



**OTEN5300: Exploring the Old Testament**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Biblical Studies Division  
Fall 2020  
Monday: 1:00 - 3:50 pm

**Professor's Name:** Archie W. England

Title: Chair of the Division of Biblical Studies, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, occupying the J. Wash Watts Chair of Old Testament and Hebrew

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### **Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Believing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit our lives to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
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.
3. **Mission Focus:** Our Seminary does not exist merely to get an education or to give an education. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus to exert leadership through nurturing and encouraging those around us.

This year's emphasis is **Mission Focus**.

## 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.

## Required Course Texts

1. Arnold, Bill T., and Brent A. Strawn. *The World Around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
2. Hess, Richard S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
3. Provan, Iain W., V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
4. Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing, 1994. (CBCOT)
5. Any modern, recent English translation of the Bible

## Optional text for extra credit review:

6. Strawn, Brent A., *The Old Testament is Dying: A Diagnosis and Recommended Treatment*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Students should

1. The student will understand the canonical development and arrangement of the OT.
2. The student will identify significant OT themes, characters, nations, and historical events (and their relationship to the NT whenever appropriate).
3. The student will demonstrate the value of the background, setting, literary structure, and message of the OT books (Authorship, Date, Content, Analysis, etc.).
4. The student will work with selected methods currently employed in the study of the OT & explain the resultant implications of the various theories.

## Course Teaching Methodology and Requirements

1. Students are responsible for reading the assigned material for each class meeting (see course schedule for reading assignments).
2. Students should complete reading through the Old Testament by following the weekly assignments. Any *modern* English translation will suffice.
3. Students are responsible for conducting **weekly presentations** in teams of 2 or 3 students on each chapter of Arnold (Teams tbd first day of class; individual components for grading; group, for presentation). These reports should demonstrate how you are critically thinking through the reading, picking up on the big ideas (and reflecting on how such thoughts might impact the ministry of the local church). Though scholarly interaction is welcome (and when cited must be accompanied by footnotes per formal research standards), it is not required. *Reports should total 6-10 slides (again, document your work) presenting:*
  - a. significant data
  - b. assessment of importance of religion in the history of Israel
  - c. evaluation of gods and cults
  - d. bibliography of resources
  - e. 10-15 prepared multiple-choice-style exam questions
4. Students will submit 6 biweekly reflective reports responding to questions on *A Biblical History of Israel*. This will be made available via BB and/or email.
5. Students will demonstrate mastery of the canonical text by submitting three worksheets during the semester. The worksheets will consist of questions requiring research. Each worksheet must be written well with proper formatting (footnotes, headings, etc), a minimum of 7 pages, single-spaced (plus a selected bibliography--not counted toward page count) but not longer than 10 pages, single-spaced!
6. **Extra Credit:** Submit a written, reflective review (4-5 single-spaced pages) of *The Old Testament is Dying: A Diagnosis and Recommended Treatment*.

## Course Grading System

Attendance & Participation	10%
Reading & Weekly Team Reports	20%
Reflective Reports on Provan, Long, and Longman	10%
Three Worksheets	45%
Bible Reading	15%

Extra Credit Book Review

up to 5 points added to final average

## Course Policy

*Attendance:* See current Graduate catalog.

**Completion of all assignments:** Students are expected to complete and submit all assignments during the semester in order to receive a passing grade for this course.

**Make-Up & Extra Credit:** Failure to submit any major assignment (worksheets) 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. Notifying the professor and grader of accidents, illness, or church/family-related-unavoidable delays can lessen this penalty or allow us to grant some measure of grace.

**Citizenship/Conduct:** Class participation (or lack thereof) directly affects the final grade for this course. Thus, proper behavior and attire are expected at all times in the classroom. Open food and drinks are not permitted, though bottled drinks are (so long as capped). Should the professor be delayed, students are requested to 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. In the event of classes moving to a BlueJeans virtual classroom, we will discuss an alternative research approach for the three worksheets. Stay tuned!

**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 day. Repeated offenses can lead to permanent expulsion from class. Please be conscientious of others and turn off all cell phones. This behavior impacts attendance and participation grades.

**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. When caught using technology for surfing Social Media, news, games, email, etc. may result in reprimand, expulsion for the day (thus counted as an absence), loss of privilege for using technology for the remainder of the semester, or even dismissal from the class (for belligerent, repeated offenders).

**Plagiarism:** Students are given the task of writing reports & 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. Self-plagiarism (reuse of assignments submitted in other courses) is not acceptable.

### Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	8/24	Syllabus Overview 4-fold Overview ANE Overview Critical Methods Genesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hess (pp 1-34)</li> <li>• Provan (pp 3-104)</li> <li>• CBOT (12, 60-61, 76-79, 90-93, 96)</li> <li>• Gen 1-25</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 1-30)</li> </ul>	
2	8/31	Genesis-Exodus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hess (pp 34-54)</li> <li>• Provan (pp 107-125)</li> <li>• Gen 25-50</li> <li>• Provan (pp 105-24)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 31-106)</li> <li>• CBOT (13-18, 80-82, 97-98, 100-101)</li> </ul>	
3	9/7		LABOR DAY	
4	9/14	Exodus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ex 1-19</li> <li>• Hess (pp 55-78)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 169-196)</li> <li>• CBOT (21, 62-65, 71-73, 109, 112)</li> </ul>	<b>Reflection 1</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ex 20-40</li> <li>• Provan (pp 125-137)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 107-168)</li> <li>• CBOT (84-85, 99, 102-109, 110, 113)</li> </ul>	
5	9/21	Leviticus Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leviticus</li> <li>• Hess (pp 79-101)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 197-228)</li> <li>• CBOT (19-23, 37)</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers</li> <li>• Hess (pp 102-122)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 227-266)</li> </ul>	
6	9/28	Deuteronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deut 1-34</li> <li>• Hess (pp 123-153); Arnold (267-352); CBOT (24-25, 38, 71-73, 79, 83-84, 86-87); Provan (pp 138-192)</li> </ul>	<b>Worksheet 1</b> <b>Due Fri 10/2,</b> <b>11:59pm</b>  <b>Reflection 2</b>
7	10/5	Joshua Judges Ruth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua</li> <li>• Hess (pp 161-193)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 353-378)</li> <li>• CBOT (37-38, 83)</li> </ul>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judges</li> <li>• Hess (pp 194-219)</li> <li>• CBOT (26, 39, 104, 111)</li> <li>• Ruth</li> <li>• Hess (pp220-274)</li> </ul>	
8	10/12	1 Samuel 2 Samuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 Sam</li> <li>• Provan (pp 193-238)</li> <li>• Hess (pp 275-316)</li> <li>• CBOT (40-46)</li> </ul>	<b>Reflection 3</b>
9	10/19		<b>Fall Break</b>	
10	10/26	1 Kings 2 Kings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 Kings</li> <li>• Hess (pp 275-316)</li> <li>• CBOT (27-34, 40-46)</li> <li>• Provan (pp 239-277)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 379-416)</li> </ul>	<b>Reflection 4</b>
11	11/2	Wisdom Lit & Poetry Job Proverbs; Ecclesiastes, Songs, Lamentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalms</li> <li>• Hess (pp 417-451)</li> <li>• CBOT (47-51)</li> </ul>	<b>Worksheet 2 Due Fri 11/6, 11:59pm</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job</li> <li>• Hess (pp 393-416)</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prov; Eccl; Songs</li> <li>• Hess (pp 452-493)</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lamentations</li> <li>• Hess (pp 561-567)</li> </ul>	
12	11/9	8th Century Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosea; Amos; Jonah</li> <li>• Hess (pp 599-610, 618-630, 637-646)</li> <li>• Arnold (pp 417-466)</li> <li>• CBOT (46, 52-56, 67, 74)</li> <li>• Isaiah; Micah</li> <li>• Hess (pp 513-539, 647-655)</li> <li>• CBOT (58, 65-66)</li> </ul>	<b>Reflection 5</b>
13	11/16	7th Century Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nahum; Habakuk; Zephaniah</li> <li>• Hess (pp 656-682)</li> <li>• CBOT (68-69)</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremiah</li> <li>• Hess (pp 540-560)</li> <li>• Provan (pp 278-304)</li> <li>• CBOT (69)</li> </ul>	

14	11/23		<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
15	11/30	6th Century Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ezekiel; Obadiah; Joel</li> <li>• Hess (pp 568-584, 631-636, 611-617)</li> </ul>	<b>Reflection 6</b>
		5th Century Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi</li> <li>• Hess (pp 683-710)</li> <li>• CBOT (58-70)</li> </ul>	
16	12/7	Post-Exilic Writing, Ezra/Nehemiah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esther, Ezra/Nehemiah</li> <li>• Hess (pp 348-391)</li> <li>• CBOT (27, 35-36, 75, 107-118)</li> </ul>	<b>Worksheet 3 Due Fri 12/11, 11:59pm</b>
		Chronicles, Millennial Studies, Daniel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel, Chronicles</li> <li>• Hess (pp 317-347, 585-598)</li> <li>• Arnold (467-500)</li> <li>• CBOT (57, 75, 105-106)</li> </ul>	
17	12/14	<p align="center"><b>Final Exam Week:</b>  <b>Graduating seniors are required to submit worksheet 3 on the last day of class, Dec 7.</b></p>		

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