



**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Israel Academic Workshop
OTEN5311 - Ruth
Israel Trip
Dr. Jim Parker – Professor of Biblical Interpretation
and Archaeology
January 4-11, 2019**

NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfil the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “characteristic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The Core Value Focus for the 2018-19 academic year is “Doctrinal Integrity.”

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course consist of a thorough study of the book of Ruth and/or passages 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:

At the conclusion of the workshop, the students should be able to:

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

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, travel notes and journal. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

REQUIRED TEXT

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

Block, Daniel I.. *Ruth: A Discourse Analysis of the Hebrew Bible*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary. Zondervan, 2015.

REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:

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 and a review of each book. 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
 - 5) 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 at the end of the trip.
3. 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. PowerPoint presentations are acceptable as an alternate to the paper as long as there is an accompanying narrative to explain each slide. There must be a minimum 75 slides in the presentation.

COURSE EVALUATION AND DUE DATES:

Book Reviews	30%	March 17, 2019
Travel Journal	30%	March 24, 2019
Reflective paper	40%	March 30, 2019

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
- 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, 1968.
- 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
- Harris, J.G., C. Brown, and M. Moore. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*. Hendrickson /Paternoster, 2000.
- 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
- Knight, G.A. F. *Ruth and Jonah*. Torch Bible Commentaries. SCM, 1950
- 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