

BSCM2300 Biblical Backgrounds

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SOUTH FLORIDA EXTENSION CENTER

Professor: Dr Travis A Laney
Fall 2014
Mondays: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the geographical, historical, social, and cultural backgrounds of the Old and New Testament periods. The emphasis is on examination of relevant biblical, extra-biblical, and archeological data of these periods in order to understand the context of the biblical books. *Prerequisite:* None

Student Objectives

By the end of the semester, the student will

1. Give an overview and an explanation of the major events in God's salvation history.
2. Give a broad description of the significance of the various covenants between God and his people.
3. Have a general understanding of the chronology of the biblical times.
4. Be familiar with religions, cults, geography, and philosophies prevalent during the biblical times
5. Understand the relationship between the Old and the New Testaments

Course Textbooks (ebooks/kindle books are acceptable)

- The Bible. (NASB, NASB 1995 Update, KJV, NKJV, RSV, NRSV, ESV, NIV, or NLT)
- Carson, D.A., Douglas Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Dillard, Raymond B. and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Course Methodology

The principal means of instruction will be through lecture and discussion. Audiovisual presentations will be utilized to supplement the classroom lectures and discussion. Individual reading assignments in the Bible and the textbooks will provide an integral part of the learning environment.

Course Requirements

1. READING QUIZZES

150 total points

- a. Students are required to read the assigned material before each class. There will be 11 reading quizzes given throughout the semester and the students will be allowed to drop the lowest one. These quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each class. Each of the reading quizzes will be worth 15 points.

2. 3 Bible Memorization Quizzes

198 total points

- a. Students will be required to list in order the books of the Bible.
 - i. The first quiz will cover the books Genesis-Song of Solomon (22 books @ 3 points each)
 - ii. The second quiz will cover the major and minor prophets (17 books @ 3 points each).
 - iii. The third quiz will cover the entire New Testament (27 books at 3 points each).

3. “Attentiveness” Quizzes

50 total points

- a. During the semester, 4 quizzes worth 10 points each will be given *in class* over the material covered *in class* that day. The quizzes will measure BOTH students attendance and attentiveness in class. These quizzes will be spontaneous and previously unannounced.

4. Biographical Paper

202 total points

- a. Each student will write a 5-6 page biographical paper on a historical figure from the Bible. The paper should use four scholarly sources (bible dictionaries, commentaries, etc...). All papers should have a title page, footnotes/endnotes, and a bibliography. The paper should be double spaced and follow Turabian, 6th edition, for style. The paper will be graded primarily upon content but style/grammar will be assessed too. Therefore, students should proofread the paper carefully. This is a college paper and simply running the spell checker is not sufficient. Plan ahead so that you have time to read before you submit the work for a grade. Additionally, all papers are due on the date assigned. A paper will be reduced by 15 points for each week it is late. A grading Rubric will be provided.
- b. Content of paper should include:
 - i. What were the major events, crisis, trials, tribulations, and/or dilemmas the individual found him/herself in?
 - ii. How did the individual interact with and/or encounter God, including any mission, purpose, or calling God gave this individual?
 - iii. What were the individual’s strengths? Weaknesses?
 - iv. How does the individual and his/her story fit into the overall Bible story of redemption?
 - v. What does this person’s life teach modern day readers of the Bible about themselves? About God?

c. Resources

i. Helpful Bible Dictionaries and Surveys

1. ABD – Anchor Bible Dictionary
2. IBD – Illustrated Bible Dictionary
3. IDB – Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible
4. ISBE – International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
5. NBD – New Bible Dictionary
6. ZPEB – Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible
7. IVP’s Dictionary of Paul and His Letters

ii. Potentially Useful Commentary Series may include:

1. Abingdon New Testament Commentary
2. Anchor Bible
3. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
4. Expositor’s Bible Commentary
5. New American Commentary (NAC)
6. New International Commentary on the New Testament (NICNT)
7. New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT)
8. NIV New Testament Commentary
9. Pillar New Testament Commentary
10. Word Biblical Commentary (WBC)

5. 4 Unit Exams (4 x 100 points)

400 total points

- a. Each student will complete IN CLASS 4 non-comprehensive exams over material assigned in readings as well as class notes. These exams may include multiple choice, true and false, and matching. These exams require students bringing a ScanTron sheet and a pencil to class for each exam.

Course Evaluation

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>LETTER GRADE</u>
1000-930	A
929-850	B
849-770	C
769-700	D
699-0	F

Course Information

1. Attendance: Attendance in class is a necessary part of instruction in this course. Students are allowed a maximum of nine hours of absences during the semester. Three tardies count as one absence. The student will receive an automatic "F" when he/she exceeds nine absences; this is in accordance with seminary policy. A portion of the Class Participation grade will come from the student's attendance.
2. Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students must carefully document any use of sources so that they do not claim someone else's work as their own. Plagiarized assignments will receive a 0. Flagrant plagiarism may also result in an F for the course and additional disciplinary actions.
3. Assignments: Students are responsible for any homework, notes, handouts or other material that they miss due to absence. All homework assignments are clearly listed in the syllabus, providing students with awareness of them since the first day of the course. Absence on an assignment's due date for illness or any other reason is not grounds for seeking an extension on the assignment. **LATE WORK WILL BE DOCKED BY 5 POINTS FOR EACH DAY LATE.** Ex: A Paper that earns a 90, when turned in 2 days late, will receive an 80.
4. Miscellaneous: Students who choose to use laptop computers, iPads, or other electronic devices to take notes in class. However, students may not surf the web, check email, instant message, or engage in any activity not pertaining to this class. If a student engages in activities not pertaining to this class, that student will be counted absent for that day.
5. Cell phones: Before class begins, student should silence cell phones. Unless previously discussed with the professor, students should not accept any phone calls or text messages during class. Accepting and/or sending phone calls and text messages during class may result in the student being marked tardy. Cell phones must be turned off during exams.

Classroom Schedule:

DATE	TOPIC	READING PRIOR TO CLASS	ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES, WORK DUE
8/18	Introductions and Syllabus; <i>The Bible Story: An Overview</i> <i>Background to the Bible</i>		
8/25	<i>The Creation of the World and a Covenant People</i>	<i>Intro OT: chs. 1-3</i>	
9/01	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY		
9/08	<i>Holiness and Taking the Land</i>	<i>Intro OT: chs. 4-9</i>	Memorization Quiz 1
9/15	Exam 1 <i>The Mess Kings Make</i>	<i>Intro OT: chs. 10-12</i>	
9/22	<i>The Coming Exile</i>	<i>Intro OT: chs. 20, 21, 24, 29</i>	

9/29	<i>Return from Exile and Wisdom Literature</i>	Intro OT: chs. 13-19	Memorization Quiz 2
10/6	Exam 2 <i>The Silent Years: Examining Intertestamental Material</i>	Intro NT: chs.1, 26	
10/13	NO CLASS: FALL BREAK		
10/20	<i>The Good News of Jesus Christ</i>	Intro NT: chs. 2-6	
10/27	<i>On Mission: Acts</i>	Intro NT: chs. 7	Memorization Quiz 3
11/03	<i>NT Theology</i>	Intro NT: chs.8-10, 12-13, 19-20	
11/10	Exam 3 <i>NT and Social Issues</i>	Intro NT: chs. 11, 14-15, 21-24	
11/17	<i>NT Leadership Issues</i> <i>Eschatology: The King is Coming</i>	Intro NT: chs. 16-17, Intro NT: ch.25	Biographical Paper Due
11/24	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING		
12/01	<i>Exam 4</i>		

Selected Bibliography—Other Introductions to the Old Testament

- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Benware, Paul N. *Survey of the Old Testament*. Revised. Chicago: Moody Press, 1993.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003 (anticipated publication date).
- Cate, Robert L. *An Introduction to the Old Testament and Its Study*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987.
- Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
- Dever, Mark. *The Message of the New Testament: Promises Kept*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2005.
- Dillard, Raymond B. and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.
- Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.

- Drane, John. *Introducing the Old Testament*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1987.
- Dumbrell, Wm. J. *The Faith of Israel: A Theological Survey of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.
- Hoekema, Anthony A. *The Bible and The Future*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.
- Hoeksema, Herman. *God's Eternal Good Pleasure*. Edited and revised by Homer C. Hoeksema. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1979.
- House, Paul R. *Old Testament Survey*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Kaiser, Walter C. Jr. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- LaSor, William S., David A. Hubbard, and Frederic W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.
- Matthews, Victor H. and James C. Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1997.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.
- Pitchford, Nathan. *What the Bible Says about the People of God: A Categorized Scripture List*. Portland, OR: Monergism Books, 2007.
- Polhill, John B. *Paul and His Letters*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1999.
- Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Israel of God: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P& R Publishing, 2000.
- Ryken, Leland and Tremper Longman III. *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *Paul: Apostle of God's Glory in Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2001.