



OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Internet
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies
Fall 2017, 8/21/-12/14/17

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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 worshipping 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 competencies addressed in this course are:

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

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.

Course Teaching Methodology

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), 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, 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.

Embedded Assignment: See below

Textbooks

Contemporary English Bible (a good translation such as the revised NASB, NKJV, HCBS, NRSV)

W. LaSor, D.A. Hubbard, F.W. Bush, and L.C. Allen. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament*, 2nd edition, (Eerdmans, 1996). (**OTS**)

Recommended reading:

[Bill T. Arnold](#), [Bryan E. Beyer.](#), *Readings from the Ancient Near East Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. (Baker, 2002)

[Philip J. King](#), [Lawrence E. Stager](#). *Life in Biblical Israel*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001)

A good History of Israel – this will help many who are new to understanding the OT, see bibliography for suggestions

Course Requirements

1. Research Paper: Due: Wednesday 12/6
 - o Research one of the topics suggested below or a topic relevant to this course in consultation with the professor, please email me your request in this regard.
 - o Length 12-15 pages, double spaced, 12 pt font.
 - o The paper should follow Turabian (6th ed.) or other accepted style (SBL, APA)
 - o See <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/turabiantutor7thjan08.pdf> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper.
 - o NOTE: 30% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals.
 - o See Blackboard postings on Biblical Studies Journals for help
2. Discussion Boards (DB): Each person is to post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas. Then each student is to comment on at least two other person's posting during each given section.
3. Quizzes (usually one per week) which are based upon reading of both the biblical text and class textbook, so read well, outline the book, noted key dates, geographical movement, key celebrations and events, who did what, etc. notes only can be used but the quizzes are timed All late work will be assessed a deduction of 5% per day of the assignment's point value. Late work may not be penalized at the instructor's discretion in the event of a military deployment, medical emergency, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances.

Evaluation of Grade

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. Weekly Quizzes (15) | 30% (300 points) - 20 pts each, 2 pts off for each day late, lowest 2 are dropped |
| 2. Discussion Board | 10% (100 points) – 2 pts off for each day late |
| 3. Mid-Term Exam | 20% (200 points) – Closed book |
| 4. Final Exam | 20% (200 points) – Closed book – 12/14 midnight |
| 5. Research Paper | 20% (200 points) – Due 12/6 midnight |

Other topics may be suggested in consultation with the professor.

Papers will be submitted through Blackboard.

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

Suggested Research Topics, <http://www.nobts.edu/Library/>

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

August 21-September 17

1. Introductions – (see Discussion Board (DB) schedule below), introduce yourself, what’s your major, hobbies, where you are you from, etc. If you have a picture post it, like to see a face!
2. Reading Assignments (follow quiz schedule): 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.” (it is posted on Blackboard in this section)

Quizzes and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction by Aug 25
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by August 27
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by September 17

Quizzes:

QUIZ #1 Genesis, *OTS*, Background sections – Chp 46-48 (note quizzed over) & Chs. 1-3,
Due Date Aug 29

QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*, Chs. 4-6, Due Date September 10

QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*, Chs. 7-8, Due Date September 17

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

September 18-Oct 15

Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:

Discussion Board:

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by Sept 24
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by October 14

Quizzes:

QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, *OTS*, Chs. 9-11 Due Date September 26

QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*, Chs. 12-13 Due Date October 8

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

MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by October 20, by midnight

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

October 16 - November 15

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

6. Contribute a comment to the 8th century BC prophets by October 22
7. Contribute a comment to the 7th-6th century BC prophets by November 5
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by November 14

Quizzes:

- QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea, OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19 Due Date October 23
QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah, OTS, Chs. 20-22 Due Date, October 29
QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24
Due Date November 5
QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43
Due Date November 11
QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30
Due Date November 15

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

November 16 - December 14

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by November 22
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by December 3

Quizzes:

- QUIZ #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, OTS, Chapters 17, 31-32
Due Date November 21
QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS, Chapters 33-34, Due Date November 28
QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS, Chapters 35-36, Due Date December 6
QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah
OTS, Chapters 37-42, Due Date December 12

*****FINAL EXAM Must be taken by December 14*****

Blackboard course will close at midnight December 14

Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office.

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