



BBBW5200: Encountering the Biblical World
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Fall 2020

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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Mission Statement NOBTS and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Value Our seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity as the Bible is believed to be the Word of God, inspired and inerrant. The specific core value celebrated this academic year is Mission Focus.

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.

Teaching Methodology The course methodologies include lectures, journal article readings, textbook readings, background studies and exams.

Curriculum Competencies

1. **Biblical Exposition:** To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

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 one's 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.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Appreciate the modern state of Israel in its contemporary setting.
2. Appreciate God's plan to bless all nations through the Jewish people and the Land of Israel to bring everlasting glory to Himself.
3. Discuss the cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the ancient Near East.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the historical, geographical, and cultural materials of the Old and New Testaments.
5. Identify key geographical locations of the biblical world.
6. Read the Old and New Testaments with a cultural and geographical perspective.
7. Read biblical commentaries to identify cultural and geographical notes that directly impact one's exegesis of a Bible text.

Required Textbooks

The Holy Bible: Any modern version (TNKH, NASB, HCSB, NIV, etc.)

Marvin R. Wilson, *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.)

Recommended Background Resources:

Jewish Publication Society, *The Jewish Study Bible: Tanakh Translation*, Michael Fishbane, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Clinton E. Arnold, ed., *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary* (NT), 4 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002).

Craig S. Keener, ed., *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Grand Rapids: IVP, 2014).

John H. Walton, ed. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary* (OT), 5 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007).

John H. Walton and Victor H. Matthews, eds., *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: IVP, 2000).

Edwin Yamauchi and Marvin R. Wilson, eds., *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical & Post-Biblical Antiquity*. 4 vols. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2014-2016); 1 vol., 2017.

Course Requirements

1. Textbook & Journal articles Reading Guides: The student will read the textbook and selected journal articles throughout the semester. **Questions will be provided and the answers uploaded to Blackboard.**

2. Background Studies: The student will study a significant cultural and background feature of selected texts throughout the semester. The student will find the weekly assignments on the "Assignments Schedule" below. Studies require use of a biblical and background commentaries, and Bible dictionaries listed on the "Schedule." The student will compose a 1.5 page explanation of the cultural or background component and its importance for understanding a particular biblical text. **Background**

studies will be uploaded to Blackboard.

Ten (10) background studies are required. Student are strongly encourage to use the suggested resources.

3. Mid-term and Final exam: The course exams cover the lectures.

4. Participation and Engagement: The student will participate in class discussion, remain attentive, and take good notes.

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). Find the manual on the Writing Center webpage under "Writing Guides" > "Turabian Guides." The NOBTS Style Guide can also be found in the course Blackboard shell.

Assignments and Point-Values

Textbook & Journal articles Reading	40%
Background Studies - 10 @ 3 points	30%
Class Participation*	Expected
Mid-term & Final Exam	30%
Total points possible	100 Points

* To receive course credit, only six (6) absences are allowed.

Grading Scale

A: 93-100% B: 85-92% C: 77-84% D: 70-76% F: below 70%

Attendance

Only six (6) absences are allowed to receive course credit.

Classroom Etiquette

- ✓ Cell Phones – Please turn phone off or to silent.
 - ✓ Laptop Computers – Surfing the Web, checking e-mail or playing video games are not appropriate use of classroom time.
 - ✓ Dress Code (*NOBTS Student Handbook 2019-20, 11.*)
1. Personal appearance and dress are a vital part of each individual's exemplary Christian witness. Modesty, neatness, cleanliness, and propriety in dress are expected.
 2. Classroom attire should reflect an atmosphere of respect for the task of ministry training. Caps and bare feet are not appropriate in the classroom or chapel. Faculty members may enforce additional classroom dress requirements consistent with course objectives.
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**BBBW5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD:
LECTURES & ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE**

Week	Dates	Lectures	Textbook Readings & Assignments
1	Aug. 24	Introduction: Why Biblical Backgrounds?	
2	Aug. 31	Ethnicity	Cultural Study 1: Genesis 3:21 and Leviticus 7:8 and the significance of Adam & Eve's coats of skin.
3	Sept. 7	Methodology	Cultural Study 2: Exodus 7:9-13 and the Magicians rods being eaten by Aaron's rod/staff.
4	Sept. 14	Methodology	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Preface & 1 Dever, "Archaeology & Ideology" Cultural Study 3: 1 Kings 18 and the god Baal
5	Sept. 21	Philosophy & Worldview	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 2 & 3 Davies, "What separates a Minimalist from a Maximalist? Not Much" Cultural Study 4: Acts 10:1-35 and the concept of clean and unclean people and food.
6	Sept. 28	Philosophy & Worldview	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 4 Cultural Study 5: Genesis 43:33; Exodus 4:22-23; Deuteronomy 21:15-17 and The concept of th firstborn.
7	Oct. 5	Conceptions of the Divine	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 5 & 6 Reid, "Minimalism and Biblical History" Cultural Study 6: The irony of personal name.
8	Oct. 12	Conceptions of the Divine	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 7 & 8 Cultural Study 7: Numbers 18:20 and the inheritance of the Levites.
9	Oct. 19	Fall Break – No Assignments!	
10	Oct. 26	Conceptions of the Divine	Kitchen, "The Patriarchal Age: Myth or History?" Cultural Study 8: Daniel 7:13-14 and the "son of man" coming in the clouds.
11	Nov. 2	Conceptions of the Divine	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 10 Cultural Study 9: Matthew 9:20-21 and the hem of the garment.
12	Nov.	Sacred Geography	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 12 Krahmalkov, "Exodus Itinerary Confirmed by Egyptian Evidence"

	9		Cultural Study 10: Study the concept of the “heart.”
13	Nov. 16	Sacred Geography	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 13 Cultural Study 11: Exodus 21:1-6 and Psalm 40:6, Slavery and the “ear” of the slave.
14	Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Break – No Assignments!	
15	Nov. 30	Delivery via BlueJeans Social Backgrounds	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 14 Wood, “Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho?” Cultural Study 12: Revelation 3:14-22 and the hot, cold, or lukewarm water of Laodicea.
16	Dec. 7-10	Delivery via BlueJeans Social Backgrounds	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> - 15
17	Dec. 11-17	Final Exam – Thursday, December 17 at 9:00AM	

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- Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.
- Avi-Yonah, Michael. *The Holy Land: From the Persian to the Arab Conquest (536 BC-AD 640)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1966.
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- Kramer, Samuel Noah, ed. *Mythologies of the Ancient World*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1961.
- Lloyd, Seton. *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: From the Stone Age to the Persian Conquest*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1978.
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Archaeological Encyclopedias

The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land

--eds. E. Stern, et al. Simon and Schuster, 1992.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Archaeology in the Near East.

--eds. E. Meyers, et al. Oxford, 1997.