



RUTH – OTEN5311
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
January Israel Trip 2017

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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 Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Characteristic Excellence

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage

Course Description

This course consists of a thorough study of the Old Testament book of Ruth through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis, comparison of various English versions, consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, and consultation with major literature and commentaries. The course emphasizes proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Have knowledge of the background material for the book of Ruth
2. Know the major points of scholarly discussion on Ruth and how to use critical means to interpret the letter.
3. Understand the message of the book of Ruth as it applied in the 2nd millennial BC and as it applies in the present day.
4. Have grown in appreciation for the message of God as revealed by the writer while reaching a better understanding of how this letter fits into the overall perspective of the Bible.
5. Know how to apply interpretation skills learned in this book to other books in the Old Testament.
6. Know how to develop biblical sermons or Bible study lessons from the book of Ruth

Textbooks

Hubbard, Robert L. *The Book of Ruth*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Eerdmans, 1988.

Bock, Daniel. *Ruth: A Discourse Analysis of the Hebrew Bible*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament. Zondervan, 2015

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, travel notes and journal, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to participate and take notes in the class sessions and travel lectures.
2. Students are expected to complete the reading of the two textbooks.
3. Students are required to write a **book review** on each of the textbooks. The book reviews should be 3-5 single-spaced pages and include the following elements:
 - 1) Bibliographic Entry
 - 2) Statement of the Author's Purpose
 - 3) Summary of the Contents. The summaries should be general in nature, covering the broad topics and three or four specific texts or topics as examples of the author's approach.
 - 4) An Evaluation of the book's thesis and treatment of the text of Ruth

The book reviews are due by January 23, 2017.

4. Each student will keep a **journal** with notes on the sites, the lectures, and personal impressions of the trip. **This journal (or a copy) is to be submitted by January 16, 2017**
5. The student will be required to prepare a **5-7 page paper** reflecting on the trip, the reading, and the study of Ruth. The paper is not a research paper, but should demonstrate serious thinking about the sites and experiences on the trip and serious reflection on the message of the book of Ruth. **The Reflective Paper is due January 16, 2017**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Book Reviews	30% (2 @ 15% each.)
Travel Journal	25%
Reflective paper	35%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

The class will meet at least three times as a group in Israel. The schedule for these meetings will be given upon arrival in Israel and in coordination with the overall trip schedule. Ample notice of these meetings will be given to the student. The students will participate in daily site lectures and site interpretation given by professors and guides and notes from these lectures / interpretation shall be included in their Travel Journal.

Selected Bibliography

- Atkinson, D. *The Message of Ruth: The Wings of Refuge*. The Bible Speaks Today. Inter-Varsity, 1983
- Auld, A.G. *Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*. Daily Study Bible. Westminster, 1984.
- Block, D.I. *Judges, Ruth*. New American Commentary, Broadman, 1999
- Bock, Daniel. *Ruth: A Discourse Analysis of the Hebrew Bible*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament. Zondervan, 2015
- Bock Daniel. *Judges, Ruth*. New American Commentary. Broadman & Holman, 1999
- Bush, R.W. *Ruth / Esther*. Word Biblical Commentary. Nelson / Paternoster, 1996.
- Campbell, E.F. *Ruth*. Anchor Bible, Doubleday, 1975
- Cundall, A.E. and L. Morris. *Judges and Ruth*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Inter-Varsity, 2008.
- Fuerst, W.J. *The Books of Ruth, Esther, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, Lamentations*. Cambridge Bible Commentary. Cambridge University Press, 1975
- Goslinga, C.J. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*. Bible Student's Commentary. Zondervan, 1986
- Gray, J. *Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*. New Century Bible. Sheffield, 1967
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- Hubbard, Robert L. *The Book of Ruth*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Eerdmans, 1988.
- Huey, F.B. Jr. *Ruth*. Expositor's Bible Commentary. Zondervan, 1992
- James, Carolyn Curtis and Robert L. Hubbard. *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules*. Zondervan, 2011
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- Murphy, R.E. *Wisdom Literature: Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Canticles, Ecclesiastes, and Esther*. Forms of the Old Testament Literature. Eerdmans, 1981.
- Nielsen, Kirsten. *Ruth*. Old Testament Library. Westminster John Knox / SCM, 1997
- Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob. *Ruth: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. Interpreters John Knox, 1999.
- Sasson, J.M. *Ruth: A New Translation with a Philological Commentary and a Formalist-Folklorist Interpretation*. 2d. Ed. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, 1989
- Younger, K.L., Jr. *Judges / Ruth*. New International Version Application Commentary. Zondervan / Hodder & Stoughton, 2002