriptures”

9 N 6 NT Text
Introduction/Overview
Review the basics in Aland and Aland from Greek Exegesis!
- Hill, RTS Introduction on Text Criticism
- Köstenberger and Kruger, Heresy of Orthodoxy Chs. 7-8, pp. 179-231 [53]
92 total pages

Recommended
B. Ehrman, Misquoting Jesus;

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, Student
Codex Sinaiticus; INTF website

10 N 13 NT Text
Methods
and download and view the presentation by Mink at http://egora.uni-muenster.de/ntf/service/downloads_en.shtml
Recommended
D. C. Parker, *New Introduction*, various parts: 151-54 (theological changes); 171-74 (what is a text-type?); 183-190 (exegesis, theology); 191-93 (corrections in P66, with photos) [19]; 227-82 (Rev., Paul) [56];

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, **Student**

11  N 20  Paper Writing (Professor gone)

12  N 27  NT Text  **Manuscripts**
        Hurtado, *Artifacts*, Chs. 1-3 (15-134 [120]), 5 (155-89 [35])
        155 total pages

Recommended
Hurtado, *Artifacts*, rest of book
Parker, *New Introduction*, various portions, 283-347

IN CLASS: Discussion of Readings, **Student**

13  D 4  **Student Papers**