

**OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Online**  
**3 Hours Summer Online 2015**  
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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.

**Goals & 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**

1. Contemporary English Bible (a good translation such as the revised NASB, NKJV, HCBS, NRSV)
2. *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**

1. *Readings From the Ancient Near East* by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer (Baker, 2002) RANE
2. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. By Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
3. *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

June 1–July 24

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

## UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

Week 1: 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: June 2
QUIZ #1 Genesis, OTS, Chs. 1-3,	Due: June 3
Contribute to discussion “Genesis-Creationism”	Due: June 4
QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus; OTS Chs. 4-6	Due: June 5
Contribute to discussion “Exodus-Deuteronomy”	Due: June 6
QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy; OTS Chs. 7-8	Due: June 8

## UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, OTS, and Chs. 9-11	Due: June 11
Contribute to discussion “Joshua-Judges”	Due: June 13
QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, OTS, Chs. 12-13	Due: June 15
Contribute to discussion “Samuel-Kings”	Due: June 17
QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings, OTS, Chs. 14-15	Due: June 20

## MID-TERM EXAM

The Mid-Term Exam must be completed by midnight June 23

## UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea, OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19	Due: June 26
QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah, OTS, Chs. 20-22	Due: July 29
Contribute to discussion “8 <sup>th</sup> Century BC Prophets”	Due: July 1
QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24	Due: July 3
Contribute to discussion “7 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Cent. BC Prophets”	Due: July 4
QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43	Due: July 7
Contribute to discussion “Post-Exilic Prophets”	Due: July 9
QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30	Due: July 11

## UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

QUIZ #12 Writings: Poetry & Psalms, OTS, Chs. 17, 31-32	Due: July 14
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Contribute to discussion "Poetry"	Due: July 15
QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS, Chs. 33-34	Due: July 18
Contribute to discussion "Wisdom"	Due: July 19
QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS Chs. 35-36	Due: July 22
QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, OTS, Chs. 37-42	Due: July 24

## RESEARCH PAPER due Friday July 24

### FINAL EXAM MUST BE COMPLETED BY JULY 24

Online courses will no longer be available for student access after July 24 midnight

\*\*\*Note\*\*\*

Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office

#### Research Paper

1. Research one of the topics listed below or a topic relevant to this course in consultation with the professor.
2. Length 12-15 pages max, this does not include title page or bibliography, double-spaced, 12 pt. font.
3. The paper should follow Turabian (6th ed.) or other accepted style (SBL, APA), be consistent
4. See <http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper.
5. See Blackboard postings on Biblical Studies Journals for help
6. Grading
  - Form & style and Spelling & grammar = 5% - follow what is stated above
  - Research & bibliography = 10% - NOTE: 40% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals, a minimum of 8 sources; use first hand sources when possible, 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 .

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