

BBBW5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD

Montgomery-Birmingham CIV - Spring 2012

1/19, 2/2, 2/16, 3/1, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3

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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 Addressed in This Course:

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

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.

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 *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. Complete Workbook assignments.

The PowerPoint lectures will be used in the completion of the Workbook assignments. These need not be handed in or submitted via Blackboard. These materials are for your study benefit and future resource access.

3. 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). Besides class text you will need to consult 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)

4. Prepare a research paper. Due Date April 26 email to Dr. Knight

- 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)
 - 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 12-16 pages, double-spaced, standard 12 pt font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7th ed.), optional APA.

5. Complete a Midterm and Final Exam

Course Schedule

- Jan 19** **Introduction to the Course**
Part 1 Introduction and Geography and Archaeology
Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 1 and 9; HBA Chapters 1 and 2
Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Map Quiz #1 Study Guide; Online video. Note especially the "History of Research"
- Feb 2** **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: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online videos
Map Quiz #1
- Feb 16** **Part 3 The Patriarchs**
Genesis 12-50

- March 1** **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: PowerPoints; Workbook Part 4; Online video
Map Quiz #2
- March 22** **Midterm Exam**
Part 5 & 6 The Rise and Fall of the Israelite Monarchy
Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 12-14; HBA Chapters 9 and 10; RANE # 54 Tel Dan Inscription, #59 Gezer Calendar
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: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video; Map #3 Study Guide
- April 5** **Part 7 Historical Background of the Gospels and Jesus and Passover Seder (Lord’s Supper)**
Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 19 and 20; HBA Chapters 15-19
Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video; Map #4 Study Guide
Map Quiz #3
- April 19** **Part 8 Jesus in Jerusalem**
Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 19 and 20; HBA Chapters 15-19
Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video; Map #4 Study Guide
Map Quiz #4

Research Papers Due by April 26

- May 3** **Final Exam**

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