

OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Online
3 Hours Spring Online 2015, Jan 20-May 13
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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 21st 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, 2nd 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 eah, 2 pts off for each day late)
Mid-Term Examination	20% (200 points) – Closed book
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

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 th 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
Contribute to discussion "7 th -6 th Cent. BC Prophets"	Due: April 1
QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, <i>OTS</i> , Chapters 25-27, 43	Due: April 7
Contribute to discussion "Post-Exilic Prophets"	Due: April 8
QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, <i>OTS</i> , Chapters 28-30	Due: April 12

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

QUIZ #12 Writings: Poetry & Psalms, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 17, 31-32	Due: April 18
Contribute to discussion "Poetry"	Due: April 19
QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 33-34	Due: April 25
Contribute to discussion "Wisdom"	Due: April 26
QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, <i>OTS</i> Chs. 35-36	Due: May 2
QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, <i>OTS</i> , Chs. 37-42	Due: May 10

RESEARCH PAPER due Friday May 8

FINAL EXAM MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 13TH

Online courses will no longer be available for student access after May 13^{midnight}

Note

If you are anticipating graduation in May 2015 - You must take the Final Exam by May 10

Any 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)

Note: "This assignment is also an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for assessing this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric."

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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Competency Assessment Rubric for OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament

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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