

BBBW5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Hybrid Course Friday 8:00 - 11:50am
Fall 2015 8/28 9/18 10/16 11/13

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Course Description:

A survey is undertaken of a wide range of materials and issues related to the background of the Old and New Testaments, including: archaeology, historical geography, religion, manners and customs, economics, social concerns, and the literature of the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world. The course is designed to help students bridge the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the historical eras of the Bible.

Seminary Mission Statement:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill The Great Commission and The Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Seminary Core Values Addressed in This Course:

1. Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God
This Core Value will be emphasized through the semester through the focus on the reliability of the Biblical Text in the study of archaeology and historical geography.
2. Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God's Revelation with Diligence
3. Spiritual Vitality: Transforming Power of God's Word
4. MISSION FOCUS: 2015-16 Emphasis – Highlighting the Message of God's Blessing through Abraham and his descendants, His call for Israel to be Light to the Nations

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will recognize the physical elements of the land of Israel and the ancient Near East -- the geography, topography, geology, climate, etc. -- via slide, book and map study.
2. The student will read excerpts from the Old and New Testaments with an archaeological and geographical perspective.
3. The student will examine materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.
4. The student will probe the interrelationship between geography, politics, economics, cultural mores, and religion in the development of the nation of Israel.
5. The student will become conversant in the historical, geographical, and cultural materials of the Old and New Testaments.

Textbooks:

To be read in conjunction with class lectures (see course materials posted on Blackboard)
English Bible (*a good translation*)
Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., *Readings From the Ancient Near East*, Baker, 2002.
Brisco, Thomas, *Holman Bible Atlas*. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998.
Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook (Posted on Blackboard)
Hoerth, Alfred, *Archaeology & The Old Testament*, Baker Book House, 2009.

Recommended reading:

Zondervan Handbook to the Bible ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)

Manners and Customs in the Bible by Victor Matthews, (Hendrickson)

The Sacred Bridge by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., 2006 (Carta, Jerusalem)

Life in Biblical Israel, by Stager, L. & King, P., 2001, (Westminster John Knox Press)

Course Evaluation:

Map Quizzes (5)	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion & Presentations	20%
Research Paper	20%

Course Requirements

1. Complete all reading assignments in *Archaeology & the Old Testament*, *Holman Bible Atlas*, *Readings from the Ancient Near East*, and *Course Workbook* available in Blackboard.

Textbook abbreviations:

AOT = *Archaeology & the Old Testament*

HBA = *Holman Bible Atlas*

RANE = *Readings from the Ancient Near East*

WKBK = *Arnold & Beyer Course Workbook*

2. Review course materials available in Blackboard (*Handouts, PowerPoints, etc.*).

Class ProcedureRead Carefully**:**

Note materials for the class are located in 2 Folders on Blackboard: 1) Course Documents, and 2) Lectures. In Course documents one will find files labeled Workbook 1-8, which contains notes that go along with the Lectures. In file labeled Lectures, it contains the lectures one needs to look & work through all in numerical/chronological order. The Lectures contain both PowerPoint (which usually consists of: the lecture followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography) and videos (usually a summary of the lectures) to give you the necessary information one needs for the course. Notes and Lectures should be labeled the same if there are any problems please e-mail me or call ASAP. Each lecture is supplemented with outside reading from class texts as noted in Course Schedule, make sure to read them (best before viewing the Lectures) for they will be necessary for exams. Note the index of each book as they correspond to the lectures, as the class follows a chronological order.

3. GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

The class will be divided into four groups for developing presentations to be given in the class meetings during the meetings on SEPTEMBER 18 and OCTOBER 16. The professor will provide guidelines for the groups, and then supplement these presentations. Each group will be asked to make a 25-30 minute presentation on the given area.

4. Complete Workbook assignments.

The PowerPoint lectures will be used in the completion of the Workbook assignments. These need not be handed in or submitted via Blackboard. These materials are for your study benefit and future resource access.

5. Complete map study guides in preparation for Map Quizzes 5 total

Get to know the world and land of the Bible. See handout “Regions, Cities to Know” for list of regions, cities and places to identify for the quizzes (there are study maps, available as well as extra detailed maps for you to use in Course Documents). You will need to consult besides class text other Bible geography books; I have also placed many maps for you on Blackboard (under study helps) for use both in study and personal presentations. (**Remember many illustrations & photos used in this course are copy righted and cannot be published without written permission).

Quiz 1 = Land of Israel Includes: Geographical Regions, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and Bodies of Water of Palestine (HBA Map 7 for help). See online study maps. **DUE SEP 12**

Quiz 2 = Ancient Near East – Regions, Geographical Features, Cities. See online study maps and Textbook maps. **DUE OCT 3**

Quiz 3 = Old Testament Israel – Cites. See study maps and HBA maps.
DUE OCT 30

Quiz 4 = New Testament Israel – Cites. See study maps and HBA maps.
DUE NOV 14

Quiz 5 = New Testament World Mediterranean. See study maps and HBA maps.
DUE DEC 5

6. Prepare a research paper. (Embedded Assignment)

Due Date: DECEMBER 11 -- email to Dr. Cole

- A. Choose a topic. The topic for one’s paper can include one of the following: Historical geography of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc) or site/city such as Megiddo, Hazor, Gezer, Jezreel, etc. Research for a region should include:
- 1) Geological make-up of the region
 - 2) The region’s historical significance (its main function within Israel proper)
 - 3) All major roads (both local and international)
 - 4) Key cities (their main importance), Bodies of water
 - 5) Map of the region, locating key cites, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)
- B. Research for a site/city: which should include
- 1) The history and the identification of a biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter: Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.),
 - 2) Its history, why it is located where it is,
 - 3) Its function in history,
 - 4) Who controlled it,
 - 5) The role it played in the development of the country it is in etc.
- C. Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard for list of suggested topics.
- 1) Make sure to get to the point, argue & present the significant points,
 - 2) Have good interaction with sources (note primary, original first hand, sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eye witnesses etc).

Format - Length 12-16 pages, double-spaced, standard 12 pt font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7th ed.), optional APA.

Research Paper Grading Rubric

- Form and style = 5%
- Spelling and grammar = 5%
- Research & bibliography = 10% - the use of primary sources, good bibliography shows that you did your homework!
- Content = 80% - the argument, the key issues, relevant data etc.

NOTE: 40% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals. See online EBSCO info through JTChristian Library web site.

See Handout: Suggested Paper Topics and Biblical Studies Journals for help!

6. Complete a Midterm and Final Exam

Study guides are available for both midterm and final. They are only guides to help one organize and know what materials will be covered on the exams. Information for the exams comes from class notes, power point lectures, and reading **it is up to the student to gather the necessary information!** The test will include matching (i.e. dates, inscriptions etc), multiple-choice, some fill in the blank, and short essays usually over various topics (i.e. Philistines, Shephelah, David etc.).

MIDTERM EXAM DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 11:59pm

FINAL EXAM DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 NOON 12:00

****Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date!**

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule and course requirements as conditions warrant.

Course Schedule

The listed assignments of reading, PowerPoints, Workbook, etc. should be done prior to the given Hybrid session meeting. Come ready to ask questions and discuss major issues related to the material assigned for that given meeting.

AUG 28 INTRODUCTION: ARCHAEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

Part 1 Introduction and Geography

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 1 and 9; HBA Chapters 1 and 2

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Map Quiz #1 Study Guide; Online video. Note especially the “History of Research”

Part 2 Setting the Stage – In the Beginning and The Rise of Urbanization

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 2 and 3; HBA Chapters 3 and 4; RANE: #6 Enuma Elish, #12 Epic of Gilgamesh, # 13 Confusion of Tongues, #45 Sumerian King List

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online videos

Group Assignments Made

Map Quiz #1 Israel Geography Due SEP 12 midnight

SEP 18 THE PATRIARCHS, THE EXODUS, AND THE CONQUEST

Part 3 The Patriarchs

Group Assignments

A: The Historicity and Historical Context of the Biblical Patriarchs

B: The Exodus in Its Historical Context

C: The Law of Moses and the Laws of the Ancient Near East

D: The Conquest Narrative in Joshua

E #18 Tale of Sinuhe

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; Online video; Quiz #2 Study Guide

Part 4 Exodus – Judges

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 6-11; HBA Chapters 7 and 8; RANE #21 Mari Covenant Ritual, #30 Laws of Hammurapi, #39 Tiglath-pileser I, #55 El-Amarna

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook Part 4; Online video

Map Quiz #2 ANE Geography Due October 3

Midterm Exam Due by OCTOBER 27 See Study Guidelines on Blackboard

OCT 16 THE ISRAELITE KINGDOMS

Part 5 The Rise of the Israelite Monarchy

Group Assignments

A: The Rise of the Monarchy Under Saul and David

B: The Solomonic Kingdom in the Bible, History, and Archaeology

C: The Divided Kingdom in the Bible, History, and Archaeology

D: The Assyrians: Kingdom Administration and War Machine

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 12-14; HBA Chapters 9 and 10; RANE # 54 Tel Dan Inscription, #59 Gezer Calendar

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video; Map #3 Study Guide

Part 6 The Fall of the Israelite Monarchy

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 15-18 HBA Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14; RANE #40 Shalmaneser III, #41 Tiglath-pileser III, #42 Sargon II, #44 Cyrus Cylinder, #51 Mesha Stele

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video

Midterm Exam Due by OCTOBER 27 See Study Guidelines on Blackboard

Map Quiz #3 Old Testament Israel Cities Due by OCT 30

NOV 13 NEW TESTAMENT – DR. COLE PRESENTS

Part 7 Historical Background of the Gospels and Jesus In Galilee

Part 8 Jesus in Jerusalem

A: The Impact of Hellenism on the Jewish Kingdom

B: The Romanization of the Jewish Realm under Herod the Great

C: The Galilean Ministry of Jesus

D: Jerusalem in the Late Second Temple Period

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 19 and 20; HBA Chapters 15-19

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video; Map #4 Study Guide

Map Quiz #4 New Testament Israel Cities Due by NOV 14

Map Quiz #5 T Mediterranean World Due by DEC 5

Research Papers Due by DECEMBER 11

Final Exam Due no later than DECEMBER 15 MIDNIGHT

MAP ASSIGNMENTS: GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL & THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

MAP I QUIZ #1 ISRAEL GEOGRAPHY DUE SEPT 12

Learn the following Geographical Features from *HBA 13 (Map 7)*, and others.

You also may need to consult other Bible maps for some locations.

Hill Country (Judah)	Galilee	Golan Heights
Hill Country (Samaria)	Bashan	Gilead
Sharon Plain	Arabah	Mt. Ebal
Wilderness of Judah	Plain of Philistia (Coastal)	Nahal Lachish
Shephelah (of Judah)	Jezreel Valley (Esdraelon)	Great Sea
Dead Sea	Sea of Chinnereth	Mount Hermon
Mt. Carmel	Mt. Tabor	Hill of Moreh
Mt. Gilboa	Nahal Beersheba	Gerar Brook
Yarkon River	Yarmuk River	Jordan River
Arnon River	Jabbok River	Wadi Zered
Sorek River	Nahal Besor	Kishon River (Brook)
Elah Valley (Nahal)	Ammon	Edom
King's Highway	Way to Beth-Horon	Mt. Gerizim
Moab	Wadi Far'ah	Jabesh River
Way of the Land of the Philistines = Way of the Sea = Via Maris (Roman Name)		

MAP QUIZ #2— THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST DUE OCT 3

Learn the following Cities, Regions (Countries), and Geographical Features

From *HBA: 4 (Map 3)*, *5 (Maps 4)*, *9 (Map 5)*, *11 (Map 6)*, et al.

You may also need to consult other Bible maps for some locations

Cities, Regions/Countries			Geographical Features
Thebes	Egypt	Tyre	Tigris River
Memphis	Babylonia	Nuzi	Euphrates River
Ebla	Assyria	Babylon	Orontes River
Mari	Cyprus	Sumer	Zagros Mts.
Haran	Canaan	Hittites	Taurus Mts.
Ugarit	Phoenicia	Akkad	Nile River
Damascus	Sinai	Persia	Habur River
Ur	Carchemish	Hattusas	Ararat Mts.
Sidon	Elam	Avaris	Mt. Seir
Arabia	Nineveh	Aram-Naharaim	Arabah
Urartu (Ararat)	Cyprus	Sinai Wilderness	Shur Wilderness

**MAP QUIZ #3 CHALCOLITHIC BRONZE IRON AGES
CANAAN & ISRAEL DUE OCT 30**

Beth Shean	Laish (Dan)	Ai
Megiddo	Hazor	Jerusalem
Tirzah	Ashkelon	Mizpah (Mizpeh)
Shechem	Hamath Gader	Pella
Gezer	Ashdod	Abel Beth-Maacah
Beth Shemesh (Sorek Valley)	Kiriath-jearim	Yavneh
Lachish	Taanach	Bab edh-Dhra
Dothan	Zoar	Yarmuth (Jarmuth)
Arad	Hebron	Beersheba
En Gedi	Mareshah	Aphek (E of Joppa)
Bethel	Gerar	Succoth (Deir 'Alla)
Jezreel	Heshbon	Ashdod
Gath	En Gedi	Lachish
Zoar	Bethlehem	Samaria
Timnah (Sorek V.)	Aroer	Kedesh
Acco (Akko, Acre)	Rabbath-Ammon	Ekron
Nahariyah	Gaza	Gibeon
Abila	Chinnereth	Joppa
Dor	Debir (Tel Rabud)	Jericho
Dibon	Shiloh	Ibleam
Azekah	Gibeah	Yoqneam (Jokneam)

**MAP QUIZ #4 NEW TESTAMENT ISRAEL - PALESTINE
HELLENISTIC-HASMONEAN-ROMAN BYZANTINE
DUE NOVEMBER 14**

Abila (nr Yarmuk River)	Machaerus	Tiberias
Jamnia	Scythopolis (Beth Shean)	Mt. Gerizim
Tyre	Antipatris	Caesarea Philippi (Paneas)
Ptolemais (Acco)	Gamla	Jericho
Sepphoris	Azotus (Ashdod)	Kh. Qumran
Ascalon (Ashkelon)	En Gedi	Aelia Capitolina
Gadara	Bethlehem	Herodium (Herodian)
Caesarea Maritima	Joppa	Nazareth
Pella	Modin	Jerusalem
Gerasa	Bethsaida	Sychar
Masada	Sebaste (Samaria)	Philadelphia (R.-Ammon)
Capernaum	Magdala	Chorazin

**MAP QUIZ #5 NEW TESTAMENT - MEDITERRANEAN WORLD
DUE DECEMBER 5**

Regions & Islands

Italy
Cyrenaica
Cilicia
Galatia
Achaia
Macedonia
Cappadocia
Malta
Crete
Africa
Aegyptica
Sicily
Syria

Cities

Alexandria	Cyrene	Paphos
Fair Havens	Tarsus	Antioch (Syria, Orontes)
Ephesus	Smyrna	Philadelphia
Sardis	Pergamum	Thyatira
Salamis	Colossae	Laodicea
Philippi	Thessalonika	Iconium
Corinth	Miletus	Ostia
Syracuse	Troas	Rome
Athens	Carthage	Antioch (Pisidia)
Petra	Damascus	Berea

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The Context of Scripture: Canonical Compositions, Monumental Inscriptions, and Archival Documents from the Biblical World. 3 vols. Eds. William Hallo and K. Lawson Younger. Leiden: Brill Publishing Co., 2003.

Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels. Joel B. Green, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: Intervarsity Press, 1992.

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Recommended Periodicals

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|---|-----------------------------|
| <i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i> (BAR) | <i>Archaeology</i> |
| <i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> (BASOR) | <i>Iraq</i> |
| <i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i> (PEQ) | <i>Levant</i> (LEV) |
| <i>Biblical Archaeologist</i> (BA), now <i>Near Eastern Archaeology</i> (NEA) | <i>Biblical Illustrator</i> |
| <i>Revue de Qumran</i> (RQ) | <i>Archaeology Odyssey</i> |
| <i>Israel Exploration Journal</i> (IEJ) | |
| <i>Anatolian Studies</i> (AnSt) | |

Competency Assessment Rubric for BBBW5200 Encountering the Biblical World Research Papers & Projects

Student Name _____ Semester _____

Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize those resources adequately <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize many of the resources <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research
2. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the physical world of the Bible <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the process of the physical world of the Bible but did not adequately relate it to Biblical interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the issues related to the Biblical geography but did not utilize them fully in Biblical interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the geography of the Bible

Application Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not explain them adequately <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not address them fully <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to the process of interpreting the Bible
2. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a valuing of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a general appreciation of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a lack of appreciation for the need of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> rejected the need for bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world

Communicative Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> fully interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials <input type="checkbox"/> interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing some Biblical background materials but did not relate the meaning fully <input type="checkbox"/> inadequately interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to interpret and communicate the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials
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