



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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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**)

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 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:

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|--|--------|
| 1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction | Jan 23 |
| 2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism | Jan 29 |
| 3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy | Feb 5 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| #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:

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

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS
April 12 – May 12

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 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, OTS: Chs. 17, 31-32, | Apr 17 |
| #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS: Chs 33-34, | Apr 23 |
| #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS: Chs 35-36, | May 1 |
| #15 S of S's, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah; OTS: Chs 37-42 | May 10 |

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. A 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:

Possible Points	Research Paper Rubric
<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☺

Suggested Research Topics – other topics on BB in Information

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
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Bibliography: General References

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

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Competency Assessment Rubric for BBBW5300 Exploring the Old Testament

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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