



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

BBHG6355: History and Geography of Ancient Israel
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies, Summer 2018

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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

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 core value focus for this academic year is: **Servant Leadership**: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Catalog Description:

This course will acquaint students with the history and geography of ancient Israel and early Judaism as it is known from biblical texts, ancient historical sources, early Jewish writings and archaeological finds and will expose students to the way history was written in the ancient world. This will be accomplished through reading and comparison of historical sources and several study tours throughout the land of ancient Israel.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

1. The student will recognize the physical elements of the land of Israel and the ancient Near East -- the geography, topography, geology, climate, etc. -- via slide, book and map study.
2. The student will read excerpts from the Old and New Testaments with an archaeological and geographical perspective.
3. The student will examine materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.
4. The student will probe the interrelationship between geography, politics, economics, cultural mores, and religion in the development of the nation of Israel.
5. The student will become conversant in the historical, geographical, and cultural materials of the Old and New Testaments.

Procedures

1. Students will have all reading assignments read before the lecture (the student will have to complete most of the readings before the start of the course).
2. Students will participate in four weekend study tours. Some tours to nearby sites and regions will also take place in the afternoon during the week.
3. The student should read all assigned materials prior to the lectures and be prepared to verbally interact during discussion. Slide and artifact illustrated lectures will supplement the field instruction.
4. The student is encouraged to read outside the required readings list.
5. Students will attend all lectures.

Textbooks

1. English Bible
2. Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.* Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990).
2. *Holman Bible Atlas* by Thomas Brisco (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998)

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be graded on participation in the fieldwork, the processing lab, a final exam, and a research paper. The topic will be in consultation with the professor on location, (each component is ¼ of their total grade).

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| Field attendance and participation | 100 points |
| Lab: material culture processing | 100 points |
| Final Exam | 100 points |
| Research Paper | 100 points |

Research Paper

Each student is required to produce a formal research paper (acc. to Turabian). Papers will be due by August 1. The research paper should be approximately 12-15 pages in length, inclusive of bibliography. Topics may be chosen after consultation with the professor as noted.

Be sure to make use of the following journals/periodical literature:

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| BASOR | <i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> |
| BAR | <i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i> |
| IEJ | <i>Israel Exploration Journal</i> |
| LEV | <i>Levant</i> |
| NEA | <i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i> |
| PEQ | <i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i> |
| TA | <i>Tel Aviv</i> |