



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

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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**

Students in this course will be introduced to the Old Testament through a survey of the text and study of the critical issues surrounding the Old Testament. The course will consist of assignments such as reading, reflection, critical thinking, and presentation of issues related to the Old Testament.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

### **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. ISBN 978-1540962317
2. Hess, Richard S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016. ISBN 978-0801037146
3. Provan, Iain W., V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003. ISBN 978-0664239138

4. Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing, 1994. (CBCOT) ISBN 978-0310481614
5. Any modern 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. ISBN 978-0801048883

PLEASE NOTE: As a graduate student, you are not expected to espouse all of the views expressed in the textbooks. However, you are expected **to interact critically** with the ideas and theories presented.

### **Course Teaching Methodology and Requirements**

1. Students are responsible for reading the assigned material for each class meeting (see course schedule for reading assignments). *This requirement relates to Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.*
2. Students should complete reading through the Old Testament by following the weekly assignments. Any modern English translation will suffice. *This requirement relates to Student Learning Outcome 1.*
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*This requirement relates to Student Learning Outcome 3*
4. Students will submit 6 biweekly reflective reports responding to questions on *A Biblical History of Israel*. Assignments should be submitted via Blackboard as a word document (.doc or .txt) or as a PDF. *This requirement relates to Student Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.*
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 and adhere to both Turabian and NOBTS Style Guides (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! Worksheets should be submitted via Blackboard and in text document (.doc or .txt) or PDF. *This relates to Student Learning Outcomes 1-4.*
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	10%
Weekly Team Reports	20%
Reflective Reports on Provan, Long, and Longman	10%
Three Worksheets (15% each)	45%
Bible Reading	15%
Extra Credit Book Review	5pts

### Grading Rubric for Worksheets

<b>Area of Assessment</b>	<b>Expectations</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Composition (20% of assignment)</b>	Spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, flow, and readability or prose.	Fails to meet the standards expected for the assignment	Meets Some of the standards expected for the assignment, but is lacking in many areas	Acceptable, but with room for improvement	Meets expectations with minor improvements needed	Meets and/or exceeds expectations
<b>Formatting &amp; Documentation (20% of assignment)</b>	Style guide adherence, footnotes, resources, bibliography, etc.					
<b>Content (60% of assignment)</b>	Utilization of resources, adequately & directly addresses the topic, thoroughness, reasoning					

## **Course Policy**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class. Every class meeting is important. Excessive absences will not be tolerated. The Graduate Catalog's attendance states:

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. Students will be expected to attend all classes unless prevented by illness or emergency. No student who misses more than the maximum number of hours as prescribed below can receive credit for the course. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend class the minimum number of hours. Class periods missed because of late enrollment will be counted as absences. Students may not enter after the end of the second week of the beginning of each regular semester. Three occasions of arriving late for a class or leaving early from class will count as one absence. Students should take care to avoid unnecessary absences so that illness or emergencies will not cause failure in the class. The maximum number of absences without failure for classroom courses is as follows:

- 1-hour courses - 3 classroom hours absent
- 2-hour courses - 6 classroom hours absent
- 3-hour courses - 9 classroom hours absent
- 4-hour courses - 12 classroom hours absent

No absences are allowed in academic workshops or one-week summer courses. For the four-time per semester hybrid courses, students can only miss one of the four monthly class sessions. For the eight-time per semester hybrid courses, students can only miss two of the eight class sessions.

### **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. For this course, 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. In order to provide a safeguard against plagiarism, student submission will be checked by the SafeAssign software in Blackboard. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students & a grade of "F" will be assigned. Students may also receive expulsion from the institution. Self-plagiarism (reuse of assignments submitted in other courses) is not acceptable.

**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).

### Course Schedule

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading (Complete before next class session)</b>	<b>Assignment (Due on)</b>
1	8/24	Syllabus and Course Overview	<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	<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> <i>Due by Mon, 9:14 11:59pm</i>
			<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>Reflection 2</b> <i>Due Mon, 9/28 11:59pm</i>  <b>Worksheet 1</b> <i>Due Fri 10/2, 11:59pm</i>
7	10/5	Joshua Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joshua</li> <li>● Hess (pp 161-193)</li> </ul>	

		Ruth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> Due Mon 10/12 11:59pm
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> Due Mon 10/26 11:59pm
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</b> Due Fri 11/6, 11:59pm
		<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> Due Mon 11/9 11:59pm
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> </ul>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <i>Due Mon 11/30 11:59pm</i>
		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</b> <i>Due Fri 12/11, 11:59pm</i>
		Chronicles and 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	<b>Final Exam Week:</b> <b>Graduating seniors are required to submit worksheet 3 on the last day of class, Dec 7.</b>		

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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