

BBBW 5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
2 Hours, Fall 2015, Internet]
August 24 – December 16th
Dr. D. A. Warner
dwarner@nobts.edu
Ph 407-468-4251

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. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of the background of the Bible including: archaeology, historical geography, religion, manners and customs, historical and social setting, and the literature of the ancient world to the process of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately.
2. Value the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the biblical period.
3. Be able to identify the physical geographical elements of the land of Israel and the Ancient Near East.
4. Be able to locate the site of significant Biblical events of the Old and New Testaments

Textbooks:

To be read in conjunction with class lectures (see Blackboard)

1. English Bible (*a good translation*)
2. Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., 2002, *Readings From the Ancient Near East*, Baker, (*RANE*)
3. Brisco, Thomas, 1998, *Holman Bible Atlas* by (Broadman & Holman Publishers, (*HBA*))
4. Warner, Dan, *Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook* (Posted on Blackboard)

Recommended reading:

1. Hoerth, Alfred 1998, *Archaeology & The Old Testament*, Baker Book House, (AOT) – *This an optional reading but heavily suggested. Note within the reading schedule of this course reading, suggestions are given from this text that correspond to the topics discussed.*
2. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
3. *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor M., (Hendrickson)
4. *The Sacred Bridge* by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., 2006 (Carta, Jerusalem)
5. *Life in Biblical Israel*, by Stager, L. & King, P., 2001, (Westminster John Knox Press)

Class Discussion

Each student will participate in the Discussion questions on Blackboard. These are just general questions that highlight key areas that you have read and are looking at in the PowerPoint lectures. Each student will compose a comment and discuss one other students comment. These need to be completed by the time indicated.

Course Evaluation:

Discussion Participation	10%
Map Quizzes (3 total)	25%
Midterm Exam	20% - Nov 1
Research Paper	25% - Dec 11
Final Exam	20% - Dec 16

Map Quizzes (3 total) – Get to know the World & land of the Bible, see handout “Regions, Cities to Know” for list of regions, cities and places to identify for the quizzes (see also extra detailed maps for you to use found in Course Documents). You will need to consult these maps besides class text and other Bible geography books; as noted, I have also placed many maps for you on Blackboard (under Study Helps) for use in both study and personal presentations. (**Remember many illustrations & photos used in this course are copy righted and cannot be published w/o written permission from me).

Quiz 1 = Land of Israel Includes: Regions, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and Bodies of Waters of Palestine (HBA Map 7 for help)

Quiz 2 = Tribes of Israel & OT Cities (Consists of 1 map for Tribes & 1 map for OT cities)

Quiz 3 = NT World (Mediterranean) of Cities & Kingdoms/Countries (Consists of 1 map for Kingdoms/Countries for Mediterranean world & 1 map for NT cities)

Exams – note there are study guides 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 come from class notes, power point lectures, and reading **it is up to the student to gather the necessary information!** Test will include matching (i.e. dates, inscriptions, know handout study guide), multiple choice, some fill in the blank, and short essays (need to be thorough) usually over various topics (i.e. Patriarchs, Exodus, Moses, Philistines, Shephelah, David, etc.).

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

Research Paper - will be posted on Blackboard. Students have three options to write on:

A). A historical geography topic of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc.). Research for a region: should include:

1. Geological/topographical make-up of the region
2. The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper), comprehend how the regions was used, i.e. as defensive, commercial, agricultural, or maybe a combination of all, do some critical homework here
3. All major roads (locate both local and international), where did they go and why
4. Key cities (explain what is their main importance, include key archaeological excavations)
5. All bodies of water
6. Map of the region, locating key cites, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)

B). Research on a significant Site/City: which should include:

1. Is history and the identification of the biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.)
2. Why it is located where it is,
3. Function in history,
4. Who controlled it,
5. Role it played in the development of the country it is in, and so forth (etc.)

C) Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard for list of suggested topics. Make sure to get to the point, argue & present the significant elements of your research, have good interaction with sources (note original firsthand sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eyewitnesses' accounts etc.).

Format - Length 12-14 pages (title page and bibliography does not count), double-spaced, standard 12 pt. font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7th ed.), optional APA or MLA.

Note: "This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric (see below)."

RESEARCH PAPER Due Date: Post marked by Dec 11, 2015 by midnight.

Grading Rubrics:

<p><u>Form</u> = 5%</p>	<p>Mechanics/Turabian Title Page Table of Content # Subheading levels Proper outlining Period leaders Page #s/ Sub-Headings Margins Block Quotes, etc. Top/Bottom Left/Right</p>
<p><u>Grammar and Style</u> = 5%</p>	<p>Spelling Punctuation Fragments FS; CS Run Ons Sentence Structure; clarity Verb Tenses Misplaced/Dangling phrases Split Infinitives, etc</p>
<p><u>Research and bibliography</u>- (this includes good footnoting) = 5%</p>	<p>Minimum 10 sources, but 30% of bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals, a minimum of 8 sources; use first hand sources when possible, textbooks are secondary, demonstrated good interaction with books and articles, hence by a good bibliography one is showing me that you did your homework!</p>
<p><u>Content and argument</u> = 85%</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A well-organized paper (develop a table of contents if needed), 2. A well stated premise (note should only be a paragraph at best with such a short paper), 3. A logical flow of ideas, 4. Good interaction with the sources, 5. Work based upon sound exegesis of biblical passages were applicable, 6. Key sub-points substantiate your premise, sound reasoning, 7. And just plain reads well☺

Class ProcedureRead Carefully****

Materials for the class are located in Course Documents on Blackboard they consist of 1) Workbook – Sections 1-8, which are notes that correspond with the PowerPoint lectures; 2) Lectures - these are PowerPoint presentations that you need to look at & work through all in numerical/chronological order. They consist of a lecture usually followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography, and some 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. There are 4 Sections or Units to work through; 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 needful for exams. Note the index of each class textbook as they correspond to the lectures, as the class follows a chronological order. Lectures include:

Four Units:

- 1. Unit 1- Setting the Stage: Introduction, Geographic overview of Israel, Genesis 1-11, & Pre-History**
- 2. Unit 2 - Bronze Age (Middle & Late): Patriarchs; Exodus & Conquest & Settlement**
- 3. Unit 3 - Iron Age: United & Divided Monarchy**
- 4. Unit 4 - NT Backgrounds: Jesus in the Galilee & Jesus in Jerusalem**

In Course Documents, the following are located: Map Quizzes, Exams, and Related Materials (extra maps, study guides for exams, and extra articles for you to enhance your understanding and knowledge), please make use of them.

Text's Abbreviations

- AOT = Archaeology & the Old Testament (Hoerth)
HBA = Holman Bible Atlas, (Brisco)
RANE = Readings from the Ancient Near East, (Arnold & Beyer)
WKBK = Course Workbook – Available in Blackboard Course Documents

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: Setting the Stage — In the Beginning *August 24 – September 27, Workbook: Sections 1 & 2*

1. Introduction - Introduce yourself on Blackboard by the 26, if you have a picture post it, nice to see a face!
Reading - AOT Chpt 1
2. Geographical Overview: The Land of the Bible
Reading: HBA Part I (Ch 1-3, pp. 2-32)
3. In the Beginning: Gen 1-11
Reading: Gen 1-1; AOT Chpt 9; HBA Ch 4, pp. 33-34; Creation: Ancient Near East, (ANE) Mythology vs. Genesis Creation: RANE #4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 45
4. Rise of Urbanization Early Bronze Age: Egypt and Mesopotamia
Reading: AOT Chpt 2; HBA pp. 35-40

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

1. Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to Geography/Introduction by Aug 31
NOTE: In this and the following Discussion Board topics, each student is to submit a comment and then follow-up with interactions with two of the other students in the class.
2. Contribute a comment to Creationism/Beginnings by September 12.
3. Map Quiz #1 (Must be taken by September 27)

UNIT II: The Bronze Age - World of the Patriarchs & Exodus *September 28- November 1, Workbook Part 3 & Parts of 4*

1. Middle Bronze Age: World of the Patriarchs
Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 4, 5, 6; HBA pp.41-51; RANE #14-16, 18, 21-26, 30; Gen 12-50
2. Late Bronze Age: World of Moses - The Political Setting of the Exodus, the Exodus & Wilderness Wanderings
Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 7, 8 & 10: pp. 201-205; HBA pp. 52-74; RANE #17, 27-29, 31, 32, 55; Exodus 12-20;
Read: "Sacrifices and Offerings," by A. Rainey from *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*

Quizzes, Exams and Discussion Lists:

1. Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to *World of the Patriarchs* by October 11th.
Remember to interact with at least one other student's comments.
2. Map Quiz #2 (must be taken by October 25, midnight)

Midterm: Must take exam by November 1, midnight

UNIT III: Late Bronze Age Continued into the Iron Age *November 2-29, Workbook: Section Parts of 4, 5 & 6*

1. Conquest and Settlement - Joshua and Judges
Reading Assignments: AOT 10 & 11; HBA pp. 89-101; RANE #50; Joshua, Judges
2. Emergence of the Monarchy: From Tribe to Nation: The United Monarchy
Reading Assignments: AOT 12-14; HBA pp. 102-114; RANE #51, 54, 59; II Sam 1-12, I Kings 1-11
3. Divided Monarchy/Kingdom: Fall of Samaria
Reading Assignments: AOT 15, 16; HBA pp. 115-141; RANE #39-43, 48; I Kgs 12-2, Kgs 17;
4. Southern Kingdom: Judah
Reading Assignments: AOT 17-19; HBA pp. 142-157; RANE 56-58, 60-62, 155

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

1. Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the Iron Age by November 17

UNIT #4: New Testament Backgrounds
November 30 – December 17, Workbook 7 & 8

1. Jesus in Galilee
Reading Assignments: OTA 20; HBA pp. 207-215; Matthew 1-20
2. Jesus in Jerusalem
Reading Assignments: HBA pp. 216-235; Matthew 21-28; Luke 19-24

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

1. Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the NT Backgrounds by December 7
2. **RESEARCH PAPER Due Date: Post marked by Dec 11, 2015 by midnight.**
3. Map Quiz #3 must be taken by December 14, midnight.
4. **FINAL: Must take exam by Dec 16, midnight, Blackboard closes then and I cannot open it!**

Course Bibliography: General References

General Works and Dictionaries

- The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1993.
- 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.
- Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Gerald F. Hawthorne, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Ralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids (eds.), 1997
- Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*. Craig Evans & Stanley Porter (eds.). Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. (rev. ed.). Eds. D.N. Freedman, A. Myers, A. Beck. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1955.
- _____. *The Ancient Near East*, vols 1 and 2: *Anthology of Texts and Pictures*, 1958, 1975.
- Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Revised Edition. Eds. Merrill Tenney and Moises Silva. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 2009.
- Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the New Testament*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 2002.
- Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the Old Testament*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 2009.

Atlases

The Macmillan Bible Atlas (3rd ed.), Y. Aharoni, et. al., New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993

New Bible Atlas, J.J. Bimson, et.al., Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1985.

Cleave, Richard. *Pictorial Archive: ANE History; Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.

Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible, C. Rasmussen, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

Historical Geography

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DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World*. Nashville: Nelson, 1985.

Smith, George Adam. *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1931.

Bible Handbooks, etc

Hoerth, A., G. Mattingly, and E. Yamauchi (eds.). *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

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Matthews, Victor and Don C. Benjamin. *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.

The Illustrated Bible Dictionary. NY, London: Tyndale Publishers, 1980, 1986.

Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. *The World of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Walton, John, et. al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000

Wiseman, Donald J. ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: University Press, 1973.

Archaeology

Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.

Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.

Hoerth, A. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Baker, 1998.

Levy, T. (ed.). *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*.

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

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- _____. *History of the Persian Empire*. Chicago: University Press, 1959.
- Yamacuchi, Edwin. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

Egypt

- Kathryn Bard (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*. New York: Routledge Press, 1999.
- Redford, Donald. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton: Princeton Univ.Press, 1992.
- Redford, Donald B. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. London: Oxford, 2000.
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Ancient Palestine

- Albertz, A *History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament. Volume I: From the beginnings to the End of the Monarchy* (trans. John Bowden; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994)
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- Shanks (ed.), *Ancient Israel: A Short History from Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. Washington DC: BAS, 1988.
- Smith, *Palestinian Parties and Politics That Shaped the Old Testament* (Second ed.; London:SCM, 1987) Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (4th ed.; New York: Penguin, 1995)
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Wellhausen, *Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel* (Translated from German). Meridan Paperback edition, 1957; 1883.

Competency Assessment Rubric for BBBW5200 Encountering the Biblical World

Student Name _____

Semester _____

Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

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
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

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
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

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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