



Interpreting the Old Testament 2 OTEN5352
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
Fall 2022
Tuesday 6:00-8:50pm; NOLA2U Flex

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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.

Course Description

This course introduces the content and major interpretive issues of Job through Malachi. The course covers literary, historical, and theological contexts as well as hermeneutical principles related to reading the OT genres of wisdom, poetry, and prophecy. The course complements OTEN5351 Interpreting the Old Testament 1: Genesis–Esther.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will be able to:

- Recognize the key issues in the critical study of the OT books of Job–Malachi.
- Recognize the purpose and message of the OT books of Job–Malachi.
- Understand the significance of the Old Testament as Christian Scripture.
- Utilize key hermeneutical principles to interpret OT genres of prophecy, poetry, and wisdom.
- Develop an appreciation for, and enjoyment of, the Old Testament.

Textbooks

The following textbooks are required for the course:

Either of the following translations of the Bible: Christian Standard Bible, English Standard Version, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, or New American Standard Bible.

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglass Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Hess, Richard S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

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 Old Testament. Students will also learn through reading, discussion, and research assignments, which they will complete as required components of this course.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly Reading Quizzes (30%) - Students are responsible for completing each of the assigned textbook readings as well as the reading from the Old Testament for each unit. Quizzes on the readings will be given for each unit and students are required to complete these quizzes on Canvas prior to the start of class each week. While Flex students have the option of watching the recorded lectures up to a week after the class period, *all* students will be expected to keep up with the readings as they are assigned and complete the reading quizzes by their due date. *Reading quizzes may not be taken after the due date unless prior approval has been granted by the professor.*
2. Discussion Boards (10%) - Students will be required to respond to weekly discussion prompts. Discussion posts should be 150-250 words and should demonstrate critical engagement with the forum prompt, avoiding language like "I think," "I feel," etc. While students are not required to respond to the post(s) of other students, they are free to do so; however, responses to other students' posts should demonstrate humility, charity, and a kind spirit.
3. Research Worksheets (50%) - Students will complete four (4) worksheets during the course of the semester, covering material relevant to the Old Testament. The worksheets are research-focused and should demonstrate adequate interaction with "critical" sources including, but not limited to, journal articles, dissertations, biblical dictionaries and encyclopedias, as well as critical commentaries. Students should avoid single-author commentary series (e.g., MacArthur, Wiersbe, etc.); while these may be beneficial devotional/pastoral commentaries, they are not "critical" resources. Each worksheet should be 6-10 pages, double-spaced, written in 12-point Times New Roman font and adhering to Turabian guidelines for style/formatting (or APA for Counseling students). Students are encouraged to consult the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form & Style available through the NOBTS Writing Center.
4. Sermon/Teaching Outline (10%) - Students will complete a comprehensive sermon or teaching outline on an assigned passage from one of the books covered in this class. Outlines should be a minimum of one page, double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font, and should include major points and supporting points/argumentation. This assignment is not a sermon/teaching manuscript but should also reflect that the student has thoroughly developed his/her sermon or teaching plan. Passages will be assigned by the professor during the first half of the semester and students will submit their sermon/teaching outline by the final exam date for this class (**December 6**).

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 Canvas. 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 the amount of time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
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 a brief discussion post after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the view 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.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Weekly Reading Quizzes	30%
Weekly Discussion Posts	10%
Research Worksheets	50%
Sermon/Teaching Outline	10%

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

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. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
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.

Late Work Policy

Assignments submitted after the due date will be assessed a penalty of **10% each day** after the due date. Reading quizzes *will not* be available after the due date and students will not be able to take quizzes late unless they have received approval from the professor *prior to the due date*. Any late work not submitted by the date of the final exam (**December 6**) will not be accepted and will be assessed a grade of 0.

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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas 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>

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

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
Aug 16	Introduction to Wisdom Literature	Job 1–27 Fee & Stuart 21–56; 233–57	Discussion Board #1 (8/20) Syllabus Quiz (8/20)
Aug 23	Job, Ecclesiastes	Job 28–42; Ecclesiastes 1–12 Hess 393–416; 475–93	Discussion Board #2 Reading Quiz
Aug 30	Proverbs, Song of Songs	Proverbs 1–31; Song of Songs 1–8 Hess 452–74; 494–512	Discussion Board #3 Reading Quiz
Sept 6	Introduction to OT Poetry	Psalms 1–55 Fee & Stuart 212–32	Discussion Board #4 Reading Quiz Worksheet 1
Sept 13	Psalms	Psalms 57–84 Hess 417–51	Discussion Board #5 Reading Quiz
Sept 20	Introduction to OT Prophecy	Psalms 85–150 Fee & Stuart 187–211	Discussion Board #6 Reading Quiz
Sept 27	Isaiah	Isaiah 1–27 Hess 513–39	Discussion Board #7 Reading Quiz
Fall Break (Oct 3-7) No Class			
Oct 11	Jeremiah, Lamentations	Isaiah 28–66 Hess 540–67	Discussion Board #8 Reading Quiz Worksheet 2
Oct 18	Ezekiel	Jeremiah 1–35 Hess 568–84	Discussion Board #9 Reading Quiz
Oct 25	Hosea, Joel, Amos	Jeremiah 36–52; Lamentations 1–5 Hess 599–630	Discussion Board #10 Reading Quiz
Nov 1	Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk	Ezekiel 1–24 Hess 631–75	Discussion Board #11 Reading Quiz Worksheet 3
Nov 8	Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Ezekiel 25–48; Hosea 1–14 Hess 676–710	Discussion Board #12 Reading Quiz
Nov 15	Introduction to OT Apocalyptic Literature Daniel	Daniel 1–12; Joel 1–3; Amos 1–9; Obadiah, Jonah 1–4 Hess 585–98	Discussion Board #13 Reading Quiz
Thanksgiving Break (Nov 21-25) No Class			
Nov 29	OT Theology & Intertextuality	Micah 1–7; Nahum 1–3; Habakkuk 1–3; Zephaniah 1–3; Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–14; Malachi 1–4	Discussion Board #14 Reading Quiz Worksheet 4
Dec 6	Finals Week		Sermon/Teaching Outline

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due by the start of the class period on the assigned date (i.e., Discussion Board #2 and the first Reading quiz are due by 6:00 pm on Tuesday, Aug 23).

Selected Bibliography

- Anderson, Bernhard W. *Contours of Old Testament Theology*. Philadelphia: Augsburg Fortress, 1999.
- Boda, Mark J., and J. Gordon McConville, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.
- Carson, D. A., and G. K. Beale, eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Cook, Stephen L. *Apocalyptic Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. New York: Abingdon, 2003.
- Crenshaw, James L. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.
- Declaisse-Walford, Nancy L. *Reading from the Beginning: The Shaping of the Hebrew Psalter*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1997.
- Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology*. 3 volumes. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- _____. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Exploring Text, Approaches and Issues*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Gundry, Stanley N., Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., Darrell L. Bock, and Peter E. Enns. *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Edited by Kenneth Berding and Jonathan Lunde. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2008.
- Longman, Tremper, III, ed. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry and Writings*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.
- _____. *How to Read Proverbs*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2002.
- Lucas, Ernest. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Psalms and Wisdom Literature*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.
- Mendenhall, George E., and Gary A. Herion, eds. *Ancient Israel's Faith and History: An Introduction to the Bible in Context*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Moberly, R. W. L. *Old Testament Theology: Reading the Hebrew Bible as Christian Scripture*. Reprint edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015.
- Seitz, Christopher R. *Prophecy and Hermeneutics: Toward a New Introduction to the Prophets*. Studies in Theological Interpretation. Dallas: Baker, 2007.
- Sweeney, Marvin A. *Prophetic Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. New York: Abingdon, 2005.
- _____. *Form and Intertextuality in Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature*. Reprint edition. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010.
- Troxel, Ronald L. *Prophetic Literature: From Oracles to Books*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

VanGemeren, Willem. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word: An Introduction to the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J., Craig G. Bartholomew, Daniel J. Treier, and N. T. Wright, eds. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Waltke, Bruce K., and Charles Yu. *Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Wright, N. T. *The Case for the Psalms: Why They Are Essential*. New York: HarperOne, 2013.

Worksheet Questions

Worksheet #1

1. What is the role of Wisdom literature in the Old Testament?
2. Explain the major interpretive approaches for Song of Songs.

Worksheet #2

1. Identify and discuss the types of psalms present in the Psalter.
2. Trace the historical and cultural context of eighth century Israel that led to the rise of the "classical" (i.e., writing) prophets.

Worksheet #3

1. Discuss the similarities between Jeremiah and Hosea that have led some scholars to conclude that Jeremiah knew of, and was influenced by, Hosea.
2. Identify and discuss the theories of authorship for the Book of Isaiah.

Worksheet #4

1. Thoroughly discuss the Book of the Twelve. Students should include the purpose, message, and theology of each individual book of the "Minor Prophets" as well as arguments for and/or against the "Twelve Hypothesis."