

**OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament,
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Spr. 2013, Hybrid class CIV, ORL, GVL, MIA; 1-2:50 PM EDT
(Mondays, Dates: 1/28; 2/11; 2/25; 3/11/ 3/25; 4/8; 4/59; 5/6)
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Catalog 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.

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. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: **Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership.** These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.
2. NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Master’s Degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency especially by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

Goals & Objectives

1. The student will read the Old Testament for the purpose of comprehending the literary 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 to better understand their relationship to the Old Testament.
4. The student will learn to appreciate the divine nature of the Old Testament and its unique content and character when compared to the cultural settings it was written in.

Core Values Addressed

1. Characteristic Excellence – Diligence in the study of God’s Word to know and understand Him and His revelation.
2. Spiritual Vitality – The study of God in the Old Testament that will bring transformation to the life and heart of the individual.
3. Doctrinal Integrity – Reading and Interpreting God’s Word with a conviction that it is His Authoritative and Inerrant revelation.

Class Texts

1. Walton, J & Hill, A., *A Survey of the Old Testament*, Zondervan 2000 (SOT)
2. Kitchen, K., *On The Reliability of the Old Testament*, Eerdmans, 2003 (ROT)

Class Methodology/Format

The student in this class will come to grasp an overall knowledge of the theological, critical, and historical settings of the books of the Old Testament. This will be accomplished by reading the biblical text and notes provided in the Course Documents on Blackboard. Students will also answer weekly questions which will be posted to Blackboard and participate in collaborative learning groups. These groups will prepare assignments as a group based upon specific questions listed in the syllabus 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. Both individual and group assignments will help the student better comprehend the flow of the OT, the uniqueness of each OT book and learn answers to certain critical issues of selected books. Class time will consist of discussion of key critical issues.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE IN THE HYBRID CLASS, NO EXCEPTIONS!

In order to receive on-campus credit for this course, your attendance at every class meeting is mandatory. The Dean will allow no exceptions to this rule. If you miss a class meeting for any reason, you will be required to transfer to the online section, pay the additional internet fee, and you will not receive on-campus credit for this course. Why? Missing one class will disqualify the Seminary from receiving your SBC Cooperative Program stipend for your attendance in this on-campus course.

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 is expected at all times in the online environment.

Getting Started

Several items are required in preparation for the course.

1. *Purchase all required texts.*

Required textbooks are available through the Lifeway Store on campus in New Orleans. Students may purchase any of the optional or recommended texts at their discretion.

2. *Follow instructions for use of the Blackboard Tools*

A. To upload your group projects in a file to share with other students. . .

Click on the link for Then click on the link for Communication>Groups. You should see a link for "Group Zeta, Everybody." Once you have clicked on your link, you should be able to

click on a link entitled "File Exchange." You should then see an icon and link entitled "Add File." Once you click on that link, you will be prompted to add a title for the document you will be posting. This does not need to be the file name, but should include your name and the passage. Then click on the link entitled "Browse" to locate the document in your computer you want to upload to Blackboard.

B. For collaboration with your group...

To join your group in collaboration for your projects, go to Blackboard>>Communication> Groups> [Select your group]> and choose Discussion Board or Collaboration.

C. To upload other assignments for the professor and teaching assistant only. . .

To upload assignments for the professor and teaching assistant only:

Click on "Assignments"

1. Click on the name of the assignment
2. Click on "Browse my Computer" and choose the file you want to upload from your computer.
3. In "Comments" textbox enter your name and the name of the lesson you are submitting.
4. Click "Submit."

3. *Download PowerPoint Reader*

If needed, visit the www.microsoft.com/downloads site and download a PowerPoint Reader to view the class documents in this format. If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to be in touch with the professor or ITC.

Student Responsibilities

1. Read the Syllabus. Students will be graded on the requirements in the syllabus and PowerPoint presentation each week. Please begin with the Syllabus, and then read the PowerPoint each week.
2. A PowerPoint for each OT book will be posted on Blackboard in the Unit Folders in Course Documents.
3. Students will complete reading assignments as noted in the Assignment Schedule and will complete each week the assigned questions.
 - a. Read the text of the OT in one other modern translation of the Bible.
 - b. Read the required texts and review the PowerPoint notes posted in the Course Documents in conjunction with weekly assignments.
 - c. Keep a Reading Log which will include:
 - i. The date each OT book was read along with class text.
 - ii. The reading log is due according to the assignment schedule.
 - iii. *A penalty of four points per day will be assessed for late reading logs.*
4. Each student will participate in a learning group throughout the semester. These groups will prepare answers as a group to key questions supplied by the class text SOT (see schedule for page and question). The answers should be based upon all class texts, one's personal research and where applicable the PowerPoint presentations. The assignment will be graded on their content, collaboration, and participation.

5. Students will be required to read the group assignment reports of other groups and respond to them on the discussion board as noted in the assignment sheet. Response should be based upon your reading and research.
6. Students will answer individual questions each weeks supplied by the class text SOT (see schedule for page and question) and post answer on Blackboard.
7. There will be a midterm and final.
8. Research Paper
 - a. 11 -14 pages, one can follow Turabian (6th ed.), SBL and MLA for style.
 - b. Research paper must either: 1) address an issue in Old Testament Studies (e.g. Date of the Exodus), 2) discuss a theological concept (e.g. sacrifice), see suggestions below.
 - c. Minimum bibliography = 10 sources, 6 of these sources must be from scholarly journals, see list below.
 - d. Research paper is due Friday May 10

Class Grading

10% Reading Log

10% Class participation (graded seriously).

10% Group Assignments based on content, collaboration, and participation in the group.

15% Individual Assignments

15% Research project

40% Midterm & Final Exam

Schedule & Topic	Reading SOT & ROT	Individual Assign Due Saturday at Midnight	Group Assign Due Friday at Midnight	Discussion Board Due Sunday at Midnight
<u>Wk 1, 1/28</u> Intro to OT	SOT:18-46; & 290-302 & 384-399; ROT:1-6; 421-448	Questions from SOT Pg 26:2; & 42:2	No Group Assignment Page & Question from SOT	Evaluate one student's answer, Either question
<u>Wk 2, Sept 6 2/4</u> Pent & Genesis	SOT:47-80 ROT: 421-448 & 313-372	Pg 61:2, 3; & 78:2, 3	Group Question Pg 61:1 or 78:1	Respond to the Group Report
<u>Wk 3, Sept 13 2/11</u> Exodus	SOT: 81-99 ROT: 241-312	Pg 97:1,2	Group Question 98:4	Respond to the Group Report
<u>Wk 4, Sept 20, 2/18</u> Lev-Deut	SOT:100-168	Pg 112:2 & 142:1	Group Question 112:4 or 142:4	Respond to the Group Report
<u>Wk 5, Sept 27/25</u> Historical Bks, Intro & Joshua	SOT: 169-191 ROT: 159-199	Pg 164-5:1, 4 & 191:4	Group Question 164-5:2 or 4	Respond to the Group Report
<u>Wk 6, Oct 4, 3/4</u> Judge & Ruth	SOT:192-208 ROT: 199-240	Pg 202:2 & 207:1 New = 247 & 254	Group Question 247:3 or 254:2	Respond to the Group Report
<u>Wk 7, Oct 11/11</u> 1 & 2Sam	SOT: 209-226 ROT: 81-107	Pg 225:2 New = 275	Group Question Page 275:4	Respond to the Group Report
<u>Week 8, Oct 18, 3/18</u> NO Class	Fall Break	No Assignments	Yeah!	
<u>Wk 9, Oct 25 3/25</u> Kings & Chron	SOT: 227-266 ROT: 7-64 & 107-128	Pg 248:2, 3 & 265:1 New = 304 & 325	Group Question Pg 248:4 or 265:5	Respond to the Group Report
<u>Wk 10, Nov 1, 4/1</u>	SOT:267-306	Page 279:5	Group Question	Respond to the Group

Assignments will be due on the date listed by Midnight

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Sample Paper Topics

Ahab and Jezebel	<i>Hesed</i>	Prophetic Model of Inspiration
Alexandria	Hexateuch	Prophets and Prophecy,
Alphabetic Acrostics	Hezekiah's Tunnel	Proverb
Amorite	Historiography	Proverbial Wisdom
Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah,	Hosea's Marriage	Purification Offering
Micah, Zephaniah	I Am Yahweh	Purim
Amos' Vocation	Imprecatory Writings	Qohelet
Amphictyony	Inspiration	Rehoboam
Ancient Versions	Jeroboam	Remnant
Apocalypse Writings	Jeroboam II	Reparation Offering
Apocalyptic Eschatology	Joshua's Conquest	Rest
Apocrypha	Josiah	Righteousness
Ashdod Crisis	Jubilee Year	Sabbatical Year
Asherah/Asherim	Judge	Sacral Kingship
Baal	Justice	Samuel
Babylonian Job	Kingdom and Kingdoms	Seer
Baruch	Kosher	Sennacherib
Battle of Carchemish	Lamentations	Sennacherib Crisis
Biblical Wisdom	Latter Prophets	Sheshbazzar
Book of the Law	Levirate Marriage	Solomon's Apostasy
Canaanite	Levites	Son of Man (Daniel)
Canon	Literary Prophets	Son of Man (Ezekiel)
Centralized Monarchy	Maccabean Period	Speculative
Cities of Refuge	Malachi	Suzerain-vassal Treaty
City Gate	Manasseh	Syro-Ephraimitic Crisis
Complaints	Marriage Alliance/Treaty	Teleology
Confessions of Jeremiah	Masorettes	Tetragrammaton
Co-regencies	Megilloth	Tetrateuch
Court History of David	Messiah	Textual Criticism
Covenant	Messianic Prophecy	The Book of Kingdoms
Covenant	Monarchy	The Book of the Covenant
Cyrus	Monolatry	The Chronicler
Date of the Exodus	Monotheism	The Chronological Puzzle
David's Census	Mt. Carmel	The Day of the Lord
Davidic Covenant	Mt. Sinai	The Holy One of Israel
Day of Atonement	Nazarite	The Lord's Anointed
Dead Sea Scrolls	New Covenant	The Passover
Deuteronomistic History	Nineveh	The Satan
Dialogue	Old Testament Languages	The Servant of the Lord
Diaspora	Omri	The Shema
Dirges	Oracle	The Tabernacle
Documentary Hypothesis	Oral Prophets	Theocracy
<i>Ebenezer</i>	Oral Tradition	<i>Toledoth</i>
Edom	Oral Transmission	<i>Torah</i>
Enacted Prophecy	Parallelism	Uncover the feet
Enuma Elish	Patriarchs	Woe Oracle
Faith	Pentateuch	Yahweh of Hosts
Fertility Religion	Polytheism	Zedekiah
Freedom of God	Predictive Prophecy	Zerubbabel
Gilgamesh Epic	Primeval History	Zion Tradition
Gleaning	Prophecy	
Habiru	Prophet	
<i>Herem</i>		

Biblical Studies Periodical List

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

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