



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

OTL621 — Joshua Online Spring, 2012

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 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: Joseph Coleson, Ph.D.

Email: jecoleson@nts.edu

Office: (816) 268-5482

Office Hours: By appointment

Catalog Description

A study of the book of Joshua, giving attention to historical background, historical geography, the promise-fulfillment motif, and the Deuteronomic understanding of Israel's history.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The Church of the Nazarene, together with the larger Methodist/Wesleyan/Holiness movement and most Christian denominations, views the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. The book of Joshua, though largely unknown in the church (except for the tumblin' down of the walls of Jericho!), makes a vital contribution to the whole of Scripture.

The story of Israel's entry into the promised land of Canaan under Joshua stands as the culmination of God's rescue of Israel from oppression and slavery. Now they would occupy the land of God's promise to the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. The second half of Joshua often is

neglected in our preaching and teaching, but it gives concrete record, tribe by tribe, of the real fulfillment of God's promise. God is trustworthy; God does what God promises to do.

Finally, that God had commanded Israel to enter Canaan and destroy all its people, and that Israel carried out this command, is a common but mistaken reading of Joshua 6-12. We will learn to read this section correctly, and assess implications following from a corrected reading.

Degree Objectives

This course addresses particularly the following NTS Degree Program Objectives:

- MDiv Objective 2: Articulation of the knowledge of God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
- MACFD 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
- MAICS Objective 4: Graduates will articulate, communicate, and contextualize the essential affirmations of the Christian faith in a cross-cultural setting
- MA(TS) General Academic Track Objective 1: Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships
- MA(TS) General Academic Track Objective 2: Students will demonstrate the ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as informed, thinking, Christian persons
- MA(TS) Research Track Objective 1: Students will gain specialized knowledge in designated theological disciplines as a basis for further graduate studies
- MA(TS) Research Track Objective 2: Students will develop skill in academic research and writing as a basis for further graduate studies.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the content of the book of Joshua, including persons, places, and events
(Accomplished by course reading; online participation; assignments 1, 2)
2. Summarize the important positions regarding authorship, provenance, dating, occasion, and audience of Joshua
(Accomplished by course reading; online participation; assignments 1, 2)
3. Identify the major theological themes of Joshua, and discuss their contributions to Israelite, Jewish, and Christian theology
(Accomplished by course reading; online participation; assignments 1, 2)
4. Exegete, understand, and interpret most passages in Joshua, and use these insights in current and future ministry assignment(s)
(Accomplished by course reading; online participation; assignments 1, 2).

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

The following competencies will be enhanced through your participation in this course:

- CN 1** Ability to identify the literary structure and the main story line of the Old Testament
- CN 2** Ability to identify the books of the Old Testament by genre(s)
- CN 3** Ability to identify the basic thrust of each major section of the Old Testament
- CN 5** Ability to describe the historical context of the major sections of the Old Testament
- CN 7** Ability to describe the major theological concepts of the Old Testament
- CN 15** Ability to describe how the Bible came into being, up to contemporary translations
- CN 16** Ability to identify the steps of historical, literary, and theological analysis used in exegesis
- CN 17** Ability to exegete a passage of Scripture using the steps referred to above
- CN 21** Ability to demonstrate understanding of the sources of theological reflection, its historical development, and its contemporary expressions
- CN 22** Ability to articulate the distinctive characteristics of Wesleyan theology
- CN 23** Ability to identify and explain the Doctrine of Holiness from a Wesleyan perspective
- CP 1** Ability to communicate publicly through multiple methods (oral, written, media, etc.) with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning
- CP 2** Ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner in the modes of discourse used in the ministry
- CP 10** Ability to synthesize, analyze, and reason logically for discernment, assessment, and problem solving, and to live with ambiguity
- CP 11** Ability to analyze the validity of arguments and to identify their presuppositions and consequences
- CP 22** Ability to prepare, organize, and deliver biblically sound sermons using appropriate techniques and skills in culturally appropriate ways
(Varily accomplished by course reading; online participation; assignments 1, 2).

Required Texts

Boling, Robert G. *Joshua: The Anchor Yale Bible Commentary, #6*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995.

Coleson, Joseph. Joshua commentary posted to this course; forthcoming in print.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Introductions – Week 1

- Course introduction
- Syllabus
- Personal introductions

Unit 2: Preparation; Crossing the Jordan – Weeks 2-4

- Get Ready! – Joshua 1
- The Scouts' Experience with Rahab – Joshua 2
- Crossing Jordan – Joshua 3-4

Unit 3: The importance of first things – Weeks 5-6

- First circumcision; First Passover; First victory – Joshua 5-6
- First defeat; First trial; First penetration of the Hill Country – Joshua 7-8

Unit 4: The taking of Canaan, 1, 2, 3 – Weeks 7-10 (including R & R week)

- 1—Gibeonite deception & treaty – Joshua 9
- 2—Joshua’s southern campaign – Joshua 10
- 3—Joshua’s northern campaign; Summaries – Joshua 11-12

Unit 5: Tribal allotments in Canaan – Weeks 11-12

- Tribal allotments, part 1 – Joshua 13-15
- Tribal allotments, part 2 – Joshua 16-19

Unit 6: The importance of last things – Weeks 13-14

- Cities of refuge; Levitical cities; A close call – Joshua 20-22
- Joshua’s farewells – Joshua 23-24

Course Assignments & Requirements

1. Online interaction (70% of course grade)

Posting to discussion forums and reading the posts of other class members is the online equivalent of attending and participating in class in an on-campus course. In the online environment--precisely because face-to-face contact is not possible--professor-with-student(s) and student(s)-with-student(s) interaction is indispensable for a positive learning experience.

With this in mind, the following practices are minimal expectations for this course:

- Remember: *minimal* does not mean “A” work, nor an “A” grade.
- Normally, each student is to write at least five (5) quality posts or responses to the professor’s or other students’ posts in discussion forums. Posts are to be spread over at least three (3) days each week.
- Each week will begin at 12:01 a.m. (U.S. Central Time) Sunday, and end at 12:00 p.m., Saturday midnight (U.S. Central Time).
- Students are strongly encouraged to read all new posts at least five (5) days per week.
- A “quality” post begins a new topic, brings to bear critical reflection on another’s post, or moves discussion in a new direction. Both number and quality of posts will influence this section of the course grade.
- A “quality” post reflects reading and study of the book of Joshua, and of the course texts: Boling’s *Anchor Bible* volume, *Joshua*; Coleson’s forthcoming *Cornerstone* half-volume on Joshua, posted as a weekly resource in Moodle.
- In the “Course Calendar” below, “**Texts:** Read Joshua 1 (3x2)” [and so on through the course] means: “Read Joshua 1 three times--once on each of three different days: once in Boling, once in *NLT*, and once in another (English or other) version, **and** read Boling’s and Coleson’s commentaries on Joshua 1.”

- The professor has learned from experience that original posts of fewer than three hundred (300) words in length almost never are “quality” posts. It simply takes that many words, or more, to develop most ideas in this dialogical format for others to see where you are going, so as to be able to respond intelligently and wisely.
- Correct and appropriate spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, usage, and other “best practices” of academic writing are expected in all posts.
- Students who have taken classroom courses with this professor will recognize that this on-going assignment combines weekly essay (albeit, usually with shorter “essays”) and discussion components of his classroom courses, and will continue to improve their expository skills.

Assessment of online participation will be posted weekly, using letter grades.
(Course Outcomes: Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, variously throughout the course)

2. Exegetical paper (30% of course grade)

An exegetical paper on a single pericope, 3,500-4,000 words in length, is the culminating course assignment. Each student should request the professor’s approval of his/her chosen pericope by **March 16**. The paper is due by 11:55 p.m. (CDT, U.S.), **May 7**.

(Course Outcomes: Primarily numbers 3 and 4)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	Hours
Online participation in forums, groups, etc.	100
Reading	35
Writing of final exegetical paper	25
TOTAL	160

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, including forum postings and the final exegetical paper, are to be submitted to the appropriate sections of our Moodle course.

Form and Style Expectations

All written work is to exhibit best practices for graduate-level academic writing. The NTS faculty have adopted Turabian as the Seminary standard; each student should own a copy of the latest edition of Turabian, and should use it conscientiously. A convenient summary of some of the more common issues of concern is included in the course materials in Moodle.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people often have used language to 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 writing. All written work presented to meet requirements of this course will use gender-inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work

It is not possible to make up discussion forum postings in a later week. For example, five (5) postings during Week 3 will not compensate for zero (0) postings during Week 2. Also, because of Commencement timelines, the final exegetical paper can be accepted only until 11:59 p.m. (CDT, U.S.), Monday, **May 7**.

Additional Costs

The professor does not anticipate additional costs for this course, beyond NTS tuition and fees, and the cost of textbooks.

Course Grading

1. Online interaction will constitute seventy (70) percent of the course grade.
2. A final exegetical paper will constitute thirty (30) percent of the course grade.

All grades will be posted as letter grades; descriptions are included in the *NTS Student Handbook*.

(If any student does not meet class participation standards in our online environment for four or more weeks, the professor may automatically fail that student.)

Reasonable Modifications

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. Any student needing accommodation(s) should contact the Office of the Registrar. S/he also should contact the professor no later than the end of the first week of our online course to discuss learning needs, and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial in the past.

Class "Attendance"

If any student does not meet class participation standards in our online environment for four or more weeks, the professor may automatically fail that student.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
Feb. 6 Unit 1	1	Text: Read "Introduction to Joshua" in this week's Moodle resources. Forum: Each student is to post a personal introduction by Tuesday, and is to respond to at least four other introductory posts by Friday. In your introduction, please include: 1.) Pertinent/appropriate personal information--including photo(s), if you care to; 2.) A short description of your current ministry and/or volunteer position(s); 3.) Your reason(s) for taking this course; 4.) One "Item" in the book of Joshua in/of/for which you hope to gain a better understanding through this course.
Feb. 13 Unit 2	2	Texts: Read Joshua 1 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Feb. 20 Unit 2	3	Texts: Read Joshua 2 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Feb. 27 Unit 2	4	Texts: Read Joshua 3-4 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Mar. 5 Unit 3	5	Texts: Read Joshua 5-6 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Mar. 12 Unit 3	6	Texts: Read Joshua 7-8 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines. Final exeg. paper: Clear proposed pericope with professor by March 16 .
Mar. 19	7	Reading and Research Week
Mar. 26 Unit 4	8	Texts: Read Joshua 9 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Apr. 2 Unit 4	9	Texts: Read Joshua 10 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Apr. 9 Unit 4	10	Texts: Read Joshua 11-12 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Apr. 16 Unit 5	11	Texts: Read Joshua 13-15 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Apr. 23 Unit 5	12	Texts: Read Joshua 16-19 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines.
Apr. 30 Unit 6	13	Texts: Read Joshua 20-22 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines. Course Evaluations: To be released by the Dean's Office.
May 7 Unit 6	14	Texts: Read Joshua 23-24 (3x2). Forum: Post as indicated in forum guidelines. Final exegetical paper: Submit by 11:59 p.m. (CDT, U.S.) Monday, May 7 ; late submissions will not be accepted for this assignment.