



OTHB 6315 Hebrew Exegesis: Ezra-Nehemiah

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division

Spring, 2018

Professor's Name: Archie W. England

Title: Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, occupying the J. Wash Watts Chair of Old Testament and Hebrew

Office: 215 Hardin Student Center

Phone: 504-816-8171; 504-252-4455 ext 8129; 985-789-1570 (cell)

Email: aengland@nobts.edu

Grader: Eric Reeves 903-715-0912; email: ericreevesmusic@me.com

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.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom department.

The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competency addressed in this course is biblical exposition.

Kelley, Page, Timothy Crawford, and Daniel Mynatt. *The Masorah of the Biblia*
Levenson, Jon D. *Esther*. OTL. Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.
Lipschits, Oded, and Manfred Oeming, eds. *Judah and the Judeans in the Persian*
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Moore, Carey. *Esther*. AB. Yale University Press, 1995
Myers, Jacob. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. AB. Doubleday, 1965.

Course Requirements

1. Selected readings from the textbook and other assignments.
 - A. Read the history textbooks. Be prepared for written examination on the midterm and/or final exams.
 - B. During the first week of class, every student will join various groups and commit to investigate selected topics (cf. noted as “Student Pres.” in the weekly assignment section below). This assignment will be a group assignment, dependent upon the number of students in the class. Presentations require three handouts to every member of the class: (1) bibliography of the topic, including books, journals, references, dissertations, etc.); (2) a thorough reference list of where this topic directly or indirectly occurs in the Bible; and (3) a 3-5 page (single-spaced) synopsis of the topic.
2. Weekly Hebrew translation, parsing, and syntactical analysis.

Prepare the assigned texts for daily translation, reading, and analysis. Be sure to parse every verb or verbal, identify sentence structure, and seek to understand the impact of particles and verb aspect upon the time/sequencing of the text. Vocabulary quizzes, if they occur, will do so from the weekly assigned texts. Daily quizzes are possible.
3. Exegetical Project: Application of Advanced Grammatical-Syntactical Hebrew Analysis of a selected text from Ezra/Nehemiah.

Each student will select a pericope (depends upon the number of students enrolled) from Ezra or Nehemiah and then perform thorough, detailed analyses of every possible structural, grammatical, and syntactical aspect of that text. The student is expected to work with the critical apparatus, the Masorah, all parts of speech, as well as with the literary structure of the text. Since this project focuses upon detailed discovery, style and form use of Turabian will be the optional, not required.

The goal of this exegetical process will be for the student to demonstrate appropriate application of the biblical teachings/principles deriving directly from the Hebrew text of Ezra/Nehemiah.

Critical Book Review

Due the beginning of the third week of class, each student will submit a critical book review of *Persia and the Bible* by E. Yamauchi. This critique should be 10-12 pages, double-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12 cpi; and it should comply with good Turabian 7th or 8th edition style and form.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Attendance & Participation.....	7%
Oral Hebrew Reading	8%
Weekly Translation (4-25 verses) plus weekly quizzes	25%
Student Topic Presentation: Oral	8%
Student Topic Presentation: Written handouts	12%
Critical Book Review.....	15%
Exegetical writing project.....	25%

First, the student should translate the text, showing awareness of Masorah, textual criticism, and the possible impact of Hebrew accents. Second, the student should arrange the text into a literary analysis. Third, the student should analyze the occurrence of all the Hebrew verbs and verbals, attempting to discern any impact of the occurrence of certain verb stems or aspects. Fourth, the student should perform an analysis of recurring word patterns. Finally, the student should exegete the text, indicating the major and minor themes of the text, along with explaining the meaning of its component parts.

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.

Please refer to the Graduate catalog concerning attendance and absences policies. In a typical 3 hour course, a student can miss no more than 9 hours of seat time (not the same as missing 9 classes) and still receive credit for a course.

Make-up of a missed exam, quiz, report, or submission of course requirements is not allowed. As such, the professor will assess a late penalty for any submission of past due requirements. The typical penalty is ½ letter grade drop per day late. Contacting the professor before or during the absence/situation (via phone, text, or e-mail) can result in a reduced penalty. The responsibility of obtaining missed lecture notes or handouts is entirely the responsibility of the student.

Class decorum can impact the final grade for this class. Inappropriate behavior or lack of respect will constitute grounds for temporary and/or permanent dismissal from the class. Likewise, gum, food, and open drinks are not allowed in class. Cell phones and computer

equipment must be muted; and, no phone conversations are allowed during class time. Excessive disturbance of a class by the acceptance of a phone call (or exiting/reentering the room) can result in dismissal from class for that day. Repeated offenders can be dismissed from the class.

In the event that the professor is delayed from starting class on time, please wait for 15 minutes (should there be no announcement by other faculty or teaching assistant) before leaving. After that, class is dismissed.

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.

OTHB 6315, **Hebrew Exegesis: Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther** *Weekly Assignment Schedule*

#	Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1	01/23-01/25	Syllabus Day	Course Overview; Persian Period
2	01/30-02/01	Ezra overview	Nehemiah overview
3	02/06-02/08	Persia and the Bible, Yamauchi critical book review due	Ezra 1:1-4 (vs. 2 Chr 36); Ezra & the scribal school
4	02/13-02/15	Mardi Gras No Class	Ezra 3:1-12
5	02/20-02/22	Ezra 4:1-4; Literary Displacement; Historio-graphy and the problem of chronology	Student Pres: Chronology Issues w/the Book of Ezra, Kings, reigns, & John Bright (HOI)
6	02/27-03/01	Ezra 5:1-5; Prophets, (Persia, and Greek concurrent history)	Student Pres: (1) Haggai; (2) Zechariah—message, impact, importance
7	03/06-03/08	Ezra 6:19-22 (and catch up)	Student Pres: Passover in the Persian Period Literature
8	03/13-03/15	Ezra 7:6-10; 7:23-27 (Letters in ANE)	Ezra 8:21-23; 31-32; 9:1-2, 13-15; 10:1-4
9	03/20-03/22	Spring Break	
10	03/27-03/29	Student Pres: Divorce in Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther	Student Pres: Divorce in OT vs. Persian Period
11	04/03-04/05	Neh 1:1-11; 2:1-9 (Faith & Sovereignty of God)	Neh 2:10-20; 4:1-8
12	04/10-04/12	Neh 4:9-23; 5:1-5 Usury and leadership	Neh 5:6-19; 6:1-6 Welfare
13	04/17-04/19	Neh 6:7-19; 7:66-73	Neh 8:1-18 Law, repentance, & revival
14	04/24-04/26	Neh 9:1-19 Confession	Neh 9:20-38 Confession
15	05/01-05/03	Neh 10:28-39; 11:1-2; 12:40-47	Nehemiah 13:1-15 Leadership
16	05/08-05/10	Neh 13:16-31	Esther Translation Project
17	05/15-05/17	Exam Week	Exegesis Paper or Reading or

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