

**OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Online**  
**3 Hours Spring Online 2015, Jan 20-May 13**  
**Dr. Jeff Audirsch**  
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**Catalog 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.

**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.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. The student will read and comprehend the Old Testament noting the structure and content of the various books contained within.
2. The student will apply principles of interpretation (Biblical Hermeneutics) to the text of the Bible in order to glean its meaning and importance for the Christian community of faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. The student will explore materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.

**Core Values Addressed**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary focus this year is **Spiritual Vitality** (Prov. 4:24). Key ingredients include – humility of heart, devotion to God, obedience to serve no matter what the task and relationships not only developing accountability but realizing that that some may not last. With this focus in mind, the course is designed to prepare the student to a certain extent, to grow in both the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God so that the student is prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ.

**Textbooks**

Contemporary English Bible (a good translation such as the revised NASB, NKJV, HCBS, NRSV)

*Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by W. LaSor, D.A. Hubbard, F.W. Bush, and L.C. Allen. Eerdmans, 1996. **OTS**

**Recommended reading**

*Readings From the Ancient Near East* by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer (Baker, 2002)  
**RANE**

*Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. By Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)

*Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor Matthews. (Hendrickson)

## **Course Evaluation**

Weekly Quizzes (15)	30% (300 points, 20 pts ea, 2 pts off for each day late)
Mid-Term Examination	20% (200 points)
Final Exam	20% (200 points) – Closed book
Discussion Participation	10% (100 points)
Research Paper	20% (200 points)

**Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments.  
Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date  
Quizzes 2 Points off for each day late, after 4 days a Zero will be given**

### **\*\*\*\*\*NOTE: Discussion Boards\*\*\*\*\***

**Each student must post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas.  
Each student must also comment on at least two other student's posts for each area.  
A reduction in percentage for each day late, after 4 days no credit given.**

## **Course Procedure**

This course is primarily a reading course which involves three major activities. First is the reading the Old Testament in its entirety following the three-fold organization of the Hebrew Bible: Torah (Pentateuch) Former and Latter Prophets (Joshua-Kings and Isaiah-Malachi respectively), and the Writings (Psalms, Wisdom, Megilloth, Chronicles-Ezra/Nehemiah). The exception is reading Daniel, which is found in the Writings, along with the reading of the Book of Ezekiel). The reading assignments are outlined in the "Course Syllabus" according to a date schedule, which has corresponding "Discussion Board" postings and quizzes in the "Test" section.

Second, additional notes and helps in interpretation are posted in the "Course Documents" section which includes such items as outlines of the Biblical books, Biblical Backgrounds information, and articles for reading for which you are responsible.

Third, you will need to enter the "Discussion Board" section in which ten different sections are posted. Each of the ten sections has a question (or questions) under the subject area for which you will enter your contribution to the discussion. During the prescribed time frame you will also need to make two responses to those contributions made by fellow classmates or additions I may make to the area. You make more contributions, but two are required.

Fourth, you will take the given quiz by the date posted in the syllabus and in the Blackboard test area, (you can take them early, and hence once you complete one the next will open automatically). Midterm and Final Exams are also posted in the Test section and are to be taken by the given dates in class schedule. Note point reduction mentioned above.

The final requirement is a research paper on a chosen topic by the end of the course. If you choose one of the listed topics, let me know your choice. You may have another area of interest on which you desire to write, and if so, please email me your request in this regard.

# Course Schedule

Jan 24 – May 13

**Note: This is mainly a reading course supplemented by class notes (Posted on BB),  
So please read all materials!**

## **UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH**

### Introduction

Note for Reading Assignments: Genesis thru Deuteronomy

For quizzes, #2-3, also read in *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* article on Sacrifices and Offerings.” In course Docs!

Contribute to discussion board “Introduction”	Due: January 28
QUIZ #1 Genesis, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 1-3,	Due: January 30
Contribute to discussion “Genesis-Creationism”	Due: January 31
QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus; <i>OTS</i> Chs. 4-6	Due: February 6
Contribute to discussion “Exodus-Deuteronomy”	Due: February 7
QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy; <i>OTS</i> Chs. 7-8	Due: February 14

## **UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS**

QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, <i>OTS</i> , and Chs. 9-11	Due: February 21
Contribute to discussion “Joshua-Judges”	Due: February 22
QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 12-13	Due: February 28
Contribute to discussion “Samuel-Kings”	Due: March 1
QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 14-15	Due: March 7

## **MID-TERM EXAM**

The Mid-Term Exam must be completed by midnight March 11

The midterm is open book and research based. Students will answer an embedded assignment by which to assess the student learning outcomes. *Note: This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to the syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and this rubric.* Students are encouraged to look over the Rubric for elements of grading. Additionally, students should consult and cite a minimum of 5 sources per question. Each essay question must be 2.5 to 4 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, and 1-inch margins). Standard Turabian format should be followed.

## **UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS**

QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 16, 18-19	Due: March 15
QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 20-22	Due: March 21
Contribute to discussion “8 <sup>th</sup> Century BC Prophets”	Due: March 22

### **Spring Break March 22-27**

QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 23-24	Due: March 31
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textbooks are secondary, demonstrated good interaction with books and articles, hence by a good bibliography one is showing me that you did your homework!

- Content = 85% - clearly stated argument, logical progression of thought, critical discussion of the key issues, all data discussed is relevant (watch out for long introductions), correct page length, etc. (Note: 5 pts. off for each day late)

### **Suggested Research Topics**

**Other topics may be suggested in consultation with the professor.**

1. Genesis Creation in the Context of ANE Mythology
2. The Concept of Faith in the Life of Abraham and Later Israelite Leaders
3. The Location of Mount Sinai
4. The Law of Moses and the Law Codes of Ancient Mesopotamia
5. The Mosaic Covenant in Light of ANE Covenant Making
6. The Number of Israelites in the Exodus from Egypt and Wilderness Wanderings
7. The Israelite Pilgrimage Festivals and Their Function in the Nation's History and Worship
8. Principles of Leadership from the Book of Joshua
9. The Conquest of the Promised Land in Joshua and Judges
10. Israelite Kingship: The Rise of David and the Decline of Saul
11. The Rise and Fall of the Solomonic Kingdom
12. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal and Asherah: Prophetic vs. Popular Religion
13. Jeremiah Versus The False Prophets
14. Justice and Righteousness in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
15. Prophetic Vision and the Emergence of Messianic Hope Among Israelite Prophets
16. Worship in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
17. The Role of the Psalms in Ancient Israel's Worship
18. Biblical Wisdom and Wisdom in the ANE: Comparison and Contrast

**You may use any of the following presentation forms: Turabian, APA, MLA, or SBL.  
Submit your paper via BB .**

## **Bibliography: General References**

### **Dictionaries, etc.**

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- 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.
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- Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*. Craig Evans & Stanley Porter (eds.). Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
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### **Atlases**

- The Macmillan Bible Atlas* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), Y. Aharoni, et.al., New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993
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### **Historical Geography**

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.
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### **Bible Handbooks, etc.**

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## **Archaeology**

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## **History**

### **Ancient Near East**

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**COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT RUBRIC – EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT  
RESEARCH MIDTERM  
OTEN 5300 EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**Student** \_\_\_\_\_ **Site** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Format** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Semester** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student will be able to understand the history of the Israelites, the book collections, and selected themes of the Old Testament.
2. The student will address selected needs of the Church (or Christians) by examining and explaining how the Old Testament theology and message impact the contemporary church.
3. The student will be able to communicate clearly the meaning of the Old Testament to a contemporary audience.

**Assignment Description:**

1. A summative question or questions will be answered by the students by the end of the semester. Each question (or research problem) requires research of some aspect of the historical context, genre, theology, and/or interpretive concerns of a selected period or event. Answers should be well-developed and provide documentation (as needed). Students should use New Roman Times 12 pt. font, single-spaced, approximately two pages in length.
2. Indicate through documentation (and/or reference to key contributors in the field of study) the use of appropriate tools and resources in the investigation of the selected OT issues.
3. Communicate how the answer of each research question might impact the faith and life of contemporary believers.

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INADEQUATE (0 POINTS)	BASIC (1 POINT)	COMPETENT (2 POINTS)	GOOD (3 POINTS)	EXCELLENT (4 POINTS)
UNDERSTANDING The Student:	Understood the history, context, provenance, and significance of the books of the Old Testament.					
APPLICATION The Student:	Showed awareness of and appropriate use of the tools/resources addressing the concern.					
COMMUNICATION The Student:	Communicated clearly how the Old					

	Testament relates to the faith and life of contemporary believers.					
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GRADING MATRIX

NAME

<b>Grammar .....15%</b>		<b>Content.....40%</b>	
Spelling	10.....	Appropriateness of answers (75%)	
Punctuation	50.....	Directly addressed the question	20.....
Fragments		Answered essential components	20.....
FS; CS		Degree of thoroughness	20.....
Run Ons		Accuracy of answers	20.....
Sentence Structure; clarity	10.....	Reasoning	20.....
Verb Tenses	10.....	Utilization of resources.....	(25%)
Misplaced/Dangling phrases	10.....	Adequacy of Interaction	50.....
Split Infinitives, etc.	10.....	Quality of source analysis	50....
<b>General Composition Concerns.....15%</b>			
Paragraph flow	25 ____	Style (readability);	25 ____
Focus (completeness)	25 ____	Depth of Analysis	25 ____
<b>Mechanics (Turabian adherence).....10%</b>		<b>Documentation .....20%</b>	
Title Page	25.....	Footnotes	15.....
Table of Content	25.....	Style/Form	10.....
# Subheading levels .....		Punctuation	5 .....
Proper outlining .....		Frequency of Notation	35.....
Period leaders .....		Quality of Sources	25.....
Page #s/		Primary.....	
SubHeadings	25.....	Secondary.....	
Margins	25.....	Journals (_ req'd) .....	
Block Quotes, etc	9.....	Bibliography	25.....
Top/Bottom	8.....		
Left/Right	8.....		
FINAL PROJECT GRADE=====>>			

***NOTE: For any area not required (e.g., subheadings), simply enter the max points to the matrix subunit.***