

BBBW 5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,
2 Hours Summer 2014, Internet (June 1 - July 24)
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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.

Seminary Mission Statement:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill The Great Commission and The Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Seminary Core Values:

1. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.
2. NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Master’s Degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency especially by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will recognize the physical elements of the land of Israel and the ancient Near East -- the geography, topography, geology, climate, etc. -- via slide, book and map study.
2. The student will read excerpts from the Old and New Testaments with an archaeological and geographical perspective.
3. The student will examine materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.
4. The student will probe the interrelationship between geography, politics, economics, cultural mores, and religion in the development of the nation of Israel.
5. The student will become conversant in the historical, geographical, and cultural materials of the Old and New Testaments.

Textbooks:

To be read in conjunction with class lectures

1. English Bible (*a good translation*)
2. Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., 2002, *Readings From the Ancient Near East*, Baker,(RANE)
3. Brisco, Thomas, 1998 *Holman Bible Atlas* by (Broadman & Holman Publishers, (HBA))
4. Warner, *Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook* (Posted on Blackboard) WKBK

Recommended reading:

1. *Archaeology & The Old Testament*, Baker Book House, (**AOT**) Hoerth, Alfred 1998, – This is an optional reading but heavily suggested. Note within the reading schedule of this course reading, suggestions are given from this text that correspond to the topics discussed.
2. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
3. *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor M., (Hendrickson)
4. *The Sacred Bridge* by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., 2006 (Carta, Jerusalem)
5. *Life in Biblical Israel*, by Stager, L. & King, P., 2001, (Westminster John Knox Press)

Course Evaluation:

Midterm Exam	20% (Due July 5 Sunday)
Final Exam	20% (Due July 24 by Midnight,) Blackboard shuts down at midnight!
Map Quizzes (3)	25% - see schedule for dates (See schedule)
Discussion Participation	10% - via BB Discussion Board (See schedule)
Research Paper	25% (Due July 24) – submit via BB

(**Remember many illustrations & photos used in this course are copy righted and cannot be published w/o written permission).

Discussion Board topics: Each student is to submit a comment (follow class schedule) and then follow-up with interactions with two of the other comments by other students in the class.

Map Quizzes (3 total) – Get to know the world & land of the Bible, see handout “**Regions, Cities to Know**” for list of regions, cities and places to identify for the quizzes (there are study maps, available as well as extra detailed maps for you to use in Course Documents). You will need to consult besides class text other Bible geography books; I have also placed many maps for you on Blackboard (under Study Helps) for use in both study and personal presentations. Dates for quizzed are found in course schedule below.

Quiz 1 = Land of Israel Includes: Regions, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and Bodies of Waters of Palestine (HBA Map 7 for help)

Quiz 2 = Tribes of Israel & OT Cities (Consists of 1 map for Tribes & 1 map for OT cities)

Quiz 3 = NT World (Mediterranean) of Cities & Kingdoms/Countries (Consists of 1 map for Kingdoms/Countries & 1 map for NT cities)

Exams – note there are study guides available for both midterm and final. They are only guides to help one organize and know what materials that will be covered on the exams. Information for the exams comes from class notes, power point lectures, and reading note: **it is up to the student to gather the necessary information!** Test; **will include** matching (i.e. dates, inscriptions, key events, people etc.), multiple choice (geographical regions and key elements of Israel’s geographical situation, events, people, etc.), some fill in the blank, and short essays usually over various topics (i.e. Peoples (e.g. Philistines, Canaanites etc.), Geographical Regions (e.g. Shephelah, Coastal Plain etc.) Key events & people (David etc.).

Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date!

RESEARCH PAPER

Research Paper - Can be posted on Blackboard under the “**Class Exams**” section or emailed to my seminary address or me directly if needed. The student has only **three options** to write on:

- 1) Historical geography of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc.) research for a region should include:
 - ❑ Geological features & topographical characteristics of the region
 - ❑ The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper)
 - ❑ All major roads (both local and international)
 - ❑ Key cities (their main importance i.e. location, significant history)
 - ❑ Bodies of water (seas, rivers etc.)
 - ❑ Map of the region, locating key cities, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)
- 2) Research for a particular site/city: which should include the history and the identification of a biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.), its history, why it is located where it is, function in history, who controlled it, role it played in the development of the country it is in etc.
- 3) Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard for list of approved topics. Make sure to: get to the point, argue & present the significant details of your research, have a well-developed structure, good interaction with sources (note original first hand sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eye witnesses accounts etc.,).

Format - Length 12-13 pages, (does not including title page or bibliography), double-spaced, standard 12 pt font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7th ed.), optional APA.

Grading - Form & style and Spelling & grammar = 5% - make sure the theme is developed, logical, coherent!

- Research & bibliography = 10% - use first hand sources when possible, textbooks are secondary (use scholarly sources, Mathew Henry or Spurgeon are not one of them), need to demonstrate appropriate knowledge of the subject, by a good bibliography one is showing me that you did your homework!
- Content = 85% - (5 pts off for every page short not including bibliography or title page and for every day late) so state a clear argument, develop a good structure of where you're going with nice transitions between points, what are the key issues, relevant data etc. Plagiarism will result in a Zero.

NOTE: 30% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals (1 source per page typed is the acceptable norm). See Handout in Course Information: “Suggested Paper Topics” and “Biblical Studies Journals” for help! Note Wikipedia is not a source!

Class Procedure “Read Carefully”

Materials for the class are located in 2 Folders on Blackboard: 1) Course Documents, & 2) Lectures. In **Course Documents** one will find files labeled Workbook 1-8, which contains notes that go along with the Lectures (via PowerPoint & a few videos). In file labeled “**Lectures**”, it contains the lectures one needs to view & work through all in numerical/chronological order. The Lectures contain both Power Point (which usually consists of: the lecture followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography talked about in the lecture) and possible videos (usually a summary of the lectures) to give you the necessary information one needs for the course. Notes and Lectures should be labeled the same if there are any problems please e-mail me or call ASAP. There are 4 Sections or Units to work through; each lecture is supplemented with outside reading from class texts as noted in Course Schedule, make sure to read them (best before viewing the Lectures) for they will be needful for exams. Course texts are not an option and need to be completed as outlined in syllabus. Note the index of each book as they correspond to the lectures, as the class follows a chronological arrangement.

Lectures include:

1. **Unit 1 Setting the Stage: Introduction, Geographic overview of Israel, Genesis 1-11, & Pre-History (June1–June17)**
2. **Unit 2 Bronze Age (Middle & Late): Patriarchs; Exodus & Conquest & Settlement (June 18-July 3)**
3. **Unit 3 Iron Age: United & Divided Monarchy (July 4–July 17)**
4. **Unit 4 NT Backgrounds: Jesus in the Galilee & Jesus in Jerusalem (July 18–24)**

Course Schedule

Note: Blackboard Shuts Down July 24th

Introduction to the Course: Welcome & Intro

Contribute a discussion to Introduction by June 3

UNIT 1: Setting the Stage — In the Beginning

Workbook: Section 1 & 2- (June 1 – June 17)

1. Introduction- video
Reading - AOT Chpt 1
2. Geographical Overview: The Land of the Bible
Reading: HBA Part I (Ch 1-3, pp. 2-32)
3. In the Beginning: Gen 1-11
Reading: Gen 1-1; AOT Chpt 9; HBA Ch 4, pp. 33-34; Creation: Ancient Near East, (ANE)
Mythology vs. Genesis Creation: RANE #4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 45
4. Rise of Urbanization Early Bronze Age: Egypt and Mesopotamia
Reading: AOT Chpt 2; HBA pp. 35-40

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

NOTE: In this and the following Discussion Board topics, each student is to submit a comment and then follow-up with interactions with two of the other students in the class.

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to Geography/Introduction by June 7.

Contribute a comment to Creationism/Beginnings by June 14.

Map Quiz #1: Must be taken by June 14

UNIT II: The Bronze Age (3200-1500 BC) - World of the Patriarchs & Exodus (22-1400 BC)

Workbook Part 3 & Parts of 4 (June 18 –July 3)

1. Middle Bronze Age: World of the Patriarchs
Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 4, 5, 6; HBA pp.41-51; RANE #14-16, 18, 21-26, 30; Gen 12-50
2. Late Bronze Age: World of Moses - The Political Setting of the Exodus, the Exodus & Wilderness Wanderings
Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 7, 8 & 10: pp. 201-205; HBA pp. 52-74; RANE #17, 27-29, 31, 32, 55; Exodus 12-20;
Read: “Sacrifices and Offerings,” by A. Rainey from *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, in Course Doc’s Related Materials

Quizzes, Exams and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to *World of the Patriarchs* by June 21, ^{Remember} to interact with at least two other students’ comments.

Map Quiz #2: Must be taken by June 28

MIDTERM: Must take exam by July 5

UNIT III: Late Bronze Age (1550-1200 BC), Continued & Iron Age (1200-586 BC)

Workbook: Section Parts of 4, 5 & 6 (July 5 July 17th)

1. Conquest and Settlement - Joshua and Judges
Reading Assignments: AOT 10 & 11; HBA pp. 89-101; RANE #50; Joshua, Judges
2. Emergence of the Monarchy: From Tribe to Nation: The United Monarchy
Reading Assignments: AOT 12-14; HBA pp. 102-114; RANE #51, 54, 59; II Sam 1-12, I Kings 1-11
3. Divided Monarchy/Kingdom: Fall of Samaria
Reading Assignments: AOT 15, 16; HBA pp. 115-141; RANE #39-43, 48; I Kgs 12-2, Kgs 17;
4. Southern Kingdom: Judah
Reading Assignments: AOT 17-19; HBA pp. 142-157; RANE 56-58, 60-62, 155

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the Iron Age by July 12

UNIT #4: New Testament Backgrounds

Workbook 7 & 8 (July 18 –24)

1. Jesus in Galilee
Reading Assignments: OTA 20; HBA pp. 207-215; Matthew 1-20
2. Jesus in Jerusalem
Reading Assignments: HBA pp. 216-235; Matthew 21-28; Luke 19-24

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the NT Backgrounds by July 21

Map Quiz #3: Must be taken by July 22

Research paper due July 24

FINAL: Must take exam by July 24, before midnight for Blackboard shuts down!

Course Bibliography: General References

Dictionaries, etc.,

- The Anchor Bible Dictionary* New York: Doubleday, 1993.
- Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible.* (rev. ed.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels.* Joel B. Green, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: Intervarsity Press, 1992.
- Dictionary of Paul and his Letters.* Gerald F. Hawthorne, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments.* Gralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids (ed.), 1997
- Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds.* Craig Evans & Stanley Porter (eds.). Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1955.
- _____. *The Ancient Near East*, vols 1 and 2: *Anthology of Texts and Pictures*, 1958, 1975.

Atlases

- *Aharoni, Y. et.al., *The Macmillan Bible Atlas (3rd ed.)*, New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993
- Bimson, J.J. et.al., *New Bible Atlas*, Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1985.
- Brisco, Thomas, *Holman Bible Atlas.*, Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998
- Cleave, Richard., *Pictorial Archive: ANE History; Student Map Manual.* Jerusalem, 1975
- *Pritchard, J. ed, *The Harper Atlas of the Bible*, Harper and Row., 1987
- Rasmussen, C. *Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible.*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- *Rainey, Anson F. and Notley, Steven., *The Sacred Bridge, Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*, Carta , Jerusalem 2006

Historical Geography

- *Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography.* Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.
- *Baly, Dennis. *The Geography of the Bible.* NY: Harper, 1957.
- Bimson, John J. (ed.), *Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places.* Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World.* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
- Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World.* Nashville: Nelson, 1985.
- Smith, George Adam. *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land.* Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1931.

Bible Handbooks, etc.

- *Hoerth, A., G. Mattingly, and E. Yamauchi (eds.). *Peoples of the Old Testament World.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.
- Matthews, Victor. *Manners and Customs in the Bible.* Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Matthews, Victor and Don C. Benjamin. *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE.* Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.
- The Illustrated Bible Dictionary.* NY, London: Tyndale Publishers, 1980, 1986.
- Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. *The World of the Bible.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- Walton, John, et. al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000
- Wiseman, Donald J. ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times.* Oxford: University Press, 1973.

Archaeology

- Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.
- Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.
- *Hoerth, A. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Baker, 1998.
- Levy, T. (ed.). *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*.
- McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- *Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.* Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
- Meyer, E. (ed.). *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Archaeology in the Near East*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Moorey, Roger. *Excavation in Palestine*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
- Negev, Avraham, ed. *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Lands*. Jerusalem: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1972.
- Stern, Ephraim (ed.). *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Carta, 1992.

History

Ancient Near East

- Craigie, Peter. *Ugarit and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Hallo, W.W. and Simpson, W.K. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971.
- Lloyd, Seton. *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: From the Stone Age to the Persian Conquest*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1978.
- Olmstead, A.T. *History of the Assyrian Empire*. Chicago: University Press, 1960
- _____. *History of the Persian Empire*. Chicago: University Press, 1959.
- Yamacuchi, Edwin. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

Egypt

- Kathryn Bard (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*. New York: Routledge Press, 1999.
- Redford, Donald. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1992.
- Redford, Donald B. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. London: Oxford, 2000.
- Wilson, John A. *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*. Chicago: University Press, 1951.

Ancient Palestine

- Albertz, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament. Volume I: From the beginnings to the End of the Monarchy* (trans. John Bowden; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994)
- Albertz, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period, Volume 2; From the Exile to the Maccabees* (Louisville: Westminster/John Know, 1994)
- Ahlstrom, *The History of Ancient Palestine From the Paleolithic Period to Alexander's Conquest* (Sheffield: JSOT, 1992).
- Avi-Yonah, Michael. *The Holy Land: From the Persian to the Arab Conquest (536 BC-AD 640)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1966.
- Ben-Sasson (ed.), *A History of the Jewish People* (Cambridge: Harvard, 1976).
- Bickerman, *From Ezra to the Last of the Maccabees: Foundations of Post-Biblical Judaism* (New York: Schocken, 1962).
- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.
- Bruce, F.F. *Israel and the Nations*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1969. Rev 1998.

Cohen, *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1987.
Grabbe, *An Introduction to First Century Judaism: Jewish Religion and History in the Second Temple Period*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996.
Hayes and Miller, *Israelite and Judean History*. London: SCM Press, 1977.
Noth, *The History of Israel*. London: SCM, 1958.
Schurer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ (175 B.C.-A.D. 135)* (Revised and Edited by Geza Vermes and Fergus Millar; Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1973)
Shanks (ed.), *Ancient Israel: A Short History from Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. Washington DC: BAS, 1988.
Smith, *Palestinian Parties and Politics That Shaped the Old Testament* (Second ed.; London: SCM, 1987) Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (4th ed.; New York: Penguin, 1995)
Stern, E. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Volume II*, Double Day, New York, 2001
Wellhausen, *Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel* (Translated from German). Meridan Paperback edition, 1957; 1883.

* = Must have books if you can get them

Competency Assessment Rubric for BBBW5200 Encountering the Biblical World

Student Name _____

Semester _____

Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize those resources adequately <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize many of the resources <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research
2. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the physical world of the Bible <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the process of the physical world of the Bible but did not adequately relate it to Biblical interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the issues related to the Biblical geography but did not utilize them fully in Biblical interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the geography of the Bible

Application Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not explain them adequately <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not address them fully <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to the process of interpreting the Bible
2. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a valuing of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a general appreciation of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a lack of appreciation for the need of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world <input type="checkbox"/> rejected the need for bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world

Communicative Assessment

1. The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> fully interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials <input type="checkbox"/> interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing some Biblical background materials but did not relate the meaning fully <input type="checkbox"/> inadequately interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to interpret and communicate the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials
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