

Course Syllabus

Seminar:

New Testament textual criticism, 15 ECTS

Course code	BV444	Valid from	Fall 2021
Discipline	Biblical Studies	Issued	2020-09-22
Level	Second cycle	Revised	2020-09-22

Admission requirements

60 ECTS in Theology/Religious Studies including BV201-BV202 New Testament Greek 1-2 (15 ECTS) or equivalent courses.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- show acquaintance with the primary sources of the New Testament text(s), i.e., Greek manuscripts, early versions, and church father's citations,
- demonstrate knowledge of the history of New Testament textual criticism as a discipline, and
- demonstrate increased understanding of the current theories and methods of New Testament textual criticism.

Competence and skills

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- demonstrate increased skills in Greek palaeography,
- show increased skills in using digital tools and methods for textual evaluation and editing, and
- show required competence and skill in writing an advanced research paper in textual criticism.

Judgement and approach

At the end of the course the student is expected to

- show the ability to evaluate textual problems on the basis of traditionally accepted criteria,
- demonstrate competence in evaluating positions regarding the textual history of the New Testament, and
- show ability to reflect on and contribute to the wider discussion of approaches and goals of the discipline.

Content

The course surveys the current field of New Testament textual criticism (NTTC): the primary sources for the Greek New Testament text; the current theories, methods and practice of NTTC, as well as its history of research. In addition, the students will continue to study Greek palaeography, the dating of New Testament papyri, and the development of the majuscule and minuscule script. The student will transcribe eighth Greek New Testament manuscripts and use digital tools for editing. Finally, the student will choose a suitable topic in dialogue with the supervisor and write a brief research paper which has the potential to be submitted to a national or international conference.

Course work

Lectures (webinars) on New Testament textual criticism and Greek palaeography, tutorials on how to transcribe GNT MSS using the tools in the NT.VMR 2.0. Transcriptions of minuscules/majuscules and a research paper (ca. 5000 words).

Examination

Seminars/webinars on trends in palaeography and New Testament textual criticism. (1 ECTS)
Critical review of *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research*, eds. Ehrman and Holmes. (4 ECTS)
Transcriptions of Greek majuscules and/or minuscules. (5 ECTS)
Research paper. (5 ECTS)

Grading Scale

Passed with distinction (VG), Passed (G) or Failed (U).

Course evaluation

A course evaluation will be done at the end of or after the course. The result of this evaluation will be accessible for the students. Since this is the first time the course is held, no changes have been made in the course outline.

Required reading

Ehrman, Bart D. and Michael W. Holmes. 2013. *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research: Essays on the Status Quaestionis*. 2nd ed. Leiden: Brill.
Holmes, Michael W. 2020. "New Testament Textual Criticism in 2020. A (Selective) Survey of the *Status Quaestionis*," *EC* 11: 3–20.
Orsini, Pasquale and Willy Clarysse. 2012. "Early New Testament Manuscripts and Their Dates: A Critique of Theological Paleography." *ETL* 88: 433–74.
Wasserman, Tommy. "Manuscripts and the Making of the New Testament." in *Cambridge History of Christianity* ed. Bruce Longenecker and David E. Whilhite. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.
Wasserman, Tommy. 2019. "Methods of Evaluating Textual Relationships: From Bengel to the CBGM and beyond." Pages 333–61 in *The Future of Textual Scholarship on the New Testament*, ed. Garrick V. Allen. WUNT 1.417. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Reference literature

IGNTP Guidelines for Transcribing Greek Manuscripts using the Online Transcription Editor: v 1.2. (PDF)
Metzger, Bruce M. 1981. *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Greek Paleography*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Metzger, Bruce M. 1994. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament: A Companion Volume to the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament, 4th rev. ed.* 2nd Edition. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft/United Bible Societies.
Novum Testamentum Graece. 2012. Edited by Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung Münster/Westfalen. 28th rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.
Parker, D. C. 2008. *An Introduction to the New Testament Manuscripts and Their Texts*. Cambridge: CUP, 2008.
Thompson, Edward Maunde. 2008. *An Introduction to Greek and Latin Paleography*. Rev. ed. Richmond: Tiger of the Stripe.