

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
Fall 2010  
Hybrid Course: Graceville  
**OTEN 5300 Exploring the Old Testament**  
Dr. James O. Newell, Professor

**Contacts**

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**SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the 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.

**COURSE PURPOSE**

The purpose of this course is to give students an introduction to the books of the Old Testament. Through this opportunity, students will learn the message and practice implications of the text.

**CORE VALUE FOCUS**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with "doctrinal integrity" and "characteristic excellence" especially highlighted in this course. The core value of this course will add to the spiritual vitality of the student through interaction with the Scripture.

**CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED**

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course seeks to increase the student's competency in "biblical exposition" through a survey of the Old Testament.

**Course Description**

An introduction to the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament. Students are challenged to develop an appreciation of the material as a whole and of the individual books along with their unique contributions. The significant interpretive issues and the major theological themes and their relevance for Christian living are central to the study.

**Course Objectives**

Knowledge

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- A. Know the basic historical background of the Old Testament as a whole and that of the individual books
- B. Be aware of the basic content and the broad thrust of the whole of the Old Testament

- C. Be conversant with the purposes/themes/major teachings of the books of the Old Testament

### Attitudes

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- A. Recognize the importance of the Old Testament as part of the biblical canon
- B. Appreciate the significance of the theological truths of the Old Testament for Christian living
- C. See the importance of understanding the Old Testament for a proper reading and understanding of the New Testament and for a full appreciation of the person of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message

### Skills

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- A. Be able to describe the basic historical time line of the Old Testament story
- B. With the use of basic resources, place individual books of the Old Testament in their proper settings and against their proper backgrounds
- C. Read the Old Testament with an appreciation of the texts' literary character (recognize basic genres and the forms and literary devices common in given genres)
- D. Demonstrate the ability to draw legitimate theological truths from Old Testament texts read and interpreted in their ancient contexts

## **Course Requirements**

Read all assignments from the Old Testament in a standard translation.

Read all assignments in *An Introduction to the Old Testament (IOT)* by Tremper Longman III and Raymond B. Dillard, Zondervan, keep up with class schedule.

Maintain a Reading Log on OT text and IOT reading assignments and submit as directed.

Prepare a brief paper on "The Value of the Old Testament" due at finals.

Attain a passing average on all other required work

## **Hybrid Course Methodology**

**This course is based on the Internet course OTEN 5300. Students will be given assignments according to the assignment schedule below and will be expected to complete these assignments as noted. The students are expected to complete their individual and group work in a timely manner and post their work in Assignments.**

**Students are expected to participate in a learning group throughout the semester. These groups will prepare assignments as a group and will be graded on their content, collaboration, and participation. The remainder of the class will read the assignment reports and respond to them on the discussion board as assigned.**

The classroom time, generally every other week as noted in the assignment sheet, will be spent in discussion of work completed by the students individually and in the groups. **Please plan to be present for all sessions of the class since the classroom interaction time is limited.** Students may take no more than two absences, but absences are not advised.

**A Note on the Nature of the Course:** A summary study of the entire Old Testament is a very rewarding experience, but it is also a difficult and challenging task. One of the factors that contribute to the challenge is the volume of material which must be covered. A continuous reading of the entire Old Testament is the foundational element in the course. In addition, a substantive textbook is required to expose you to information that cannot be treated fully within the class meetings. In order to benefit fully from the class experience, you must do the reading faithfully, therefore the Reading Log will be used to prompt you to do so. Your performance on these requirements will constitute 10% of your grade.

Textbook: *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. by Tremper Longman III and Raymond B. Dillard and, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

### **Class Requirements**

1. Students will complete reading assignments and will complete a Reading Log as described below.
  - a. Read the text of the Old Testament in a modern translation of the Bible.
  - b. Read the required textbook and the professor's notes in conjunction with weekly assignments. The professor's notes are posted on Blackboard in the Course Documents section.
  - c. The Reading Log will include
    - i. The date **each passage of Scripture, each section of the professor's lecture notes, and each chapter in the textbook** were read.
    - ii. Brief statements of insight and reflection that the student gained from reading the Assignments. The log is not to be a summary of the reading assignments. It should be a brief account of insights gained and the student's reflection on the reading.
    - iii. The reading log is **due according to the assignment schedule.**
    - iv. *A penalty of four points per day will be assessed for late reading logs.*
2. Each student will **participate in a learning group throughout the semester. These groups will prepare written assignment reports as a group and will make them available to all class students through the Group Pages on Blackboard. The Group Reports will be graded on their content, collaboration, and participation.**
3. **Students will be required to read the assignment reports of other groups and respond to them in the class discussion as noted in the assignment sheet.**
4. **Students will complete individual written assignments** each week. The assignments will include a thematic summary statement about the Old Testaments books assigned for each week.
5. Each student will take a final examination as assigned in the assignment sheet.

### **Class Grading**

The final grade will be determined as follows:

10% Class participation

20% Group Assignments  
 30% Individual Assignments  
 20% Reading Log  
 20% Final Exam

### ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Assignments will be due on the date listed by Noon  
 The Class Discussion will cover the assignments since the last class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>OT, Textbook and Individual Assignments</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Class Discussion</b>
	<b>Note Reading</b>	<b>Due Saturdays at Midnight</b>	<b>Due Fridays at Midnight</b>
		<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Due in the next class meeting (not written).</b>
<b>Aug. 30</b> <b>Class 1</b>	Introductory material Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group A Introduction to the course and Introductory Material
<b>Sept. 13</b> <b>Class 2</b>	Numbers, Deuteronomy	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group B Pentateuch assignments And Group Assignments
<b>Sept. 20</b> <b>Class 3</b>	Joshua, Judges	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group B Conquest to Monarchy assignments And Group Assignments
<b>Sept. 27</b> <b>Class 3</b>	Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group C United/Divided Monarchies, Exile & Return assignments And Group Assignments
<b>Oct. 4</b> <b>Class 4</b>	1 & 2 Kings	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group C United/Divided Monarchies, Exile & Return assignments And Group Assignments
<b>Oct. 11</b> <b>Class 4</b>	1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group C United/Divided Monarchies, Exile & Return assignments And Group Assignments
<b>Oct. 18-22</b> <b>Fall Break</b>			
<b>Oct. 25</b> <b>Class 5</b>	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group A Early prophets assignments and Group Assignments
<b>Nov. 1</b> <b>Class 6</b>	Ezekiel, Daniel	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group B Latter prophets assignments and Group assignments
<b>Nov. 8</b> <b>Class 6</b>	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group B Latter prophets assignments and Group assignments
<b>Nov. 15</b> <b>Class 7</b>	Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group C Praise & Wisdom assignments and Group assignments
<b>Nov. 29</b> <b>Class 7</b>	Psalms, Proverbs	Reading Log, thematic summary	Group C Praise & Wisdom assignments and Group assignments
<b>Dec. 6</b> <b>Class 8</b>	Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Reading Log, thematic summary Value of the Old Testament paper	Group C Praise & Wisdom assignments and Group assignments
	<b>Final Exam</b>		

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## **Guidelines for Assignments**

### Reading Log

1. You will find the Log on Blackboard in Course Documents - this is the avenue through which students will report and be assessed on their required readings of the Old Testament and the Introduction text
2. Students will use the form provided to record date, book (if reading is of the OT, then give the book and translation, or if the Introduction text, simply enter IOT) and chapter(s) from the OT or IOT read on that date
3. The Logs will be submitted on Fridays of each week via Assignments on Blackboard
4. Grades will be affected by whether or not you submit the report with all the components required

### Value of the Old Testament Paper

1. The topic of this paper should be a task students contemplate throughout the course, including:
  - a. My view on beginning the course
  - b. What I've learned to confirm or challenge my view
  - c. My view on completing the course
  - d. Implications for reading and study of the Old Testament in my ministry
5. The paper should be a minimum of 2400 words (4 pages @ about 600 words per page 12 point type)
6. The paper is due by Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

## **Biblical Studies Periodical List**

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Andrews  
University Seminary studies.  
Archaeology Odyssey  
Australian Biblical Review.  
Bible Review  
Bible Translator  
Biblica  
Biblical Archaeology Review  
Biblical Research  
Bibliotheca Sacra  
Biblische Notizen  
Biblische Zeitschrift  
Bibliotheca Orientalis  
Bulletin for Biblical Research  
Bulletin of the American  
    Schools of Oriental Research  
Catholic Biblical Quarterly  
Currents in Research: Biblical Studies  
Dead Sea Discoveries  
Estudios Biblicos  
Interpretation of Scripture  
Expository Times  
Hebrew studies  
Hebrew Union College Annual  
Interpretation  
Israel Exploration Journal  
Jewish Bible Quarterly  
Jewish Quarterly Review  
Journal for the Study of the Old Test.  
Journal of Biblical Literature  
Journal of Cuneiform Studies  
Journal of Jewish studies  
Journal of Near Eastern studies  
Journal of Northwest Semitic  
Languages  
Journal of Semitic Studies  
Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society  
Judaism  
Levant  
Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)  
Old Testament abstracts  
Orientalia  
Palestine Exploration Quarterly  
Qadmoniot  
Qumran Chronicle  
Review and Expositor

Revue Biblique  
Revue de Qumran  
Semeia  
Syria  
Textus  
Vetus Testamentum  
Zeitschrift für Assyriologie  
und vorderasiatische Archeologie  
Zeitschrift für die  
alttestamentliche Wissensha