



BCOT5400 Old Testament Seminar
(Exploring the Old Testament)
Biblical Studies Division
Baptist College Partnership

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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.

Purpose of Course

The purpose of this course is to provide supplementary knowledge in the area of Old Testament introduction to students who have completed at least six hours in Old Testament study on the undergraduate level

Our Core Values

NOBTS has five core values. The focal core value for the academic year 2015-2016 is Mission Focus.

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the “Articles of Religious Belief” and the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”

Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

Ministers need to develop specific competencies in order to have an effective ministry. Faculty members of NOBTS have developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following seven areas:

Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.

Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.

Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.

Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

Worship Leadership: To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies specifically addressed in this course are Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage. Other competencies are addressed in classroom discussion and department.

Course Catalog Description

This seminar augments the student's knowledge in the areas covered in the course OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, plus it gives the student one Biblical Studies elective hour. The prerequisites for participating in this seminar are the completion of at least 6 undergraduate hours in the area of Old Testament and having at least a "B" average in each course. These prerequisites are pending the evaluation of the student's transcript by the Director of the Baptist College Partnership Program.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the historical sweep of the Old Testament and identify key dates, people, and events.
2. Understand the significant issues regarding the three parts of the Hebrew canon.
3. Know the basic issues of introduction regarding each of the Hebrew canon books.
4. Be conversant in the current issues in Old Testament studies.

Course Requirements

Pre-work - Due at the beginning of the Monday class (1-2 PM).

- 1) Submit four (4) book reviews.

Read the following required texts and submit a written descriptive review:

1. *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, by Christopher J. H. Wright (IVP, 1995).

2. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*, ed. Baker & Arnold (Baker, 1999).

3. *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament*, by Peter Enns (Baker, 2005).

4. Choose the fourth book review from one of the following books:

A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism, by Mark S. Gignilliat (Zondervan, 2012).

The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority, by John H. Walton & D. Brent Sandy (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013), pp. 1-76; 199-232; 255-91.

The book reviews should include (1) a short summary of the contents; (2) identification of the perspective(s) from which each text was written; (3) a discussion of how each text has sought to address the study of the OT.

- 2) Submit a list of the texts used in undergraduate study of the Old Testament (survey texts or commentaries for book studies).

In-class Reports

1. Thirty minutes of each session beginning Tuesday will be devoted to specific discussion of the pre-work books. Copies of the reviews submitted on Monday afternoon will serve as a basis for addressing specific issues and questions.
2. Submit written reports on assigned group topics and/or written summaries of research notes from assigned topics (three single-spaced pages).

3. Present oral reports on assigned topics and facilitate discussion of those topics in group meetings (approximately thirty minutes).

Post-work

Submit either a post-workshop research paper on an approved topic or a reading/critical book review option (see instructions below). Due by 5:00 PM (CDT) **August 19, 2016**.

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. Students should recognize two realities: this seminar is masters level work, and each student is an adult. As such, timely submission of all work is expected.

Course Evaluation

The course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Assessment of the grade (on a scale of 70 and above as passing) is as follows. All items must be submitted by the specified dates and times:

Class attendance along with Library research	10%
Initial readings and reviews	15%
Written Daily Reports/Summaries	25%
Oral presentations and group leadership	25%
Post-Workshop Assignment.....	25%

No absences are allowed in this course (see *Graduate Catalog*). Attendance will be taken at each session. Use of cell phones and other social networking devices are not allowed during class time. After the first warning, the student may be asked to leave and counted as absent.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to answer emails within 24 hours. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

The official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays is: <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html>. Writing guides, tips, Turabian and APA style helps, language fonts, and other helpful information are available.

Academic Honesty Policy

All NOBTS students are held to the highest Christian standards of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments. The Bible ultimately provides the standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies to all course requirements.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may result in expulsion. (See <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/student-services/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> for policy.)

Classroom Courtesy

Ministers should maintain common courtesy in classroom deportment. These include: on-time arrival, silencing of cell phones, use of laptops and other technology for class purposes only, respect for the professor and class mates, confidentiality of personal information, and participation in class discussions.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Contact information should be accurate and up-to-date. Assistance for technology is available through the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290; 504.816.8180). Helpful links are: Selfserve@nobts.edu (online registration, financial

account, online transcript, etc.); BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu (assistance with technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard System); www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ (general NOBTS technical help information).

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, etc. are in the current graduate catalog.

Subject – How to Read the Old Testament: History, Theology, Literature

- Overview of the History of the Old Testament and its relation to the New Testament
- Review of Past Study (courses, texts, approaches)
- Discussion based on issues and ideas drawn from the required reading
- The Big Picture in Old Testament Study
- Procedures and Assignments

Subject – Critical Study of the Pentateuch: History, Key Issues, Conclusions

Research Topics:

- An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Pentateuch
- Authorship and composition of the Pentateuch
- Date of the Exodus: When Did They Come Out?
- Route of the Exodus: Which Way Did They Go?
- Egypt in the times of Abraham through Moses
- The Code of Hammurabi
- The role of the purity laws in ancient Israel

Subject – OT Law and Former Prophets: The Nature of Law, Covenant, History, Kings

Research Topics

- The concept of covenant in the OT
- The various types of laws in the OT
- The conquest under Joshua
- An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the former prophets
- Who was the Deuteronomistic Historian and what did he do?
- Historiography in the time of the OT
- The concept, office, and function of kings in the time of the OT
- An outline of the Israel/Judah from David to Josiah
- What makes the Former Prophets “Prophetic”?
- The Prophets’ Preaching and the Law of Moses

Research Topics:

- The history of the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah
- An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Latter Prophets
- The theological message of one of the books of the Latter Prophets
- Prophets and Prophecy: What’s Going on?
- Assyrian Empire’s role in OT history
- Babylon’s role in OT history
- The Books of Ruth and Esther: Questions and Answers on their Message
- What Did Job Say?: Interpretation of 42:6
- Do the Psalms teach Theology?

Friday, July 31 8:30 AM--12:00 PM (Reports)

Subject – The Writings, OT Canon, and Your Major Paper Topic

Research Topics

- The process of canonization of the OT
- The organization of the OT canon
- The importance of the LXX and the DSS for the OT text
- An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Writings
- Persia's role in OT history
- Israel's experience in the Babylonian exile?
- What was it like to live in the Post-exilic Period?
- What is a Proverb and How is it to be Read?
- Ecclesiastes and the Rat Race
- What's going on in the Song of Songs?

Major Paper Instructions: By Thursday of classes, each student will submit a 1 page summary on desired topic, with bibliography of at least 10 sources. The professor will schedule a meeting to discuss the desired research of the topic.

Critical Book Review Instructions: Submit a list of the books chosen to read and review.

1. Students will work with one or more students in a group designated by the professor.
2. Each group will prepare a summary paper on the topic and distribute to each seminar member. The papers will be academic in content and may be in the form of sentence outlines. The paper will be 2-3 pages single-spaced, plus bibliography. The bibliography should indicate what each group member read in which sources, with at least 10 sources consulted by each group member.
3. The bibliography should include the required texts, plus other selected materials helpful in answering specific questions about the subject as well as periodical literature on the subject. The bibliographies in the textbooks provide a good starting point.
4. Work should be written with good grammar and in acceptable style, with no title page and the bibliography entries in Turabian format. **Papers are due at beginning of class each day**, with readings and papers serving as a basis for class presentation.
5. The 15-30 minute presentation should be understandable to a church setting. After the presentation, the group should be ready to respond to questions on the topic.

By the last session, each student must have discussed a proposed final project with the professor.

1. Research Paper - The research paper should be one which strengthens or expands the student's understanding of an important subject of OT study. The student might choose an area of weaker background in undergraduate study or a topic of particular interest. The paper should be 12-15 double-spaced pages (excluding bibliography), written in formal style according to Turabian. The research paper is due 5:00 PM (CDT) **August 19, 2016**.

2. Three Critical Book Reviews - The book reviews will be chosen from the following list. Reviews should include a summary of the contents and a critical evaluation of the positions held by the authors/contributors. Each review will be 4-5 pp., using good grammar and Turabian style (footnotes, formatting, title page, etc). Reviews are due by 5:00 PM (CDT) **August 19, 2016**.

A. Choose one:

Kitchen - *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 2003)

Waltke - *An Old Testament Theology* (Zondervan, 2007)

Klink & Lockett - *Understanding Biblical Theology* (Zondervan, 2012)

Hoffmeier & Magary, eds. - *Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith?* (Crossway, 2012)

B. Choose one:

Bright - *A History of Israel*, 4th ed. (WJK, 2000)
Provan, Long, Longman - *A Biblical History of Israel* (WJK, 2003)

C. Choose one:

Currid - *Ancient Egypt and the OT* (Baker, 1997)
Hoffmeier - *Israel in Egypt* (Oxford, 1999)
Yamauchi - *Persia and the Bible* (Baker, 1990)
Walton - *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the OT* (Baker, 2006)
Matthews - *Studying the Ancient Israelites* (Baker, 2007)

Selected Bibliography

Historical Resources

- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.
- Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992
- Yamauchi, Edwin M. *Persia and The Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1990.

Commentaries

Genesis

- Hamilton, Victor. *Genesis* (2 vols.) in NICOT.
- Kidner, Derek. *Genesis*. In Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.
- Matthews, Kenneth. *Genesis* in New American Commentary.
- Wenham, Gordon. *Genesis 1-15*. In Word Biblical Commentary.
- Wenham, Gordon. *Genesis 16-50*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Exodus

- Cole, R. Alan. *Exodus*. In Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries.
- Durham, John I. *Exodus*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Leviticus

- Wenham, Gordon. *Leviticus*. In NICOT.

Numbers

- Cole, R. Dennis. *Numbers*. In New American Commentary.

Deuteronomy

- Craigie, Peter C. *Deuteronomy*. In NICOT.

Joshua

- Howard, David M. *Joshua*. In New American Commentary.

Judges

- Boling, Robert G. *Judges*. In Anchor Bible.

Ruth

- Hubbard, Robert, Jr. *Ruth*. In NICOT.

1 & 2 Samuel

- McCarter, P. Kyle. *I Samuel*. In Anchor Bible.
- McCarter, P. Kyle. *II Samuel*. In Anchor Bible.

1 & 2 Kings

- DeVries, Simon. *1 Kings*. In Word Biblical Commentary.
- Hobbs, T. R. *2 Kings*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

1 & 2 Chronicles

- Braun, Roddy. *1 Chronicles*. In Word Biblical Commentary.
- Dillard, Ray. *2 Chronicles*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Ezra/Nehemiah

Williamson, H. G. M. *Ezra and Nehemiah*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Job

Habel, Norman C. *Job*. In Old Testament Library.

Hartley, John E. *Job*. In NICOT.

Psalms

Mays, James Luther. *Psalms*. In Interpretation Commentary.

Proverbs

Murphy, Roland E. *Proverbs*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Ecclesiastes

Murphy, Roland E. *Ecclesiastes*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Song of Songs

Pope, Marvin. *Song of Songs*. In Anchor Bible.

Isaiah

Oswalt, John. *Isaiah 1-39*. In NICOT

Oswalt, John. *Isaiah 40-66*. In NICOT

Young, Edward J. *The Book of Isaiah*. 3 vols.

Jeremiah

Thompson, J. A. *Jeremiah*. In NICOT

Huey, F. B., Jr. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. In New American Commentary.

Lamentations

Hillers, Delbert R. *Lamentations* (Revised). In Anchor Bible.

Huey, F. B., Jr. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. In New American Commentary.

Ezekiel

Block, Daniel. *Ezekiel 1-24*. In NICOT.

Block, Daniel. *Ezekiel 25-48*. In NICOT.

Cooper, Lamar. *Ezekiel*. In New American Commentary.

Daniel

Goldingay, John. *Daniel*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Miller, Steven. *Daniel*. In New American Commentary.

Minor Prophets

McComiskey, Thomas. *The Minor Prophets*. 3 vols.

Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea-Jonah*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Smith, Ralph L. *Micah-Malachi*. In Word Biblical Commentary.

Language Helps

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament provides good lexical definitions and usages of the words.

Index correlates numbers with Strong's numbers. (user-friendly)

New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis (5 vols.) has extensive studies on usage and background of the words. Vol. 4 has topical dictionary; vol. 5 contains several indices and semantic field index. (user-friendly)

Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament (3 vols.) gives good treatment of words. Index in volume 3 correlates Strong's reference numbers with page numbers in book. Other helpful indices also are included. (user-friendly)

Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament (incomplete set currently- only through 3/4 of alphabet) includes extensive research on usage, etymology, and meanings of words. This resource is more difficult to use unless have understanding of Hebrew. Non-language students can find the words, but time is needed. (not user-friendly)

Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon is a basic lexicon, giving the various meanings and their Hebrew stems. Note: This lexicon gives only the basic meaning of words. Index correlates BDB numbers with Strong's. (user-friendly)

Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies provides a helpful introduction to the Hebrew language for non-language students. The main body of the book has English words with the associated Hebrew word, meaning, and verses. Not exhaustive, but helpful insights into Hebrew behind English translations.

Computer Resources

BibleWorks - Helpful for word searches (in Hebrew, Greek, English, modern languages and ancient texts)

Accordance - useful in language studies. Grammar Review

Logos Bible Software - most extensive array of resources

Grammar Review

Pratico, Gary D., and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*.

Bailey, D. Waylon, and John O. Strange. *Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. Revised by Harold R. Mosley

Hermeneutics

Duvall, J. Scott, and Daniel J. Hays. *Grasping God's Word*.

Silva, Moises, ed. *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*.

Old Testament Introduction

Archer, Jr., Gleason A *Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Revised edition. Moody, 1994.

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Baker, 1999.

Birch, Bruce C., Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen, Broyles, Craig C. ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament. A Guide for Exegesis*. Baker, 2001.

Childs, B.S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Fortress, 1979.

Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Fortress, 2004.

Dillard, Raymond and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Zondervan, 1994.

Harrison, R. K. *An Old Testament Introduction*. Eerdmans, 1979.

Hill, Andrew E. and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. Third edition. Zondervan, 2009.

LaSor, W.S., D.A. Hubbard, and F.W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. Eerdmans, 1982.

Soggin, J. Alberto. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. OTL. Westminster, 1989.

Reference Works

Dictionaries

Anchor Bible Dictionary

Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible

Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible

Atlases

Atlas of the Bible Lands, published by Hammond Inc.

Holman Bible Atlas

Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps, and Reconstructions

The Illustrated Atlas of Jerusalem, by Dan Bahat

Miscellaneous

The Ancient Near East in Pictures Related to the Old Testament, by James B. Pritchard

The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures, 2 vols, by James B. Pritchard

Ancient Near Eastern Texts Related to the Old Testament, by James B. Pritchard

The Complete Works of Josephus

The Temple: Its Ministry and Services, by Alfred Edersheim

Theology

Anderson, Bernard W. *Contours of Old Testament Theology*. Fortress, 1999.

Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. SCM, 1999.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*. Fortress, 1997.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*. Fortress, 2008.

Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. Fortress, 1986.

Eichrodt, W. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961-67.

Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology*. Vol. 1. "Israel's Gospel". InterVarsity Press, 2003; Vol. 2.

"Israel's Faith," 2006; Vol. 3. "Israel's Life," 2009.

Hasel, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Eerdmans, 1995. 4th edition.

House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. IVP, 1998.

Kaiser, W.C., Jr. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1978.

Klink, Edward W., III and Darian R. Lockett. *Understanding Biblical Theology*. Zondervan, 2012.

Martens, Elmer A. ed. *Old Testament Theology. Bibliographies* No. 13. Baker, 1997.

Ollenburger, Ben C., Elmer A. Marten, and Gerhard F. Hasel, eds. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study*. Eisenbrauns, 1992.

Preuss, H. D. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. OTL. Westminster/John Knox, 1995-6.

Sailhammer, John H. *Introduction to Old Testament Theology: A Canonical Approach*. Zondervan, 1995.

Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Broadman & Holman, 1993.

Terrien, S. *The Elusive Presence: Toward a New Biblical Theology*. Harper and Row, 1978.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. ed. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: A Book-by-Book Survey*.

Baker, 2008.

Von Rad, G. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. Harper and Row, 1962-65.

Waltke, Bruce K. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*.

Zondervan, 2007.

Zimmerli, Walther. *Old Testament Theology in Outline*. John Knox, 1978.

Special Studies

Gignilliat, Mark S. *A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism*. Zondervan, 2012.

Hess, Richard S., and M. Daniel Carroll R., eds. *Family in the Bible: Exploring Customs, Culture, and Context*. Baker, 2003.

Matthews, Victor H. *Studying the Ancient Israelites*. Baker, 2007.

Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*. Baker, 2006.