



## Hebrew Exegesis: Genesis 1–11 OTHB 6301

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Biblical Studies  
Fall 2021

Cory Barnes  
Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew  
Office: Frost Building  
Phone: 504-330-1074 (cell)  
Email: cbarnes@nobts.edu

### Mission Statement

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

### Course Description

An advanced course giving consideration to textual, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis in a variety of genres. The course will emphasize proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching. Students may repeat this course if the individual biblical books or collections being studied are not duplicated. Prerequisites: OTHB5300 Introductory Hebrew Grammar and OTHB6300 Intermediate Hebrew Grammar for Exegesis.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to do exegetical work using the Hebrew text of Genesis 1–11.
- Develop a general knowledge of the state of research of Genesis 1–11.
- Develop an appreciation of the role of the book of Genesis in biblical scholarship in general and Christian theology in particular.
- Locate the message of Genesis 1–11 within its ANE context.
- Explore how the message of Genesis 1–11 speaks to God's people now and throughout history.

### Textbooks

The following textbooks are required:

*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsch Bibelgesellschaft, 1997.

Bandstra, Barry. *Genesis 1–11: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*. Baylor Handbooks on the Hebrew Bible. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2008.

Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis Chapters 1–17*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

O'Connor, Kathleen M. *Genesis 1–25A*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2018.

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

The primary method of instruction for this course will be lecture and guided analysis of the Hebrew text based on student translations. Students will also learn through reading and research assignments which they will complete outside of class meetings.

## Course Requirements

Course Participation (10% of course grade)

In class students are expected to be present and to translate passages in class using only their Hebrew text. Screens on computers, smart phones, and tablets must be turned off when students are translating.

Flex students must complete the “flex lecture survey” each week. To complete these 3-question, short answer surveys students must have watched both the Tuesday and Thursday lectures. The surveys are available in the folder titled “Flex Lecture Surveys” in Blackboard. Surveys are due 7 days after the last lecture of each week with the exception of the week 16 survey, which is due on December 7.

Weekly Translation and Commentary Analysis (30% of course grade)

Each week students will submit a translation of the assigned passage for the week that includes the following elements:

1. A translation of the assigned passage for the week.
2. An analysis of grammatical and syntactical issues in the passage
3. A reflection of the commentary readings from O'Connor and Hamilton for the passage

A template for these assignments is available on Blackboard.

Weekly translations analyses are to be submitted via blackboard by 11:59pm on Saturday in the week in which they are due.

Midterm Exam (10% of course grade)

A midterm exam will be given that covers background issues related to Genesis 1–11 as well as Hebrew translation.

Critical Introduction to Genesis 1–11 (20% of course grade)

Students will write a 4-5-page double spaced introduction to Genesis 1–11 that discusses:

1. Outline of Gen 1–11 (no more than 1 page. Outline may be single spaced)
2. Authorship and editorial issues in Genesis 1–11.
3. Major themes in Gen 1–11.
4. The role of ANE context in interpreting Genesis 1–11.

Research Paper (30% of course grade)

Students will write a paper dealing with an interpretive, theological, or textual issue that is based in Gen 1–11. The thesis for a student's paper must be approved by the professor before the date indicated on the course schedule. Acceptable thesis statements must make a clear and compelling argument. Papers will be 8-10 pages double spaced.

## Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 10% - Course Participation
- 30% - Weekly Translation Analysis
- 10% - Midterm Exam
- 20% - Critical Introduction to Genesis 1–11
- 30% - Research Paper

## **Nola2U FLEX Policies**

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See "Absences" category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through submitting the flex lecture survey after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

### **Technical Assistance**

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

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

### **Resource Use in the Classroom**

Students who are attending the course in person (i.e. not via NOLA2U Flex) should bring only their translation analysis and Hebrew Bible to class meetings. Use of Bible software, English Bibles, or other resources are prohibited in the classroom.

### **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.

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

## Course Schedule

| Week | Date         | Topic  | Quiz/Assignment                             |
|------|--------------|--|---|
| 1    | August 17    | Intro to Course and Review of Weekly Translation and Commentary Analysis |   |
|      | August 19    | Genesis Background 1   |   |
| 2    | August 24    | Genesis Background 2   |   |
|      | August 26    | Theological Readings in Genesis  |   |
| 3    | August 31    | Genesis 1:1-10   | <b>Critical Introduction of Genesis Due</b> |
|      | September 2  | Genesis 1:11-19  | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 4    | September 7  | Genesis 1:20-31  |   |
|      | September 9  | Genesis 2:1-3  | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 5    | September 14 | Genesis 2:4-14   |   |
|      | September 16 | Genesis 2:15-25  | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 6    | September 21 | Genesis 3:1-11   |   |
|      | September 23 | Genesis 3:12-24  | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 7    | September 28 | Genesis 4:1-7  |   |
|      | September 30 | Midterm Exam   | Midterm Exam                                |
| 8    | October 5    | Fall Break   |   |
|      | October 7    | Fall Break   |   |
| 9    | October 12   | Genesis 4:8-16   |   |
|      | October 14   | Genesis 4:17-26  | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 10   | October 19   | Genesis 5:1-32   |   |
|      | October 21   | Genesis 6:1-8  | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 11   | October 26   | Genesis 6:9-22   |   |
|      | October 28   | Genesis 7:1-11   | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 12   | November 2   | Genesis 7:12-24  |   |
|      | November 4   | Genesis 8:1-22   | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 13   | November 9   | Genesis 9:1-17 (No class meeting, Cory at GBMB)                          |   |
|      | November 11  | Genesis 9:18-29  | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 14   | November 16  | Watch video on table of nations (No class meeting, Cory at ETS)          |   |
|      | November 18  | No class meeting, Cory at ETS  | <b>Final Paper Due</b>                      |
| 15   | November 23  | Genesis 11:1-9   |   |
|      | November 25  | Genesis 11:10-26   | Translation and Analysis                    |
| 16   | November 30  | Genesis 11:27-32   |   |
|      | December 2   | Christology in Genesis   |   |

## Selected Bibliography

### Commentaries

- Brueggemann, Walter. *Genesis*. Interpretation, A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.
- Calvin, John. *Commentaries on the First Book of Moses Called Genesis*. Translated by John King. Calvin's Commentaries 1. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948.
- Cassuto, Umberto. *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis*. Translated by Israel Abrahams. Vol. 1. Jerusalem: The Magnes Press, 1972.
- Galambush, Julie. *Reading Genesis: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Incorporated, 2018.
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- Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1–17*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
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- Longman, Tremper. *Genesis*. Edited by Scot McKnight. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Academic, 2016.
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- Walton, John H. *Genesis*. NIV Application Commentary 1. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Westermann, Claus. *Genesis 1-11*. Continental Commentary. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

### ANE Background of Genesis

- Gunkel, Hermann. *The Legends of Genesis: The Biblical Saga and History*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003.
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- Hvidberg, Flemming Friis. "Canaanite Background of Gen 1-3." *Vetus Testamentum* 10.3 (1960): 285–94.

### Genesis 1–3

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### **Theological Interpretation of Genesis 1–11**

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