Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information

Professor: KENT BROWER, PhD
Email: kbrower@nazarene.ac.uk
Office: TBA
Home/Cell: Available in class. Please do not call between 9:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.
Office Hours: TBA

Catalog Description

This course unit is designed to contribute to the development of a critical and coherent biblical theology of Christian holiness based upon exegetical and theological engagement with the four gospels.

Course Narrative & Rationale

Recent scholarly work on purity and holiness has moved this topic from the realm of a parochial interest of those within the so-called holiness movement to mainstream discussion both in the academy and the church. Scholarly studies range from close examinations of the relationships between purity and impurity, holy and profane in the late second temple period to the place of holiness in the Graeco-Roman world. This module has its roots in the need for a fresh understanding of holiness in the church. It starts from the assumption that the question of holiness and purity was important in late Second Temple Period Judaism and that this is reflected in the gospel narratives. It also has a second assumption: that any biblical theological perspective on holiness must take account of the picture painted in the Gospels. In doing so, it challenges the de facto position in which the Gospels are rarely considered in developing a biblical understanding of Christian Holiness.

The course begins with an overview of the various starting points taken in Christian circles (including the Church of the Nazarene) for a doctrine of Christian holiness, analyzing their strengths and
weaknesses, before settling on a biblical theological reading. It addresses some of the reasons why the Gospels have too often been neglected as resource for holiness doctrine. It then moves to the socio-historical context of the Gospels in the late second temple period and the Graeco-Roman world. Specific attention is given to the Pharisees and Purity, the Dead Sea Scrolls community and perfection before focusing on Jesus and the Holiness Movements. Discussion then moves specifically to the Gospels in an expanded discussion of the textbook Holiness in the Gospels.

**Degree Objectives**

This course addresses the following NTS Degree Program Objectives:

1. MDiv Objective 2, “The articulation of the knowledge of God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.”
2. MACE Objective 1, “Appropriate and enhance the student’s ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and the fellowship of believers, sufficient to enable him or her to deepen a personal commitment to God and the Church and to inform a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry.”
3. MA(TS) General Academic Track Objective 1, “Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships.”
4. MA(TS) Research Track Objective 2, “Students will develop skill in academic research and writing as a basis for further graduate studies.”

**Course Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course you should:

1. have read and reflected upon the four gospels with a view to finding their contribution to a biblical theology of Christian holiness. (Assignments 1,4)
2. have reflected critically on the place of the doctrine of Christian holiness in the four gospels, and, in conversation with your own theological tradition, be able to articulate it in relation to the material in the course. (Assignments 1-3)
3. have demonstrated the ability to interact with other students in arriving at informed theological perspectives. (Assignments 1-3)
4. have demonstrated the integration of your understanding of the key theological concepts through a penetrating analysis of a chosen essay topic related to the module. (Assignments 2,3)
5. have critically reflected upon the implications of the picture of holiness in the Gospels for the contemporary church. (Assignments 1-3)
6. have produced acceptable quality written work. (Assignments 1-3)

**Required Texts & Course Materials**


**Recommended Texts & Course Materials**


**Course Outline**

A. Holiness in Biblical Perspective  
B. Holiness in the Late Second Temple Period  
C. Holiness in the Four Gospels

**Course Assignments & Requirements**

1. **Attendance and Participation.** Attendance in class, punctuality in being in the classroom, and participation in classroom discussion will contribute to the final course grade. Each day will include a session in which each of you will be invited to participate in a discussion of a topic based upon your required reading assignments and lectures. Each of you will contribute to the grading of your fellow students. (Outcomes 1--6)

2. **Reviews in response to Reading.** Seven reviews of the assigned readings are due to be uploaded to the appropriate Moodle assignments tab on the indicated date. Each review should be not more than 300 words in length. Each should include a summary of the reading (not more than 175 words and a response to the reading of not less than 125 words. (Outcomes 2—6)  
   [See Schedule below]

3. **Final Exam.** This course unit will include a two-hour written examination on the final day (January 31, 2014) based on the lectures and the assigned textbook, *Holiness in the Gospels*. The examination will be in essay form and will be available on Moodle. Once a student has opened the exam the completed exam must be uploaded back into Moodle within two hours. The examination must be completed no later than 1300 (1:00 pm CST) on January 31st 2014. (Outcomes 2--6)

   - Candidates may choose instead to write a 1500 word critical review of the textbook by Craig Blomberg, *Contagious Holiness* (details above).
   - **Due Date:** 03 February 2014 by 2355 (11:55 pm Central).

4. **Essay or Sermons.** (Outcome 1)

   [Choose either 4.1 or 4.2]
4.1 Write an essay of not less than 2000 and not more than 3000 words including footnotes answering the question, *What contribution do the gospels make to a biblical theology of Christian Holiness?* The essay should reflect on the content of the course unit itself including the workshops, the required reading, and the lectures. The key point of the essay, however, is to show precisely how what you have learned can be integrated into an understanding of Christian holiness that takes the gospels seriously as contributors to the development of Christian doctrine. Upload your essay to Moodle not later than **10 March 2014 at 2355 (11:55 pm Central)**.

4.2 Write THREE sermon manuscripts of not less than 700 words and not more than 1000 words each on FOUR Pauline texts selected with the approval of the lecturer by **31 January 2014**. Consult at least five commentaries and make reference to them in the bibliography. Upload your sermons to Moodle not later than **10 March 2014 at 2355 (11:55 pm Central)**.

### Distribution of Student Learning Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>pre-module hours</th>
<th>module hours</th>
<th>post-module hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face Class Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments and Learning Activities</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams &amp; Quizzes</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>53</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted via Moodle.

### Form and Style Expectations

When referencing a textbook in one of the review essays use the author’s (or editor’s) last name and the page number. When referencing in the major essay use the form and style provided by Turabian and *SBL*.

### Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

### Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

All work is expected to be submitted on the due date. Work that is one day late will be accepted but may attract a reduction in grade. Work that is two or three days late will be reduced by one letter grade. Work that is four or five days late will be reduced by two letter grades. No work will be accepted that is more than one week late without the permission of the Dean of NTS.
Note: You cannot pass the course unless ALL work is completed.

**Additional Costs**

There are no costs for this course beyond tuition, textbooks, and whatever costs of living and transportation required to be in Kansas City during the Module time.

**Course Grading**

A quote from Dr Andy Johnson shows my perspective as well: “Evaluation in this kind of course, by its very nature, involves an element of subjectivity. It involves someone who is an expert in the field making a judgment on the kind of work you produce. That is a part of what you are paying for in this class. The primary factors I take into account in assessing —good solid graduate work, the sort of work to which I assign a “B” are (1) ability to demonstrate a breadth and depth of understanding of the material engaged; (2) ability to engage this material **in a critical way**; (3) ability to exhibit how the material is related to a larger theological and ecclesial context. If you demonstrate a **consistent** ability to do these things in all your coursework, you can expect to receive a B. If you demonstrate consistent ability to do them **incisively and with excellence**, you can expect to receive an A. If you demonstrate an ability to do these things **often, but not consistently**, you can expect to receive a C. (Hence, I assume that a C means “average,” or “satisfactory” work. It does **not** mean “bad” or “unsatisfactory.”)

Each assignment will be assigned a grade between 0 and 100 inclusive. The final class grade will be weighted as follows:

- 7 Reviews @ 5% each
- Final Exam or Book Review
- Attendance & Participation
- Final Essay

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- 7 Reviews @ 5% each  
- Final Exam or Book Review  
- Attendance & Participation  
- Final Essay

35%  
15%  
20%  
30%

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

**Class Attendance**

**Daily Attendance.** Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact me as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

**Absence.** By NTS policy if a student is absent 2 1/2 or more days during the module, the professor may automatically fail the student. Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make me aware if their attendance must be recorded.
**Mobile (Cell) Phones.** Sending and receiving text messages or any other use of mobile (cell) phones during class sessions is not acceptable. Please ensure that your mobile (cell) phones are **SWITCHED OFF** [*OFF MEANS OFF, NOT SILENT*] and **PUT AWAY** during **ALL** class sessions.

**Laptops and the Internet.** Students may use the internet during lecture/discussion sessions for reasons directly related to the course. All forms of electronic communication during lecture/discussion sessions is expressly forbidden. This includes but not limited to the use of email, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or any other social network site without the express permission of the lecturer. Any other use of a laptop for any other purpose than one which is directly related to this course unit may result in exclusion from lectures.

**Audio and Video Recordings**

In order to foster a safe learning environment in which various viewpoints are respected, audio or video recordings or transcripts thereof by students is prohibited without the permission of the faculty member in charge of the course. If permission is granted, redistribution of these recordings or transcripts thereof outside the scope of the course is prohibited.

Students enrolling in videoconferencing courses or participating in certain synchronous Moodle activities should be aware that their images and voices will be transmitted digitally through the videoconferencing equipment and may be recorded. Continued enrollment in these courses constitutes willingness to participate in the class with these conditions. If you have privacy concerns, please discuss your enrollment with the Registrar.

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**Course Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9—16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pre-Module Begins Begin Reading assigned books and articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27-Feb 3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Face-to-Face Lectures, Discussion Groups, Presentations, Reading, Final Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3–10</td>
<td>Post-Module Begins</td>
<td>Reading of assigned and recommended readings and preparation for essay or sermons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10–17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Reading of assigned and recommended readings and preparation for essay or sermons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17–24</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Reading of assigned and recommended readings and preparation for essay or sermons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24 -</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Reading of assigned and recommended readings and preparation for essay or sermons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Begin writing essay or sermons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 10-17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Conclude writing essay or sermons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 18-25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Submission of Essays or Sermons. Due 18 March 2014 at 2355 (11:55 pm Central)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Select Bibliography**


Brower, Kent. “Blessed are the Pure in Heart (Matt 5:8).” In *BRHP* 2, 15-26.


______. “Purity in John”. Forthcoming article uploaded to Moodle.

“‘We are Able’: Cross-bearing discipleship and the Way of the Lord in Mark” in *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 29 (2007), 177-201.

______. ‘Who then is this?’ – christological questions in Mark 4:35 – 5:43” in *EvQ* 81 (2009), 291–305.


