

**New Testament Senior Thesis 1  
NT 5990**

Spring, 2018  
Ozark Christian College  
Directed Independent Study  
1 Credit Hours

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***Course Description***

A guided study course where students will propose, write, and defend a central thesis in the area of New Testament Studies. This course will focus on the research for the thesis. Students may present their findings in the form of a colloquium.

***College Mission***

The ultimate mission of Ozark Christian College is to glorify God by evangelizing the lost and edifying Christians worldwide. The immediate mission of Ozark Christian College is to train men and women for Christian service as a degree-granting institution of biblical higher education.

***College Learning Goal***

The learning goal of Ozark Christian College is to educate and equip students to become like Christ and serve Christ in leadership ministry. Graduates will be biblically grounded, spiritually matured, culturally engaged, and vocationally prepared.

***College Learning Objectives (CLO)***

Ozark has identified learning outcomes for each area of the curriculum – general education (GE), biblical education (BE), and professional education (PE). This course will directly address the following college learning outcomes:

General Education Outcomes:

**GE 1: Communicate effectively in written and oral forms.**

Professional Education Outcomes:

**PE 4: Accomplish professional competencies.**

***Course Objectives:***

Upon completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to research in a scholarly manner approaching a Master's level quality [GE 1; PE 4].
2. Engage with scholarly materials in a responsible and sophisticated manner [GE 1; PE 4].
3. Summarize their primary thesis in a succinct and clear manner [GE 1; PE 4].

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***Information Literacy:***

Ozark Christian College is committed to information literacy training. This training will be intentional, incremental, and missional. Students will learn to access, evaluate, and utilize pertinent information in their ministry preparation.

***ADA Accommodation:***

If you have a disability and are requesting an accommodation, please contact the Vice President of Enrollment Management at 417-626-1234 Extension 2006 as soon as possible.

***Mode of Communication:***

Students will be required to use their occ.edu email address as an official mode of communication regardless of Canvas or other email accounts. Students are to be held responsible for checking the official email for assignments and messages.

### **Learning Management System**

This course will use the Canvas LMS (<http://occ.instructure.com>). The professor will keep all grades and attendance on Canvas, and all course handouts that are not given in class will be posted there.

Occasionally students will be required to do certain quizzes on the Canvas site, as well as submit certain assignments there. Each student will receive an "invitation" to the course on Canvas through the OCC e-mail address. Students can arrange to receive notifications of changes to the course on the Canvas site in a number of different formats. The student's first responsibility in this class is to accept the invitation from Canvas for this course. Any changes to the course schedule will be made on the Canvas site, which will supersede the schedule printed in this syllabus.

### **Turnitin**

Ozark Christian College contracted with iParadigms, LLC for Turnitin® services to be used at the instructor's discretion. The Originality Check service allows students to submit a paper through Canvas to check for improper citation and potential plagiarism before it is submitted to the instructor. The Peer Review service allows students to submit assignments anonymously to peers for editing and feedback. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

### **Classroom Policies, Procedures, and Expectations:**

- **Cheating** – Don't do it! It will always be a temptation in your classes and in your life to take shortcuts through different forms of cheating, but you must fight the urge and do your work yourself. This is how you will benefit in all areas of life in the long run. If I conclude that cheating has occurred on any assignment, it will result in a failing grade for the assignment (0%), a meeting with me, and informing both the Academic Dean and the Executive Director of Student Development for further disciplinary action (which could result in failure of the class or dismissal from the college).
  - **Plagiarism** – Don't do this either! Like cheating, simply *stealing* someone else's work is always a temptation, but in this age of information, the ability to detect plagiarism is becoming easier and easier. So please don't think: "Oh, I won't get caught," because, inevitably, you will get caught. Just to be clear on the definition of plagiarism, here is a simple definition to work from: *The submission of material (in whole or in part) as your own work that is not your own work without proper citation, quotation, and/or appropriate documentation.* Like cheating, any accounts of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment (0%), a meeting with me, and informing both the Academic Dean and the Executive Director of Student Development for further disciplinary action (which could result in failure of the class or dismissal from the college).
  - **Attendance** – This is extremely important for non-traditional courses!!!! Due to U.S.D.E. regulations, we are required to have a weekly interaction in our distance education and reading classes with each student. This interaction will be our means for taking attendance throughout the school year. As a result, you will need to email me at [wood.shane@occ.edu](mailto:wood.shane@occ.edu) before Friday at 5:00pm each week to let me know what you have read that week to satisfy this requirement (see "Weekly Attendance" in the assignments below).
  - **Late Work** – This is virtually an oxymoron for my classes. Late work is not tolerated. The dates are clearly communicated for you so that you can plan accordingly to turn in your work on time.
  - **Assignments** – All assignments must be turned in via Canvas ([occ.instructure.com](http://occ.instructure.com)). ALSO, all assignments are: double spaced, 1" margins, 12 point font, Times New Romans, *SBL Handbook of Style* format [see below].
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**Text Books:**

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 3d ed. New York: Norton, 2014.

Helmut Thielicke, *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962.

**Assignment Due Dates:**

Date	Assignments Due:	Date	Assignment
1/16		3/20	
1/17		3/21	
1/18		3/22	
1/19	Weekly Attendance	3/23	Weekly Attendance
1/23		3/27	
1/24		3/28	
1/25		3/29	
1/26	Weekly Attendance; Submit your Potential Thesis Paper Summary	3/30	Weekly Attendance; RE-Submit a Newly Edited Incipient Thesis Paper
1/30		4/3	
1/31		4/4	
2/1		4/5	
2/2	Weekly Attendance	4/6	Weekly Attendance
2/6		4/10	
2/7		4/11	
2/8		4/12	
2/9	Weekly Attendance; Submit a Revised Incipient Thesis Paper	4/13	Weekly Attendance; Submit a Detailed Outline
2/13		4/17	
2/14		4/18	
2/15		4/19	
2/16	Weekly Attendance	4/20	Weekly Attendance; Meet with Me before this Date
2/20		4/24	
2/21		4/25	
2/22		4/26	
2/23	Weekly Attendance; <i>They Say, I Say</i> Book Report; Meet with Me before this date	4/27	Weekly Attendance
2/27		5/1	
2/28		5/2	
3/1		5/3	
3/2	Weekly Attendance	5/4	Weekly Attendance; <i>A Little Exercise for Young Theologians</i> Book Report
3/6		5/8	
3/7		5/9	Submit a Final Action Plan
3/8		5/10	
3/9	Weekly Attendance; Information Literacy	5/11	
3/13			
3/14			
3/15			
3/16	Weekly Attendance		

### **Assignments:**

- **Weekly Attendance (Due: Every Friday by 5:00pm) (5%)**
  - The United States Department of Education has demanded that in distance education and readings courses (and courses like this one) that we have weekly interaction with each student in order to satisfy our attendance policies at OCC.
    - As a result, you will be required to email me ([wood.shane@occ.edu](mailto:wood.shane@occ.edu)) each week to let me know what you were working—due by Friday at 5:00pm each week.
    - All that you are required to do is to email me:
      - [1] Name
      - [2] What you are reading/working on
      - [3] Any thoughts, comments, or questions you may have.
  - Again, this email needs to be sent to me each week by Friday at 5:00pm.
  
- **Submit Your Potential Thesis Paper Summary (7.5%)**
  - To begin this “thesis journey,” you need to select one paper from your time here at Ozark Christian College.
    - It can be any paper at all—just so long as it is in the area of New Testament studies!
      - From Acts to Revelation to Doctrine papers, I don’t care what paper you choose as long as it is in the area of New Testament studies.
      - To clarify the “New Testament studies” requirement, paper cannot be something on Gregory of Nyssa alone or on Martin Luther’s life—this is Church History and not “New Testament studies.”
    - This paper will be shaped, edited, re-written, expanded, and re-crafted to become your Senior Thesis [*N.B.*: By the end of NT Senior Thesis 2, this paper will be a minimum of 16,000 words].
  - What I need for this first assignment is the following:
    - [1] The title of the paper you are wanting to expand into your thesis.
    - [2] The class’s name, professor, and what year of your schooling the paper was written in.
    - [3] The reason why you chose this paper (in 75-125 words).
    - [4] The thesis statement of this paper (one sentence).
    - [5] The general outline of this paper.
    - [6] Your tentative plan of how you would like to develop this paper further (in 200-300 words).
    - [7] The current word count of this paper (not counting title page, table of contents, or bibliography).
  - NOTE: I do not want you to send me the actual paper in this step—see the next assignment for more explanation.
  
- **Submit a Revised Incipient Thesis Paper (15%)**
  - In this assignment, you will take the submitted (and approved) paper from the previous assignment and transfer the entire document into the *Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Handbook of Style* format.
    - Download the .pdf of the *SBL Handbook of Style* here: [www.shanejwood.com/images/stories/sblhs.pdf](http://www.shanejwood.com/images/stories/sblhs.pdf).
    - The reason we are using this paper format in this class (and in NT Senior Thesis 2) is because the majority of graduate programs in biblical studies will use this format, and if you were to publish anything in biblical studies at some point, the *SBL* format is the standard requirement.
  - You will need to pay attention to every detail of your paper to conform it to the *SBL* format, including (but not limited to):
    - Biblical Abbreviations (when, where, and how)
    - Footnote format
    - Bibliographic format

- Original source citation (in the body and in the footnotes)
    - Appropriate abbreviations for Journal articles
    - Appropriate abbreviations for individual original sources (e.g., Suetonius, Tacitus, etc.)
  - Once you convert your paper completely into the *SBL Handbook of Style* format, submit it to me electronically (*N.B.: Your document must be saved and submitted to me via Canvas in a .docx or .doc format*).
    - I will read the entire paper making comments on format and on content throughout the document.
    - I will write some areas that I would like you to improve on, explore further, ways to expand, etc.
  - Roughly a week or two after your submission, we will set up a meeting to discuss all of my notes.
- **They Say, I Say Book Report (7.5%)**
  - For this assignment you will need to read the book *They Say, I Say* and submit a report that includes the following elements:
    - [1] A confessional statement about how much you read (I want an actual number %).
    - [2] Answer this question in 250 words: How will this affect the way you research and (re)write your chosen thesis?
    - [3] Choose one word to describe your writing before you read this book, and now choose a different word to describe how you want to write after reading this book. In 250 words, how do you envision accomplishing that second word?
- **Information Literacy (12.5%)**
  - Based on the meeting after your “Submit a Revised Incipient Thesis Paper” assignment, I want you to development and acquire new (and/or additional) sources to accomplish the overall thesis project in New Testament Senior Thesis 2. So, you need to find the following:
    - **20** new journal articles
    - **5** new books
    - **5** miscellaneous sources (e.g., more journal articles, encyclopedia entries, books, etc.)
  - For this assignment, you will need to do and turn in the following:
    - [1] A bibliographic list of all 30 new sources listed above.
    - [2] Choose **three** journal articles, read them, and then summarize each article’s point in one sentence (20-25 words).
    - [3] Choose **one** book, read it, and then summarize its overall point and value in three words.
  - After turning this assignment in, it will be assumed that you will then read all 30 new sources to expand, supplement, and build your thesis.
- **RE-Submit a Newly Edited Incipient Thesis Paper (10%)**
  - Taking my comments from the initial submission, our meeting together, and the information literacy assignment, you will re-edit your initial paper.
    - This RE-submission should include: all formatting corrections, all grammatical corrections, all unsupported (or underdeveloped) arguments corrections, all clarity difficulties, all newly added sources, etc.
  - This will position your original content in the best possible manner to build upon, around, and through as you write the rest of the Senior Thesis in the following semester.
- **Submit a Detailed Outline (15%)**
  - For this assignment, I want you to write a detailed outline that takes into account both the information that you have already written (i.e., the incipient thesis submissions) and the areas in which you will expand the thesis.

- The definition of “detailed” is intentionally left ambiguous in regards to length, because I want you to do whatever it takes to set you up for success when you begin to write next semester.
      - What I am looking for in your outline, though, is whether or not the flow of thought clearly defends and develops your stated thesis statement—i.e., it should be clear *what* you arguing, *why* you are arguing in the manner you reflect in the outline, and *that* your progression of thought clearly supports your thesis.
    - After I receive your detailed outline, we will set up a meeting shortly thereafter to discuss the decisions you made and the direction you are headed.
- **Submit a Final Action Plan (20%)**
  - After our discussion and the comments I make on the previous assignment, you will develop and submit a final action plan for your thesis. This includes:
    - [1] *A Revised and Updated Detailed Outline*
    - [2] *A Revised and Updated Thesis Statement*
    - [3] *An Abstract for your Thesis Paper*
      - This is a thesis paragraph that, based off of your outline and in about 250 words, summarizes the entire point and line of argumentation for your thesis paper.
      - Look at journal article abstracts (usually included at the very beginning or the very end of the journal article) for examples on how this should look/sound.
    - [4] *Schedule of Writing goals for the Next 5 months*
      - In this portion, I want you to make a calendar of action steps/goals for you to adequately complete the writing requirements for the next semester (NT Senior Thesis 2).
      - For example, I want you to write things like:
        - January 12—Write 3,000 words of new material
        - February 12—Write 4,000 words of new material
        - February 20—Edit the new 7,000 words
        - March 2—Complete rough draft of the complete thesis manuscript
        - March 14—First edit of entire rough draft manuscript
    - [5] *7 extra journal articles completed*
      - I simply want you to list the bibliographic information of the 7 articles you completed here and a confessional statement of how much of the article you read next to each entry (I want an actual number %).
      - I anticipate that these 7 journal articles will be from the list submitted in the assignment on information literacy.
    - [6] *2 extra books*
      - I simply want you to list the bibliographic information for the 2 books you completed here and a confessional statement of how much of the book you read next to each entry (I want an actual number %).
      - I anticipate that these 2 books will be from the list submitted in the assignment on information literacy.
    - [7] *1 extra miscellaneous source*
      - I simply want you to list the bibliographic information for the miscellaneous book you completed here and a confessional statement of how much of the source you read next to each entry (I want an actual number %).
      - I anticipate that this miscellaneous source will be from the list submitted in the assignment on information literacy.
- **A Little Exercise for Young Theologians Book Report (7.5%)**

- For this assignment you will need to read the book *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians* and submit a report that includes the following elements:
  - [1] A confessional statement about how much you read (I want an actual number %).
  - [2] 3 Questions you would offer to lead a discussion based on the content of this book.
  - [3] 3 Quotes you would offer to prompt discussion from the book.
- Time permitting, we will meet for 45 minutes as a class to discuss this book.

**Grading**

The official OCC grading scale will be followed for the student's mid-term and final grades:

%	Grade	%	Grade
95-100	A	79-82	C
93-94	A-	77-78	C-
91-92	B+	75-76	D+
87-90	B	72-74	D
85-86	B-	70-71	D-
83-84	C+	0-69	F

The Final grades for this class will be based on the following percentages of the assignments described above.

Assignment	%
Weekly Attendance	5%
Submit your Potential Thesis Paper Summary	7.5%
Submit a Revised Incipient Thesis Paper	15%
<i>They Say, I Say</i> Book Report	7.5%
Information Literacy	12.5%
RE-Submit a Newly Edited Incipient Thesis Paper	10%
Submit a Detailed Outline	15%
Submit a Final Action Plan	20%
<i>A Little Exercise for Young Theologians</i> Book Report	7.5%
TOTAL	100%

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