



OTEN 5300 Exploring the Old Testament New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Biblical Studies Division Fall 2017

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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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competency addressed in this course is biblical exposition.

Course 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.

Students will be required to read the OT and demonstrate a basic understanding of its setting, meaning, and application for the NT Church today.

(Personal Note: I embrace a *faith presupposition* toward the study of the OT and, thus, the challenge of binding all belief systems to the authority of God's Word, which is inerrant, infallible, and inspired.)

Course Purpose

Biblical literacy is the essential foundation for all ministry. Without the Word of God, there is no knowledge capable of rescuing fallen humanity from the clutches of eternal doom. Hence, EOT functions as a "quality control" assessment of what one already knows versus what more should be understood, valued, and applied in ministry. Despite the hope that each student will gain proficiency in biblical languages, this class proceeds on the reality that the Old Testament must be important to a student for it to become important to those to whom we minister.

Course Texts

Required Texts for Classroom Discussion:

Arnold, Bill T. and Brent A. Strawn, *The World Around the Old Testament*, Baker, 2016.

House, Paul R., and Eric Mitchell. *Old Testament Survey, 2nd Edition*. B&H, 2007.

Mitchell, Eric, and Archie England, *Old Testament Survey: A Student's Guide*, 2d ed. B&H, 2007.

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing, 1994.
(CBCOT)

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be able to understand the development and position of each major division of the OT (Authorship, Date, Content, Analysis, etc.).
2. The student will define significant OT themes, characters, nations, and historical events (and their relationship to the NT whenever appropriate).
3. The student will be able to discuss the basic structure and content of the OT books.
4. The student will demonstrate comprehension of the literary structure (macro & micro) of the OT as literature.
5. The student will identify selected methods currently employed in the study of the OT & understand the implications of the various theories.
6. The student will be able to name the books of the OT in order and will develop a folder of data for each book.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize the following methodologies:

1. Given the introductory nature of this course, lecture presentations will be the primary teaching methodology.
2. Readings from the Old Testament and the textbooks, as well as workbook assignments, will be used to supplement the student's knowledge gained during classroom lectures.
3. Research assignments will be given and completed by the student in order to develop and/or enhance the student's research and critical thinking skills.

Course Requirements

1. Read each OT book of the Bible in preparation for the forthcoming lecture.
2. Read all textbooks for the forthcoming lecture. Students will also complete all questions in the workbook, plus five Bible character descriptions, concepts, and maps (you may complete reflection questions and topics for further study for extra credit).
3. Complete online quizzes on the Blackboard shell for this course. The quizzes will cover the Bible reading

as well as questions from the workbook. Quizzes will be available weekly beginning after class Thursday until 11 pm on Sunday. *There will be a practice quiz available for the first full week of classes. Each student MUST complete this quiz in order to show proficiency in using the Blackboard quiz system.* Two quiz grades will be dropped.

4. Complete four worksheets. These worksheets will be in lieu of sectional exams. Worksheets will be due approximately every third week. See the due dates on the course schedule. Each worksheet will be comprised of four (4) questions, each pertaining to a specific issue/area of the OT and will require additional reading and research. Answers should be adequately researched and include well-reasoned arguments when necessary. Your responses should be single-spaced, typed, 12 pt, Times New Roman font, with footnotes or parenthetical citations (according to Turabian 7th ed.). Under no circumstances should you submit more than eight (8) pages per worksheet; this is critical analysis and not reflective rambling.
5. Review *The World Around the Old Testament*. Reviews should be 4-6 pp, single-spaced (12 pt, Times New Roman font). Students should provide an adequate summary of the book (2-3 pp) as well as critical evaluation (2-3 pp). (In lieu of the book review, students may opt to complete a fifth worksheet, though they will still be responsible for reading the book.)

Course Grading System

Participation/Attendance	10%
Readings (Bible, texts) and workbook submissions	10%
Quizzes (online), 10 Commandments & ANE Deity quizzes	20%
Worksheets (12% each)	48%
Book Review (or fifth worksheet)	<u>12%</u>
	100%

Course Policy

Attendance: See current Graduate Catalog.

Make-Up & Extra Credit:

None allowed on individual basis beyond what is stipulated in syllabus.

Online and “pop” quizzes CANNOT typically be taken after the scheduled time. Be sure to check beforehand with the professor or the grader.

Students may use Reflection Questions & Topics for Further Study at the end of each workbook chapter to make up for missed quizzes. There is a 3 page (single spaced) minimum, 5 page (single spaced) maximum for these extra-credit submissions. Submissions will be graded & that grade used in lieu of missed quizzes. Two additional Reflection Questions & Topics for Further Study may be submitted for extra credit. This will assist the **final grade average** no more than 3%, no less than 1%.

Fulfilling the Terms of the Syllabus:

No student will receive a passing grade in this course if all assignments are not attempted & completed. Failure to submit any major assignment (worksheets, etc.) will result in failure of the course. Even if late work is allowed, there could be as much as a letter grade drop per day.

Citizenship/Conduct:

Class participation (or the lack thereof) directly affects the final grade for this course. Thus, proper behavior and attire are expected at all times in the classroom. No gum, food, or drinks are ever permitted. Should the professor be delayed, students should wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Class is then dismissed unless otherwise directed. For questions concerning these policies, please visit me at HSC 210.

Library:

Students should be conscientious of other classmates when researching for the worksheets.

Cell Phones:

Conversations & texting are not allowed during class time. My policy is for phones to be on vibrate (but not answered) or off. Playing, surfing, answering calls, or texting can result in expulsion (with absence) from that class. Repeated such behavior can lead to permanent expulsion from class. Please be conscientious of others and turn off all cell phones. Failure to follow this policy can affect the class participation grade.

Computers:

The use of computers in the classroom is a privilege. Computers should be used to take notes or gain access to pertinent material for lectures. Students caught using their technology, not directly related to notetaking (e.g., Facebook, etc.) will result in that person's privilege being revoked for the remainder of the semester. Should the professor conclude that technology is hindering class participation, privileges for the whole class could be revoked.

Plagiarism:

Students are given the task of writing an essay & answering worksheet questions in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the result of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students & a grade of "F" will be assigned.

Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Bible Reading	House & Mitchell	CBOT	Major Assignments
1	8/22	Syllabus; 4-fold Overview			12	
	8/24	ANE Overview; Critical Methods		1-16	60-61, 76-79, 90-93, 96	
2	8/29	Genesis	Gen 1-25	17-26		
	8/31	Genesis	Gen 25-50	27-44	13-18, 80-82, 97-98, 100-101	
3	9/5	Exodus	Exod 1-19	45-56	21, 62-65, 71- 73, 109, 112	Ten Commandments Test
	9/7	Exodus	Exod 20-40	56-64	84-85, 99, 102- 103, 110, 113	Worksheet 1
4	9/12	Leviticus	Leviticus	64-70	19-23, 37	
	9/14	Numbers	Numbers	71-80		
5	9/19	Deuteronomy	Deut 1-17	81-88	24-25, 38, 71- 73, 79, 83-84, 86-87	
	9/21	Deuteronomy	Deut 18-34			
6	9/26	Joshua	Joshua	89-101	37-38, 83	
	9/28	Judges	Judges	102-118	26, 39, 104, 111	Worksheet 2
7	10/3	Ruth 1, 2 Sam	Ruth 1 Samuel	304-310, 119-132		

	10/5	1, 2 Sam 1 Kings 1-11	2 Samuel	132-140	40-46	
8	10/10	1, 2 Kings	1 Kings	141-154	27-34	
	10/12	1, 2 Kings	2 Kings	155-171		
	10/17 10/19	Fall Break				
9	10/24	Wisdom Lit & Poetry	Psalms	267-279	47-51	
	10/26	Job	Job	280-291, 311-319, 292-303		Worksheet 3
10	10/31	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Songs	Prov, Eccl, Songs	209-303, 311-319		
	11/2	Ruth, Lamentations	Ruth, Lamentations	304-310, 320-324		
11	11/7	8 th cent. Prophets	Hosea, Amos, Jonah	231-248	46, 52-56, 67, 74	
	11/9	8 th cent. Prophets	Isaiah, Micah	173-195, 248-249	58, 65-66	
12	11/14	7 th cent. Prophets	Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah	249-257	68-69	
	11/16	7 th cent. Prophets	Jeremiah, Lamentations	196-219, 320-324	69	Worksheet 4
	11/21 11/23	Thanksgiving				
13	11/28	6 th cent. Prophets	Ezekiel, Obadiah, Joel	220-230, 237-238, 243-244		
	11/30	5 th cent. Prophets	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	257-266	58-70	
14	12/5	Post-Exilic Writings	Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1, 2 Chronicles	341-355	27, 35-36, 75, 107-118	
	12/7	Millennial Studies, Daniel	Daniel	332-340	57, 75, 105- 106	
15	12/12 12/14	Final Exam Week				Book Review/ Worksheet 5 (Dec 12 @ 4 pm)

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