



**OTEN5300 Exploring the Old
Testament, Online**
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies
Spring 2020, 1/22-5/14

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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.

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 deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Spiritual Vitality**.

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 competencies addressed in this course is: Biblical Exposition

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.

Course Teaching Methodology

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), 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.

Note: 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.

Second, - you will need to enter the "Discussion Board" section on Blackboard 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. A 2-point reduction for each day late will be assessed, with no credit being offered after 5 days late.

Third, - you will take the given quizzes (about one per week) on or before the date posted in the syllabus. They are given in Course Documents on Blackboard (you can take them early, hence once you complete one the next will open automatically). Quizzes are based upon reading of both the biblical text and class textbook, so read well, outline the book, noted key dates, geographical movement, key celebrations and events, who did what, etc. notes only can be used for the quizzes only but the quizzes are timed (hence must be completed w/in the time allotted or subject to reduction). A 2pt per-day point reduction for lateness unless for medical, death in the family or military deployment reasons. Midterm and Final Exams are also posted in the Test section and are to be taken by the given dates per class schedule

Textbooks

1. Contemporary English Bible (a good translation such as the revised NASB, NKJV, HCBS, NRSV)
2. 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:

1. A good History of Israel – this is highly recommended, it will help many who are new to understanding the OT, it will also help one for the quizzes (best to compare the history with what one reads in class text), see bibliography for suggestions.
2. [Bill T. Arnold](#), [Bryan E. Beyer](#), *Readings from the Ancient Near East Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. (Baker, 2002)
3. [Philip J. King](#), [Lawrence E. Stager](#). *Life in Biblical Israel*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001)

Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments.

Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date

Quizzes & DB – Must be completed before or on the day posted. 2 Points off for each day late, after 5 days a Zero will be given

Course Requirements

1. **Summative/Written Assignment:** Write a 600 word paper which does not include bibliography or title page, (Word Document, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, it can be single-spaced) summarizing the value to the church of **one** of the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Psalms, or Isaiah. Indicate the historical context, genre, major theologies, and interpretive concerns of the book, so be specific and to the point. The paper should indicate research using appropriate resources and tools. The paper should indicate good form and documentation using footnotes per Turabian style as needed. Communicate also how the book impacts the faith and life of the contemporary church (2-3 sentences).

2. **Discussion Boards (DB):** Each person is to post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas. Then each student is to comment on at least two other person's posting during each given section.

NOTE: Discussion Boards -- A 2-point reduction for each day late will be assessed, with no credit being offered after 4 days late.

3. **Quizzes** (usually one per week) which are based upon reading of biblical text and class textbook, and any handouts in folder on BB, so read well, outline the book, note key dates, geographical movements, key celebrations and events, who did what, when and where etc. Notes can be used but only for the quizzes which are timed (20 min.), points will be deducted if one goes over.
4. **Midterm and Final Exam:** Students will complete a midterm and a final exam. All late work will be assessed a deduction of 2pt. per day of the assignment's point value. Late work may not be penalized at the instructor's discretion in the event of a military deployment, medical emergency, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances.

Evaluation of Grade

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Weekly Quizzes (15) | 30% (20 pts each, 2 pts off for each day late) |
| 2. Discussion Participation | 10% – 2 pts off for each day late |
| 3. Research Paper | 20% – May 4 by midnight |
| 4. Mid-Term Examination | 20% – Closed book |
| 5. Final Exam | 20% – Closed book, by May 14 midnight |

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 Outline & Schedule

UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

January 21 – February 16

1. Introductions – (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:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction | Jan 24 |
| 2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism | Jan 26 |
| 3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy | Feb 8 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| #1 Genesis, <i>OTS</i> : Background section – 46-48 & Chs. 1-3, (only quizzed over) | Jan 27 |
| #2 Exodus & Leviticus, <i>OTS</i> : and Chs. 4-6, | Feb 9 |
| #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, <i>OTS</i> : and Chs. 7-8, | Feb 16 |

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

February 1 – March 22

(Note tried to allow for some Spring Break, but need to manage well)

Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:

Discussion Board:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges | Mar 2 |
| 5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings | Mar 16 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| #4 Joshua- Judges, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 9-11 | Feb 26 |
| #5 1-2 Samuel, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 12-13 | Mar 11 |
| #6 1-2 Kings; <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 14-15 | Mar 22 |

MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by March 23, by midnight

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

March 23 – April 20

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 6. Contribute a comment to the 8 th century BC | Mar 28 |
| 7. Contribute a comment to the 7- 6 th century BC prophets | Apr 11 |
| 8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets | Apr 20 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea OTS: Chs. 16, 18-19, | Mar 29 |
| #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah OTS: Chs. 20-22, | Apr 5 |
| #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS: Chs. 23-24 | Apr 10 |
| #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS: Chs. 25-27, 43, | Apr 15 |
| #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS: Chs. 28-30, | Apr 20 |

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

April 21 – May 14

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section | Apr 30 |
| 10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section | May 9 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 17, 31-32, | Apr 26 |
| #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, <i>OTS</i> : Chs 33-34, | May 2 |
| #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, <i>OTS</i> : Chs 35-36, | May 7 |
| #15 S of S's, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah; <i>OTS</i> : Chs 37-42 | May 13 |

******FINAL EXAM Must be taken by May 14******

Blackboard course will close at Midnight

Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office.

*****Note*****

If you are anticipating graduation in May 16 - You must take the Final Exam by May 12th at the latest.

Any late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office

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