

OTEN5300 – Exploring the Old Testament (Hybrid)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Mr. Jonathan Patterson, Adjunct Instructor

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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.

Core Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus of NOBTS for this year is Mission Focus. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in understanding and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. This course primarily addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

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.

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.

Course Texts

The Holy Bible; any modern version (preferably NASB, ESV, HCSB, NIV, or Tanakh)

Lasor, William S., David A. Hubbard, and Frederic W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. **OTS**

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

Recommended reading:

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East*. Baker, 2002. **RANE**
Alexander, Pat and David Alexander, eds.. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. Zondervan, 1999.
Matthews, Victor. *Manners and Customs of the Bible*. 3d ed. Baker, 2006.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly Quizzes: Students will take weekly quizzes over the assigned readings. These quizzes must be completed by the end of the day on Friday of the assigned week. The only exception is week one; students will have until the end of the second week to complete quizzes for both weeks one and two as they become acquainted with the format of the course. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
2. Mid-Term Exam - Students will complete their mid-term exam on Blackboard no later than **Friday, March 4**. After 11:59 pm CST on March 4 the mid-term will close down on Blackboard and students will not have the opportunity to make it up unless granted prior approval by the professor.
3. Final Exam - Students will complete their final exam on Blackboard no later than **Thursday, May 12**. After 11:59 pm CDT on May 12, the final will close down on Blackboard and students will not have the opportunity to make it up. Please take note of the fact that the final is due **Thursday** instead of Friday in order to give the professor adequate time to grade the final exams and calculate final grades prior to graduation. Any student who is planning to graduate in May should make sure the professor is aware.
4. Discussion Board Participation - Each student is to post his/her own discussion thread in each of the 10 discussion board sections. In addition, each student is to comment on at least two other posts within each section.
5. Research Assignments - Students will complete two research worksheets during the semester, consisting of four (4) research questions each. These research worksheets will be a minimum of 7 pages single-spaced (see the attached worksheets for specific page requirements). These worksheets are designed to improve your research and writing skills, and students are expected to follow proper Turabian formatting. Worksheet 1 should be posted to Blackboard, or a hard copy submitted to the professor, by the beginning of the second class meeting on **February 20**. Worksheet 2 is due by the beginning of the final class meeting on **April 30**.

Course Evaluation

Weekly Quizzes	30%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion Board	10%
Research Assignments	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Late Policy

Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner. All quizzes, as well as the mid-term and final exams, will be available on Blackboard immediately following the end of the previous week (12:00 a.m. each Saturday) until 11:59 p.m. on the Friday they are due. After this time they will close down and students will not be able to access them unless they have received prior approval from the professor. For Discussion Board posts and the Research Assignments, students may submit assignments up to **one week** after the due date at a cost of 5 points per day. Any assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of 0.

Class Attendance

Because this class meets only four (4) times during the semester, students are to make every effort to attend each class meeting. However, as per the graduate catalog, students are allowed one (1) absence for a hybrid course. Students who miss more than one class meeting, or the equivalent of four (4) hours of class time, will receive a failing grade for the course.

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 20**
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by **January 27**
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by **February 3**

Quizzes:

- QUIZ #1 - Genesis, *OTS*, Chs. 1-3; Due Date **January 22**
QUIZ #2 - Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*, Chs. 4-6; Due Date **January 29**
QUIZ #3 - Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*, Chs. 7-8; Due Date **February 5**

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

Worksheet 1 due February 20

Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:

Discussion Board:

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by **February 10**
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by **February 24**

Quizzes:

- QUIZ #4 - Joshua- Judges, *OTS*, Chs. 9-11; Due Date **February 12**
QUIZ #5 - 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*, Chs. 12-13; Due Date **February 19**
QUIZ #6 - 1-2 Kings, *OTS*, Chs. 14-15; Due Date **February 26**

Mid-Term due March 4

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

6. Contribute a comment to the 8th century BC prophets by **March 9**
7. Contribute a comment to the 7th-6th century BC prophets by **March 23**
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by **April 6**

Quizzes:

- QUIZ #7 - Prophets I: Amos & Hosea *OTS*, Chs. 16, 18-19; Due Date **March 4**
QUIZ #8 - Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah *OTS*, Chs. 20-22; Due Date **March 11**
QUIZ #9 - Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, *OTS*, Chs. 23-24
Due Date **March 25**

QUIZ #10 - Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43
Due Date **April 1**

QUIZ #11 - Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30
Due Date **April 8**

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

Worksheet 2 due April 30

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by **April 13**

10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by **April 27**

Quizzes:

QUIZ #12 Writings, Poetry & Psalms, *OTS*, Chapters 17, and 31-32
Due Date **April 15**

QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, *OTS*, Chapters 33-34; Due Date **April 22**

QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, *OTS*, Chapters 35-36; Due Date **April 29**

QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah
OTS, Chapters 37-42; Due Date **May 6**

Final Exam due May 12

Worksheet 1

Section 1

Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of 2 pp single-spaced. Students should make every effort to consult the resources listed, but should not limit their research to these resources alone.

1. Who were the Israelites and where did they come from?

- Niels Peter Lemche, "Israel, History of (Premonarchic Period)," *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 3:526–45.
- William Dever, "Israel, History of (Archaeology and the 'Conquest')," *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 3:545ff.
- R. J. D. Knauth, "Israelites," *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, 452–58.
- Philip Davies, "What Separates a Minimalist from a Maximalist? Not Much." *Biblical Archaeology Review* (2000): 24–27, 72.
- Other Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus.

2. Discuss the authorship of the Pentateuch. Include arguments for one author (traditional authorship), the fragmentary hypothesis, supplementary hypothesis, and documentary hypothesis.

- T. Desmond Alexander, "Authorship of the Pentateuch," *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, 61–72.
- John Van Seters, "The Pentateuch," in *The Hebrew Bible Today*
- See articles on the "Yahwist Source," "Elohistic Source," "Priestly Source," and the "Deuteronomistic Source" in the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
- Any Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus

3. Discuss the arguments for the early and late date of the exodus.

- John Walton, "Date of the Exodus," *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, 258–72.
- Kenneth Kitchen, "The Exodus," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 2:700–8.
- Any Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus.

Section 2

Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of 1.5 pp single-spaced.

1. How does Genesis 1-11 relate to Genesis 12-50? Should these two be understood separately? Explain your reasoning.

2. Discuss the idea of covenant in the Pentateuch. Students should focus on the Abrahamic and Sinaitic covenants.

3. Discuss how the theology of Deuteronomy closes the Pentateuch and opens the Deuteronomistic History.

4. Discuss the sacral system in the Pentateuch, particularly the burnt offering, sin offering, and votive offering, as well as the Day of Atonement.

Worksheet 2

Section 1

Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of 2 pp single-spaced. Students should make every effort to consult the resources listed, but should not limit their research to these resources alone.

1. Thoroughly discuss the theories concerning the entry of Israel into the land of Canaan (vast military conquest, peasant revolt, socio-political assimilation, etc.). Include the progression of destruction within the land (the destruction of Ai, Shechem, Jericho, etc.).

- David Howard, *Joshua*, New American Commentary
- William Dever, "Israel, History of (Archaeology and the 'Conquest')," *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 3:545–58.
- John Bright, *A History of Israel*
- Any Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus.

2. What is biblical law and what is its relationship to Ancient Near Eastern law? Students should include etiological arguments, as well as the classifications of Israelite law.

- Samuel Greengus, "Law," *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 4:242–52.
- M. J. Selman, "Law," *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, 497–515.
- Albrecht Alt, "The Origins of Israelite Law," pp 101–71 in *Essays on Old Testament History and Religion*
- Walter Harrelson, "Law in the Old Testament," *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, 3:77–89.
- Ulric Z. Rule, "Law in the Old Testament," *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, 3:1852–58.

3. Discuss the relationship between the kings of Israel and the prophets of Israel.

- Keith Whitelam, "King and Kingship," *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 4:40–48.
- John Schmitt, "Prophecy (Preexilic Hebrew)," *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 5:482–89.
- K. M. Heim, "Kings and Kingship," *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*, 610–23.
- John Bright, *A History of Israel*.
- Joseph Blenkinsopp, *A History of Prophecy in Israel*.
- Students should also consult other introductory books on prophecy.

4. Discuss the authorship views of the book of Isaiah.

- At least 3 commentaries on the book of Isaiah.
- At least 2 Old Testament introductions included in the bibliography of the syllabus.

Section 2

Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should a minimum of 1.5 pp single-spaced.

- 1. Discuss the difference between the Kings corpus and the Chronicler's History.**
- 2. Discuss the importance of Josiah's reform (2 Kings 22-23) in relation to history and the OT canon.**
- 3. Discuss arguments for and against the unitary nature of the Book of the Twelve.**
- 4. Briefly discuss the theologies in the Psalter.**

**COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT RUBRIC – EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT
RESEARCH WORKSHEET 2
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)	BASIC (1)	COMPETENT (2)	GOOD (3)	EXCELLENT (4)
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.					

GRADING MATRIX

NAME

Grammar 10% (15%)		Content55% (40%)	
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.....
General Composition Concerns..... 10% (15%)			
Paragraph flow	25 ____	Style (readability);	25 ____
Focus (completeness)	25 ____	Depth of Analysis	25 ____
Mechanics (Turabian adherence)10%		Documentation..... 15% (20%)	
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/ SubHeadings	25.....	Primary.....	
Margins	25.....	Secondary.....	
Block Quotes, etc	9.....	Journals (_ req'd).....	
Top/Bottom	8.....	Bibliography	25.....
Left/Right	8.....		
FINAL PROJECT GRADE=====>>			

08/29/14; grading matrix.eot.reviesed.wpd

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

Values in parentheses indicate the values for Worksheet 2.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Old Testament Introductions

- Anderson, Bernhard. *Understanding the Old Testament*. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1997.
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- Archer, Gleason L., Jr. *Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996.
- Arnold, Bill T., and B. E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Dallas: Baker, 1999.
- Atwell, James E. *Sources of the Old Testament: A Guide to the Religious Thought of the Old Testament in Context*. London: T. & T. Clark, 2004
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- Brueggemann, Walter. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
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Prophets

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