Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

NBST 640
APOLOGETICS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An investigation of key issues in the study of the New Testament with a focus upon defending the truthfulness of the New Testament. Focused attention will be given to the Synoptic Problem, historical Jesus studies, the historicity of Acts, as well as theories of the development of New Testament Christology and claims of early, competing Christianities.

RATIONALE
The study of the accuracy and historical reliability of the New Testament is vital to the defense of Christianity. This course will explore current, key issues related to the truth-claims of the New Testament in order to defend the core of Christianity. In doing so, it will equip the student to defend the veracity of the New Testament against recent criticisms of its claims.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Discuss key issues of methodology, history, and theology as it relates to the key issues of the New Testament.
B. Evaluate critical issues related to the veracity of the New Testament.
C. Assess scholarly approaches to the historical issues of the New Testament.
D. Develop a defense of key historical issues in the New Testament.
E. Integrate historical, biblical, and theological methodology into a cohesive whole in presenting a defense of the veracity of the New Testament.
V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. For each thread, the student must integrate biblical principles and cite at least 2 scholarly sources other than the course textbooks and the Bible in current Turabian format. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 classmates’ threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. The student must include a word count at the end of each thread and reply.

D. Research Paper – Topic and Bibliography

The student will submit the topic for his or her Research Paper along with 10 scholarly sources other than the course textbooks and the Bible cited in current Turabian format.

E. Critical Evaluations (2)

For each Critical Evaluation, the student will write a 1,000–1,200-word paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the selected portions of the Ehrman and Kruger textbooks. Approximately half of each Critical Evaluation (500–600 words) must be a summary of the applicable textbook, while the other half must be a critique of the textbook’s strengths and weaknesses. Each Critical Evaluation must include citations from the course textbooks and the Bible.

F. Research Paper

The student will write a 2,000–2,500-word, research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the subject of New Testament reliability or the defense of high Christology. The paper must reference at least 10 scholarly sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible and include a bibliography.

G. Exams (4)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week and the immediately preceding module/week. Exams 1 and 3 will contain 15 multiple-choice and true/false questions, 1 matching question, and 1 short essay question. Exams 2 and 4 will contain 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions and 1 short essay question. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes and have a 30-minute time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES
A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threads (2 at 45 pts ea)</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Replies (2 sets of 2 at 20 pts ea)</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper – Topic and Bibliography</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Evaluations (2 at 150 pts ea)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (4 at 90 pts ea)</td>
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B. Scale

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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>840–859</td>
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C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the LUSD Writing Guide and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the Online Writing Center.

E. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

F. Course Changes
Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

G. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

**NBST 640**

Textbooks:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Bock: Introduction  
Ehrman: ch. 1  
Köstenberger et al.: Introduction–ch. 1  
2 presentations | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
DB Forum 1 Thread | 10  
0  
45 |
| 2           | Bock: chs. 1–6  
Ehrman: ch. 5  
1 presentation | DB Forum 1 Replies  
Exam 1 | 20  
90 |
| 3           | Bock: chs. 7–11  
Köstenberger et al.: ch. 4  
1 presentation | Research Paper – Topic and Bibliography | 35 |
| 4           | Ehrman: ch. 2  
Köstenberger et al.: ch. 2  
1 presentation | Critical Evaluation 1  
Exam 2 | 150  
90 |
| 5           | Ehrman: ch. 3  
Köstenberger et al.: ch. 3  
2 presentations | DB Forum 2 Thread | 45 |
| 6           | Ehrman: ch. 4  
Köstenberger et al.: ch. 5  
Kruger: Introduction–ch. 1  
1 presentation | DB Forum 2 Replies  
Exam 3 | 20  
90 |
| 7           | Kruger: chs. 2–5  
1 presentation | Critical Evaluation 2 | 150 |
| 8           | Bauckham: ch. 1  
Köstenberger et al.: Conclusion  
1 presentation | Research Paper  
Exam 4 | 175  
90 |

**TOTAL** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.