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## **OTEN 5300- Exploring the Old Testament Hybrid**

Spring 2015: Thursday 5-8:50 pm (1/22; 2/12; 3/12; 4/23) [Room H227]

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*The mission of Leavell College 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.*

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### **Core Value**

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is Spiritual Vitality "We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word."

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### **Course 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.

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### **Student 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.

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### **Course Texts**

The Holy Bible: Any modern version (preferably NASB, Tanakh, HCSB, NIV)

*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**

Provan, Iain; V. Philips Long and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*, Louisville: John Knox Press, 2003.

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### **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 Requirements

1. Weekly quizzes: The student will take weekly quizzes over the assigned readings (2 lowest quizzes will be dropped). Also, Quiz must be completed on Friday at midnight of the assigned week. The only exception is week one. I will all you an extra week to complete the first assignment to get acquainted with the class.
2. Mid-Term Exam
3. Final Exam
4. Discussion Participation. Each person is to post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas. Then each student is to comment on at least two other person's postings within each of the 10 given sections.
5. Research Paper

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## Course Evaluation

- 30% -- Weekly Quizzes
- 20% -- Mid-Term Exam (March 14)
- 20% -- Final Exam (May 14)
- 10% -- Discussion
- 20% -- Research Paper (April 30)

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

("5" points off per day for late work, after a week a "0")

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## Class Attendance

According to the graduate catalog, only one (1) absence is allowed in a hybrid course in order to receive credit.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH**

- Introduction
- Reading Assignments: Genesis thru Deuteronomy
- For sections/quizzes #2-3, also read in *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* article on “Sacrifices and Offerings.”

#### Quizzes and Discussion Lists:

##### Discussion Board:

1. Contribute information about yourself in the Introduction by January 24
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by January 31
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by February 7

##### Quizzes:

QUIZ #1 - Genesis, *OTS*, Chs. 1-3; Due Date Jan. 31

QUIZ #2 - Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*, Chs. 4-6; Due Date Feb. 7

QUIZ #3 - Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*, Chs. 7-8; Due Date Feb. 14

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

#### Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:

##### Discussion Board:

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by Feb 21
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by Feb. 28

##### Quizzes:

QUIZ #4 - Joshua- Judges, *OTS*, Chs. 9-11; Due Date Feb. 21

QUIZ #5 - 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*, Chs. 12-13; Due Date Feb. 28

QUIZ #6 - 1-2 Kings, *OTS*, Chs. 14-15; Due Date March 7

**MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by March 14 Midnight**

### UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

#### Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

##### Discussion Board:

6. Contribute a comment to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by March 14
7. Contribute a comment to the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by March 21
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by April 4

##### Quizzes:

QUIZ #7 - Prophets I: Amos & Hosea OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19; Due Date March 14

QUIZ #8 - Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah OTS, Chs. 20-22; Due Date March 21

QUIZ #9 - Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24

Due Date March 28

QUIZ #10 - Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43

Due Date April 4

QUIZ #11 - Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30

Due Date April 11

### UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

#### Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

##### Discussion Board:

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by April 18
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by April 25

##### Quizzes:

QUIZ #12 Writings, Poetry & Psalms, *OTS*, Chapters 17, and 31-32

Due Date April 18

QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, *OTS*, Chapters 33-34; Due Date April 25

QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, *OTS*, Chapters 35-36; Due Date May 2

QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah

*OTS*, Chapters 37-42; Due Date May 9

**Research paper posted on BB by April 30**

**Note final exam is due May 14**

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

**Research Paper – Due April 30**

- Research one of the topics listed below or a topic relevant to this course in consultation with the professor.
- Length 12-13 pages, double spaced, New Times Roman or Arial, 12 pt. font.
- The paper should follow Turabian (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) or other accepted style (SBL, APA)
- NOTE: 30% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals.
- See Blackboard postings on Biblical Studies Journals for help
- Content should reflect good research, analysis of relevant Biblical texts (key terms, phrases, theological and historical elements, etc.) in conjunction with key sources from the Ancient Near East, a table of contents is suggested, good footnoting of information, and a well-developed and logical thought/structure.

**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, MLS, or SBL. Post the paper (upload) under "Course Exams" on Blackboard.**

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## **Selected Bibliography**

### **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**

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

*New Bible Atlas*, J.J. Bimson, et.al. Leicester:InterVarsity Press, 1985.

Cleave, Richard. *Pictorial Archive: ANE History; Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.

*Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*, C. Rasmussen, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

### **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.

Hoffmeier, James K. *The Archaeology of the Bible*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2008.

Kitchen, Kenneth Anderson. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006.

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.

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Stern, Ephraim. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*, 3rd ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993-2008.

### **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

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Yamacuchi, Edwin. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

### **History of Israel**

Block, Daniel. *Israel: Ancient Kingdom or Late Invention?* Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2008.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

Coogan, Michael. *The Oxford History of the Biblical World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel from the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.

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### **Egypt**

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### **Ancient Palestine**

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(Revised and Edited by Geza Vermes and Fergus Millar; Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1973)

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### **Old Testament Ethics**

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