

OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Online
3 Hours Fall Online 2015, Aug 24 – Dec 16
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Catalog Description:

This course is an introduction to the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament. Significant interpretive issues are noted, major theological themes covered, and their relevance for Christian living addressed.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will read and comprehend the Old Testament noting the structure and content of the various books contained within.
2. The student will apply principles of interpretation (Biblical Hermeneutics) to the text of the Bible in order to glean its meaning and importance for the Christian community of faith in the 21st century.
3. The student will explore materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.

Core Values Addressed:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary focus this year is **Mission Focus** (Matt. 28:18-20). The Great Commission is more relevant today than ever before so it seems, hence with this focus in mind, this course is designed to prepare the student to a certain extent, to grow in both the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God so that the servant of God is prepared for the task at hand – “making disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”.

Textbooks

1. Contemporary English Bible (a good translation such as the revised NASB, NKJV, HCBS, NRSV)
2. Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament, 2nd edition, by W. LaSor, D.A. Hubbard, F.W. Bush, and L.C. Allen. Eerdmans, 1996. OTS
3. *Notes in Course Documents*

Recommended reading:

1. *Readings From the Ancient Near East* by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer (Baker, 2002) RANE
2. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. By Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
3. *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor Matthews. (Hendrickson)

Course Evaluation:

Weekly Quizzes (15)	30% (300 points, 20 pts ea)
Mid-Term Examination	20% (200 points) – Due Oct 26
Final Exam	20% (200 points) – Due Dec 16
Discussion Participation	10% (100 points)
Research Paper	20% (200 points) – this is an embedded assignment for all students – Due Dec 11

Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments!

Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date!

Quizzes 2 Points off for each day late, after 4 days a Zero will be given!

*******NOTE: Discussion Boards*******

- 1. Each student must post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas.**
- 2. Each student must also comment on at least two other student's posts for each area.**
- 3. A reduction in percentage for each day late, after 4 days no credit given.**

Course Procedure:

This course is primarily a reading course, which involves three major activities. First is the reading the Old Testament in its entirety following the three-fold organization of the Hebrew Bible: Torah (Pentateuch) Former and Latter Prophets (Joshua-Kings and Isaiah-Malachi respectively), and the Writings (Psalms, Wisdom, Megilloth, Chronicles-Ezra/Nehemiah). The exception is reading Daniel, which is found in the Writings, along with the reading of the Book of Ezekiel). The reading assignments are outlined in the "Course Syllabus" according to a date schedule, which has corresponding "Discussion Board" postings and quizzes in the "Test" section.

Second, additional notes and helps in interpretation are posted in the "Course Documents" section which includes such items as outlines of the Biblical books, Biblical Backgrounds information, and articles for reading for which you are responsible.

Third, you will need to enter the "Discussion Board" section in which ten different sections are posted. Each of the ten sections has a question (or questions) under the subject area for which you will enter your contribution to the discussion. During the prescribed time frame you will also need to make two responses to those contributions made by fellow classmates or additions I may make to the area. You make more contributions, but two are required.

Fourth, you will take the given quiz by the date posted in the syllabus and in the Blackboard test area, (you can take them early, and hence once you complete one the next will open automatically). Midterm and Final Exams are also posted in the Test section and are to be taken by the given dates in class schedule. Note point reduction mentioned above.

The final requirement is a research paper on a chosen topic by the end of the course. If you choose one of the listed topics, let me know your choice. You may have another area of interest on which you desire to write, and if so, please email me your request in this regard.

Blessings on your studies this semester, and I look forward to working with you.

Research Paper: Due Dec 11 - additional advice in Course Information, Please Read (Note 5pts. per day deducted for late work unless arrangements have been made with the professor)

1. Research one of the topics listed below or a topic relevant to this course, topics outside the list one needs to clear it with the prof.
2. Length 12-15 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font.
3. The paper should follow Turabian (6th ed.) or other accepted style (SBL, APA)
4. See <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/turabiantutor7thjan08.pdf> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper.
5. NOTE: 30% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals.
6. See Blackboard postings on Biblical Studies Journals for help
7. Grading of paper based on:

NAME _____

<u>From</u> = 5%	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
<u>Grammar and Style</u> = 5%	Spelling Punctuation Fragments FS; CS Run Ons Sentence Structure; clarity Verb Tenses Misplaced/Dangling phrases Split Infinitives, etc
<u>Research and bibliography</u> - (this includes good footnoting) = 5%	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!
<u>Content and argument</u> = 85%	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☺

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

Suggested Research Topics: Other topics may be suggested in consultation with the professor.

1. Genesis Creation in the Context of ANE Mythology
2. The Concept of Faith in the Life of Abraham and Later Israelite Leaders
3. The Location of Mount Sinai
4. The Law of Moses and the Law Codes of Ancient Mesopotamia
5. The Mosaic Covenant in Light of ANE Covenant Making
6. The Number of Israelites in the Exodus from Egypt and Wilderness Wanderings
7. The Israelite Pilgrimage Festivals and Their Function in the Nation's History and Worship
8. Principles of Leadership from the Book of Joshua
9. The Conquest of the Promised Land in Joshua and Judges
10. Israelite Kingship: The Rise of David and the Decline of Saul
11. The Rise and Fall of the Solomonic Kingdom
12. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal and Asherah: Prophetic vs. Popular Religion
13. Jeremiah Versus The False Prophets
14. Justice and Righteousness in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
15. Prophetic Vision and the Emergence of Messianic Hope Among Israelite Prophets
16. Worship in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
17. The Role of the Psalms in Ancient Israel's Worship
18. Biblical Wisdom and Wisdom in the ANE: Comparison and Contrast

Post the paper (upload) under "Course Exams" on Blackboard.

Course Schedule

UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

August 24 - September 20

1. Introductions (by Aug 26) – (see Discussion Board = DB), introduce yourself, if you have a picture post it, like to see a face!
2. Reading Assignments: Genesis – Deuteronomy
3. For sections/quizzes, #2-3, also read article in *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* on “Sacrifices and Offerings”, (it is posted on Blackboard in this section of notes)

Quizzes and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction by Aug 26
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by August 30
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by September 13

Quizzes:

QUIZ #1 Genesis, *OTS*: Background section – 46-48 (quizzed over) & Chs. 1-3 - Due – Aug 31

QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*: and Chs. 4-6 - Due Sept 14

QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*: and Chs. 7-8 - Due Sept 20

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

September 21 - Oct 25

Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:

Discussion Board:

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by Sept 30
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by October 17

Quizzes:

QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, *OTS*: Chs. 9-11 - Due October 2

QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*: Chs. 12-13, - Due Date October 11

QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings; *OTS*: Chs. 14-15 - Due Date October 24

MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by October 26, by midnight

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

October 26 – November 22

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

6. Contribute a comment to the 8th century BC prophets by October 31
7. Contribute a comment to the 7- 6th century BC prophets by November 10
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by November 20

Quizzes:

QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea OTS: Chs. 16, 18-19; Due October 31

QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah OTS: Chs. 20-22; Due November 4

QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS: Chs. 23-24; Due November 11

QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS: Chs. 25-27, 43; Due November 16

QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS: Chs. 28-30; Due November 22

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

November 23 – December 16

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by November 27
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by December 12

Quizzes:

QUIZ #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, OTS: Chs. 17, 31-32; Due November 28

QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS: Chs 33-34, Due December 4

QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS: Chs 35-36, Due December 11

QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah; OTS: Chs 37-42; Due December 15

Research paper due Dec 11th,

******FINAL EXAM Must be taken by December 16******

The Blackboard course will close at midnight December 17. Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office.

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Competency Assessment Rubric for BBBW5200 Encountering the Biblical World

Student Name _____
Semester _____

Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

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

Application Assessment

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

Communicative Assessment

1. The Student	☐ fully interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials ☐ interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing some Biblical background materials but did not relate the meaning fully ☐ inadequately interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials ☐ was unable to interpret and communicate the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials
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