

OTEN5300 EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Internet - Fall Semester 2017

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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.

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

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 each 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 primary curriculum competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student, by the end of the course should:

1. Be able to apply his/her knowledge and comprehension of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament to the practice of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately to the community of faith.
2. Value the following concepts as needful in interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately:
 - a. The authority of the Old Testament in all matters of faith and practice for Christian living and Church growth.
 - b. Old Testament interpretive issues and major theological themes for Christian living.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to interpret and communicate the Old Testament accurately.
4. Develop practical skill in studying the Old Testament through standard resources.

Embedded Assignment

This course includes an embedded summative assignment designed to assess student attainment of the desired outcomes for the course. The embedded assignment is a two-page paper summarizing the value to the church of an assigned Old Testament book and communicating how the book impacts the faith and life of the contemporary church. (See below for specific instructions.) The due date for the embedded assignment is Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course is primarily a reading course, which involves three major activities:

1. 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). (Although the Book of Daniel is included in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible, it will be read with the Book of Ezekiel). The reading assignments are outlined below in the Course Schedule.
2. Additional notes and helps in interpretation are posted in the "Course Documents" section of the Blackboard shell, which includes items such as outlines of the biblical books, biblical backgrounds information, and articles.
3. Posting responses to items on the "Discussion Board" section of Blackboard shell. Each of the ten sections has a question (or questions) regarding which each student will post a discussion on the topic. Additionally, during the prescribed time frame two responses will be made to fellow classmates' and/or professor's contributions. More contributions or responses may be posted, but the above are required.
4. Taking the given quizzes by the date posted in the syllabus. The Blackboard quizzes may be taken early, upon which time the next quiz 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.

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

Recommended reading

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

Course Requirements

1. **Embedded Summative Assignment:** Write a two-page paper (New Roman Times 12 pt. font, single-spaced) summarizing the value to the church of **one** of the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Psalms, or Isaiah. Indicate the historical context, genre, major theologies, and interpretive concerns of

the book. The paper should indicate research using appropriate resources and tools. The paper should indicate good form and documentation using footnotes as needed. Communicate how the book impacts the faith and life of the contemporary church. You may use any of the following presentation forms: Turabian, APA, MLA, or SBL. Submit your paper via Blackboard by **December 6, 2017**.

2. **Discussion Boards:** Each student is to post an original discussion thread on each of the 10 areas indicated in the "Course Schedule." Additionally, each student is to comment on at least two posts by other students during each given section.

NOTE: Discussion Boards -- A 2-point reduction for each day late will be assessed, with no credit being offered after 4 days late.

3. **Quizzes** (usually one per week) are based on reading of the biblical text and class textbook. Students are to take notes on the outline of the book, key dates, geographical movements, key events, who did what, etc. Notes (but not the textbook) may be used on the quizzes, but quizzes are timed.

NOTE: A 2-point reduction per day for late quizzes will be assessed. After 4 days a zero will be given. Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date

4. **Midterm and Final Exam:** Students will complete a midterm and a final exam.

Course Evaluation

1. Weekly Quizzes (15) 30% (300 points - 20 pts each) – 2 points off for each day late
2. Mid-Term Examination 20% (200 points) – Closed book, **Completed by October 8, 2017**
3. Final Exam 20% (200 points) – Closed book, **Completed by December 14, 2017**
4. Discussion Participation 10% (100 points) – 2 points off each day late
5. Embedded Assignment 20% (200 points) – See specific instructions on the last two pages of the syllabus - **Due Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

NOTE the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments. Exceptions for late submissions must be approved by the professor prior to due date.

Course Schedule

UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

1. Introductions (see Discussion Board schedule below) – Introduce yourself, what's your major, ministry, hobbies, hometown, etc. If you have a picture, post it. (**Due Wednesday, August 23, 2017**)
2. Reading Assignments (listed in quiz schedule below): this unit is from Genesis – Deuteronomy
3. Note- for sections/quizzes #2-3, also read in Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible article on "Sacrifices and Offerings." (posted on Blackboard in this section)

NOTE: Discussions, quizzes, and other assignments are due by midnight (Central Time Zone) on the date listed. (For example, the first discussion posting must be by 11:59 PM Central Time on Wednesday, August 23. Penalty for late work begins exactly at midnight.)

Discussion Board

1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction by **Wednesday, August 23**
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by **Friday, August 25**
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by **Friday, September 1**

Quizzes

1. QUIZ #1 Genesis, OTS, Chs. 46-48 (pp. 598-631); Chs. 1-3 (pp. 3-51) - **Due Date Sunday, August 27**
2. QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus, OTS, Chs. 4-6 (pp. 52-98) - **Due Date Sunday, September 3**
3. QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, OTS, Chs. 7-8 (pp. 99-127) - **Due Date Sunday, September 10**

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

Discussion Board

1. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by **September 15**
2. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by **September 22**

Quizzes

1. QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, OTS, Chs. 9-11 (pp. 131-164) - **Due Date September 17**
2. QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, OTS, Chs. 12-13 (pp. 165-196) - **Due Date September 24**
3. QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings, OTS, Chs. 14-15 (pp. 197-220) - **Due Date October 1**

MIDTERM EXAM: Must be taken by **Wednesday, October 4** (midnight Central Time Zone)

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

Discussion Board

1. Contribute a comment to the 8th century BC prophets by **Wednesday, October 11**
2. Contribute a comment to the 7th-6th century BC prophets by **Wednesday, October 18**
3. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by **Wednesday, October 25**

Quizzes

1. QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos, Hosea OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19 (pp. 221-230; 243-269) **Due Friday, October 13**
2. QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah OTS, Chs. 20-22 (pp. 270-312) - **Due Date Friday, October 20**
3. QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24 (pp. 313-355) - **Due Date Friday, October 27**
4. QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43 (pp. 356-389; 566-582) - **Due Date Wednesday, November 1**
5. QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30 (pp. 390-422) - **Due Date Sunday, November 5**

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

Discussion Board

1. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by **Friday, November 10**
2. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by **Friday, November 17**

Quizzes

1. QUIZ #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, OTS, Chapters 17, 31-32 (pp. 231-242; 423-446) **Due Date Sunday, November 12**
2. QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS, Chapters 33-34 (pp. 447-470) - **Due Date Sunday, November 19**
3. QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS, Chapters 35-36 (pp 471-509)- **Due Date Friday December 1**
4. QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, OTS, Chapters 37-42 (pp. 510-565) - **Due Date Friday December 8**

FINAL EXAM: Must be taken by December 14, 2017 (midnight Central Time Zone)

All assignments MUST be submitted by midnight December 14, 2017

*****Blackboard course will close at midnight December 14, 2017*****

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**COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT RUBRIC – EMBEDDED SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT
OTEN5300 EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT**

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1. Be able to apply his/her knowledge and comprehension of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament to the practice of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately to the community of faith.
2. Value the following concepts as needful in interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately:
 - a. The authority of the Old Testament in all matters of faith and practice for Christian living and Church growth.
 - b. Old Testament interpretive issues and major theological themes for Christian living.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to interpret and communicate the Old Testament accurately.
4. Develop practical skill in studying the Old Testament through standard resources.

Summative Assignment:

Write a two-page paper (New Roman Times 12 pt. font, single-spaced) summarizing the value to the church of **one** of the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Psalms, or Isaiah. Indicate the historical context, genre, major theologies, and interpretive concerns of the book. The paper should indicate research using appropriate resources and tools. The paper should indicate good form and documentation using footnotes as needed. Communicate how the book impacts the faith and life of the contemporary church.

Understanding

The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated and articulated a comprehension of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament but did not explain them fully. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament but did not address all of the principles. <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament.
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Application

The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a valuing and embracing of the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for Christian faith and living. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an appreciation for the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for Christian faith and living but did not fully embrace the need to study these concepts. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a lack of appreciation the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for Christian faith and living. <input type="checkbox"/> rejected the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for Christian faith and living and saw no value in it.
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Communication

The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a high level of practical skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament. <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated some practical skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament but did not relate the meaning fully. <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated only a rudimentary practical skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament. <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated no skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament.
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**GRADING MATRIX
FOR SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT**

<p><u>Grammar</u> 15%</p> <p>Spelling 10 ____</p> <p>Grammar 50 ____</p> <p>Sentence Structure, Clarity 20 ____</p> <p>Verb Tenses 10 ____</p> <p>Misplaced/Dangling Phrases 5 ____</p> <p>Split Infinitives 5 ____</p>	<p><u>Content</u> 60%</p> <p>Appropriateness of Discussion (75%)</p> <p> Addressed historical issues 15 ____</p> <p> Addressed genre issues 15 ____</p> <p> Addressed theological issues 30 ____</p> <p> Accuracy of information 25 ____</p> <p> Reasoning 15 ____</p> <p>Utilization of Resources (25%)</p> <p> Interaction w/ resources 50 ____</p> <p> Quality of resources and tools 50 ____</p>
<p><u>General Composition</u> 15%</p> <p>Paragraph flow 25 ____</p> <p>Style (readability) 25 ____</p> <p>Focus 25 ____</p> <p>Depth of Analysis 25 ____</p>	<p><u>Documentation</u> 10%</p> <p>Footnote Form 50 ____</p> <p>Bibliography 50 ____</p>
<p><u>Timeliness</u></p> <p>The Summative Assignment is due December 6, 2017. Twenty percent (20%) of the total grade for the assignment will be deducted each day the assignment is late (this includes weekends). The Summative Assignment will not be accepted after five days late.</p>	