



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

OTEN5300-65, 37, 30: Exploring the Old Testament (Online)
Spring 2016, Jan 19-May 12

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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 Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *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.”

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

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

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.
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Required Course Texts

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

- W. LaSor, D.A. Hubbard, F.W. Bush, and L.C. Allen. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament*, 2nd edition, (Eerdmans, 1996). (OTS) ISBN-10: 0802837883 or ISBN-13: 978-0802837882

Optional Recommended reading

[Bill T. Arnold](#), [Bryan E. Beyer](#)., *Readings from the Ancient Near East Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. (Baker, 2002)

[Philip J. King](#), [Lawrence E. Stager](#). *Life in Biblical Israel*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001)

Course Requirements and Grading

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Weekly Quizzes (15) | 30% (300 points, 20 pts each, 2 pts off for each day late) |
| 2. Mid-Term Examination | 20% (200 points) – Closed book |
| 3. Final Exam | 20% (200 points) – Closed book |
| 4. Discussion Participation | 10% (100 points) |
| 5. 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 Outline & Schedule

UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

January 19 – February 13

1. Introductions (by Jan 23) – (see Discussion Board = DB), introduce yourself, if you have a picture post it, like to see a face!
2. Reading Assignments: Genesis – Deuteronomy
3. For sections/quizzes, #2-3, also read article in *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* on "Sacrifices and Offerings", (it is posted on Blackboard in this section of notes)

Quizzes and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction

Jan 23

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|--|--------|
| 2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism | Jan 29 |
| 3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy | Feb 5 |

Quizzes:

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|--|--------|
| #1 Genesis, <i>OTS</i> : Background section – 46-48 (quizzed over) & Chs. 1-3, | Jan 30 |
| #2 Exodus & Leviticus, <i>OTS</i> : and Chs. 4-6, | Feb 6 |
| #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, <i>OTS</i> : and Chs. 7-8, | Feb 13 |

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS*February 14 – March 5***Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:****Discussion Board:**

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|---|--------|
| 4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges | Feb 19 |
| 5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings | Feb 26 |

Quizzes:

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|---|--------|
| #4 Joshua- Judges, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 9-11 | Feb 20 |
| #5 1-2 Samuel, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 12-13 | Feb 27 |
| #6 1-2 Kings; <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 14-15 | Mar 5 |

MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by [March 9](#), by midnight**UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS***March 6 – April 11***Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:****Discussion Board:**

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|---|--------|
| 6. Contribute a comment to the 8 th century BC | Mar 21 |
| 7. Contribute a comment to the 7- 6 th century BC prophets | Mar 30 |
| 8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets | Apr 6 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 16, 18-19, | Mar 12 |
| #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 20-22, | Mar 19 |
| #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 23-24 | Mar 31 |
| #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 25-27, 43, | Apr 7 |
| #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 28-30, | Apr 11 |

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS*April 12 – May 12***Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:****Discussion Board:**

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|--|--------|
| 9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section | Apr 16 |
| 10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section | Apr 24 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 17, 31-32, | Apr 17 |
| #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, <i>OTS</i> : Chs 33-34, | Apr 23 |
| #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, <i>OTS</i> : Chs 35-36, | May 1 |
| #15 S of S's, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah; <i>OTS</i> : Chs 37-42 | May10 |

RESEARCH PAPER due Friday May 2**FINAL EXAM MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 12TH**Online courses will no longer be available for student access after May 12^{midnight}*****Note*******If you are anticipating graduation in May 2016 - You must take the Final Exam by May 10**

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

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.

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

Additional Course Information

Research Paper

1. 10 -page paper, double spaced, one inch margins, (Note title page and bibliography do not count, 5 point off for each page short), following Turabian format.
2. Research paper must either: 1) address an issue in Old Testament Studies (e.g. Date of the Exodus), 2) discuss a theological concept (e.g. sacrifice), see suggested topics under Information on BB.
3. Research paper is due Wk. 15, Monday May 2, by midnight, 5-point reduction per day for late work, after two weeks it will not be accepted.
4. Grading rubric:

<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Research Paper Rubric</u>
<u>Form</u> = 5%	Mechanics/Turabian
<u>Grammar and Style</u> = 5%	Spelling Punctuation Sentence Structure; clarity
<u>Research and bibliography</u> - (this includes good footnoting) = 5%	Minimum 10 sources, but 30% 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!
<u>Content and argument</u> = 85%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A well-organized paper (develop a table of contents if needed), 2. A well stated premise (note intro should only be a paragraph at best with such a short paper), 3. A logical flow of ideas, 4. Good interaction with the sources, 5. Work based upon sound exegesis of biblical passages were applicable, 6. Key sub-points substantiate your premise, sound reasoning, 7. And just plain reads well☺

**OTEN 5300 Exploring the Old Testament:
Sample Paper Topics**

Inspiration	Habiru	Zion Tradition
<i>Torah</i>	<i>Herem</i>	The Holy One of Israel
Pentateuch	Rest	Righteousness
Documentary Hypothesis	Judge	Justice
Prophetic Model of Inspiration	<i>Hesed</i>	The Servant of the Lord
Canon	Gleaning	Syro-Ephraimitic Crisis
Apocrypha	City Gate	Ashdod Crisis
Oral Transmission	Uncover the feet	Sennacherib Crisis
Oral Tradition	Canaanite	The Day of the Lord
Old Testament Languages	Amorite	Remnant
Dead Sea Scrolls	Amphictyony	Baruch
Masorettes	The Book of Kingdoms	New Covenant
Textual Criticism	Samuel	Confessions of Jeremiah
Ancient Versions	Monarchy	Nineveh
The Chronological Puzzle	Theocracy	Imprecatory Writings
Historiography	The Lord's Anointed	Battle of Carchemish
Messianic Prophecy	<i>Ebenezer</i>	Oracle
Messiah	Sacral Kingship	Faith
Primeval History	Seer	Woe Oracle
<i>Toledoth</i>	Davidic Covenant	Apocalypse Writings
Enuma Elish	David's Census	Teleology
Gilgamesh Epic	Centralized Monarchy	Kingdom and Kingdoms
Covenant	Rehoboam	Son of Man (Daniel)
Patriarchs	Jereboam	Enacted Prophecy
Tetragrammaton	Asherah/Asherim	Son of Man (Ezekiel)
The Passover	Omri	"I Am Yahweh"
Covenant	Ahab and Jezebel	Edom
Suzerain-vassal Treaty	Baal	"Lamentations"
The Tabernacle	Mt. Carmel	Megilloth
Mt. Sinai	Jereboam II	Alphabetic Acrostics
The Book of the Covenant	Coregencies	Dirges
Levites	Sennacherib	Complaints
Purification Offering	Hezekiah's Tunnel	Cyrus
Reparation Offering	Manasseh	Sheshbazzar
Kosher	Josiah	Zerubbabel
Day of Atonement	Book of the Law	Diaspor
Sabbatical Year	Zedekiah	Alexandria
Jubilee Year	The Chronicler	The Satan
Nazarite	Solomon's Apostasy	Apocalyptic Eschatology
Cities of Refuge	Marriage Alliance/Treaty	Purim
Levirate Marriage	Prophets and Prophecy,	Malachi
Deuteronomic History	Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah,	Yahweh of Hosts
The Shema	Micah, Zephaniah	Maccabean Period
Polytheism	Prophet	Proverbial Wisdom
Monolatry	Prophecy	Proverb
Monotheism	Oral Prophets	Speculative
Court History of David	Literary Prophets	Babylonian Job
Latter Prophets	Predictive Prophecy	Biblical Wisdom
Hexateuch	Amos' Vocation	Paralellism
Tetrateuch	Hosea's Marriage	Dialogue
Joshua's Conquest	Emotions of God	Freedom of God
Date of the Exodus	Fertility Religion	Qohelet

Vanity
Love Song

Folly
Personification of Wisdom

Amenemope

Additional Research Topics in the area of Biblical Backgrounds

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

Bibliography: General References

(Note a fuller bibliography is being updated regularly in BB under Information)

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