

BBBW5300 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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Course Description:

A survey is undertaken of a wide range of materials and issues related to the background of the Old and New Testaments, including: archaeology, historical geography, religion, manners and customs, economics, social concerns, and the literature of the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world. The course is designed to help students bridge the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the historical eras of the Bible.

Seminary 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.

Seminary Core Values:

1. Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God
2. Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God's Revelation with Diligence
3. Spiritual Vitality: Transforming Power of God's Word
4. Mission Focus
5. Servant Leadership

Goals & 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.

Textbooks:

To be read in conjunction with class lectures (see course materials posted on Blackboard)
English Bible (*a good translation*)
Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., *Readings From the Ancient Near East*, Baker, 2002.
Brisco, Thomas, *Holman Bible Atlas*. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998.
Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook (Posted on Blackboard)
Hoerth, Alfred, *Archaeology & The Old Testament*, Baker Book House, 1998.

Recommended reading:

Zondervan Handbook to the Bible ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)

Manners and Customs in the Bible by Victor M., (Hendrickson)

The Sacred Bridge by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., 2006 (Carta, Jerusalem)

Life in Biblical Israel, by Stager, L. & King, P., 2001, (Westminster John Knox Press)

Course Evaluation:

Map Quizzes (4)	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion Participation	10%
Research Paper	25%

Course Requirements

1. Complete all reading assignments in *Archaeology & the Old Testament*, *Holman Bible Atlas*, *Readings from the Ancient Near East*, and *Arnold & Beyer Course Workbook* available in Blackboard. Textbook abbreviations:

AOT = *Archaeology & the Old Testament*

HBA = *Holman Bible Atlas*

RANE = *Readings from the Ancient Near East*

WKBK = *Arnold & Beyer Course Workbook*

2. Review course materials available in Blackboard (*Handouts, PowerPoints, etc.*).

Class ProcedureRead Carefully**:**

Note materials for the class are located in 2 Folders on Blackboard: 1) Course Documents, and 2) Lectures. In Course documents one will find files labeled Workbook 1-8, which contains notes that go along with the Lectures. In file labeled Lectures, it contains the lectures one needs to look & work through all in numerical/chronological order. The Lectures contain both PowerPoint (which usually consists of: the lecture followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography) and videos (usually a summary of the lectures) to give you the necessary information one needs for the course. Notes and Lectures should be labeled the same if there are any problems please e-mail me or call ASAP. Each lecture is supplemented with outside reading from class texts as noted in Course Schedule, make sure to read them (best before viewing the Lectures) for they will be necessary for exams. Note the index of each book as they correspond to the lectures, as the class follows a chronological order.

3. Complete Workbook assignments.

The PowerPoint lectures will be used in the completion of the Workbook assignments.

4. Complete map study guides in preparation for Map Quizzes (4 total)

Get to know the world and land of the Bible. See handout "Regions, Cities to Know" for list of regions, cities and places to identify for the quizzes (there are study maps, available as well as extra detailed maps for you to use in Course Documents). You will need to consult besides class text other Bible geography books; I have also placed many maps for you on Blackboard (under study helps) for use both in study and personal presentations. (**Remember many illustrations & photos used in this course are copy righted and cannot be

published without written permission).

Quiz 1 = Land of Israel Includes: Regions, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and Bodies of Waters of Palestine (HBA Map 7 for help)

Quiz 2 = Tribes of Israel & OT Cities (Consists of 1 map for Tribes & 1 map for OT cities)

Quiz 3 = ANE/ the OT World - Cities & Kingdoms/Countries Consult for help *HBA*: 4 (Map 3), 5 (Maps 4), 9 (Map 5), 11 (Map 6), et al.

Quiz 4 = NT World (Mediterranean) of Cities & Kingdoms/Countries (Consists of 1 map for Kingdoms/Countries & 1 map for NT cities)

5. Prepare a research paper.

- A. Choose a topic. The topic for one's paper can include one of the following: Historical geography of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc) or site/city. Research for a region should include:
- 1) Geological make-up of the region
 - 2) The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper)
 - 3) All major roads (both local and international)
 - 4) Key cities (their main importance) □ Bodies of water
 - 5) Map of the region, locating key cities, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)
- B. Research for a site/city: which should include
- 1) The history and the identification of a biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.),
 - 2) Its history, why it is located where it is,
 - 3) Its function in history,
 - 4) Who controlled it,
 - 5) The role it played in the development of the country it is in etc.
- C. Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard for list of suggested topics.
- 1) Make sure to get to the point, argue & present the significant points,
 - 2) Have good interaction with sources (note primary, original first hand, sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eye witnesses etc).

Format - Length 12-18 pages, double-spaced, standard 12 pt font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7th ed.), optional APA. See <http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper. The file is under the Hermeneutics course section and titled "NOBTSPapers.pdf"

Research Paper Grading Rubric

Form and style = 5%

Spelling and grammar = 5%

Research & bibliography = 10% - the use of primary sources, good bibliography shows that you did your homework!

Content = 80% - the argument, the key issues, relevant data etc.

NOTE: 75% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals.
See Handout: Suggested Paper Topics and Biblical Studies Journals for help!

6. Complete a Midterm and Final Exam

Study guides are available for both midterm and final. They are only guides to help one organize and know what materials will be covered on the exams. Information for the exams comes from class notes, power point lectures, and reading **it is up to the student to gather the necessary information!** The test will include matching (i.e. dates, inscriptions etc), multiple-choice, some fill in the blank, and short essays usually over various topics (i.e. Philistines, Shephelah, David etc.).

****Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date!**

The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule and course requirements as conditions warrant.

Course Schedule

Aug 26

Introduction to the Course
Part 1 Introduction and Geography

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 1 and 9; HBA Chapters 1 and 2

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; Map Quiz #1 Study Guide; Online video

Sept 9

Part 2 Setting the Stage – In the Beginning and The Rise of Urbanization

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 2 and 3; HBA Chapters 3 and 4; RANE: #6 Enuma Elish, #12 Epic of Gilgamesh, # 13 Confusion of Tongues, #45 Sumerian King List

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; , Online video

Map Quiz #1

Sept 23

Part 3 The Patriarchs

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 4 and 5; HBA Chapters 5 and 6; RANE #18 Tale of Sinuhe

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; Online video; Quiz #2 Study Guide

Oct 7 Part 4 Exodus – Judges

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 6-11; HBA Chapters 7 and 8; RANE #21 Mari Covenant Ritual, #30 Laws of Hammurapi, #39 Tiglath-pileser I, #55 El-Amarna

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook Part 4; Online video

Map Quiz #2

Oct 18-22 **Fall Break**

Oct 28 Part 5 The Rise of the Israelite Monarchy

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 12-14; HBA Chapters 9 and 10; RANE # 54 Tel Dan Inscription, #59 Gezer Calendar

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; Online video; Map #3 Study Guide

Midterm Exam

Nov 11 Part 6 The Fall of the Israelite Monarchy

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 15-18 HBA Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14; RANE #40 Shalmaneser III, #41 Tiglath-pileser III, #42 Sargon II, #44 Cyrus Cylinder, #51 Mesha Stele

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; Online video

Map Quiz #3

Nov 22-26 **Thanksgiving Break**

Dec 2 Part Historical Background of the Gospels and Jesus In Galilee
Part 8 Jesus in Jerusalem

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 19 and 20; HBA Chapters 15-19

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; Online video; Map #4 Study Guide

Map Quiz #4

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

Selected Bibliography

General Works and Dictionaries

The Anchor Bible Dictionary New York: Doubleday, 1993.

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Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels. Joel B. Green, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: Intervarsity Press, 1992.

Dictionary of Paul and His Letters. Gerald F. Hawthorne, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

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Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds. Craig Evans & Stanley Porter (eds.). Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000. Pritchard, James, ed.

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Cleave, Richard. *Pictorial Archive: ANE History: Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.

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