

BBBW 5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
2 Hours, Fall 2014, Mondays Hybrid (ORL, GVL, MIA)
(6-8 PM Eastern Time: - Class Dates: 8/25, 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1)
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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. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has adopted this year as the emphasis for core values: **Doctrinal Integrity** in spiritual, personal and academic relationships, supported by spiritual vitality, mission focus, characteristic excellence, and servant leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with 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 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 gain a better understanding of the cultural and historical settings of both the Old and New Testaments via 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 Blackboard)

1. English Bible (*a good translation*)
2. Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., 2002, *Readings From the Ancient Near East*, Baker, (**RANE**)
3. Brisco, Thomas, 1998, *Holman Bible Atlas* by (Broadman & Holman Publishers, (**HBA**))
4. Warner, Dan, *Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook* (Posted on Blackboard)

Recommended reading:

1. Hoerth, Alfred 1998, *Archaeology & The Old Testament*, Baker Book House, (AOT) – *This an optional reading but heavily suggested. Note within the reading schedule of this course reading, suggestions are given from this text that correspond to the topics discussed.*
2. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
3. *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor M., (Hendrickson)
4. *The Sacred Bridge* by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., 2006 (Carta, Jerusalem)
5. *Life in Biblical Israel*, by Stager, L. & King, P., 2001, (Westminster John Knox Press)

Course Evaluation:

Midterm Exam	20%
Map Quizzes (3)	25%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion Participation	10%
Research Paper	25%

Map Quizzes (3 total) – Get to know the World & land of the Bible, see handout “Regions, Cities to Know” for list of regions, cities and places to identify for the quizzes (see also extra detailed maps for you to use found in Course Documents). You will need to consult these maps besides class text and other Bible geography books; as noted, I have also placed many maps for you on Blackboard (under Study Helps) for use in both study and personal presentations. (**Remember many illustrations & photos used in this course are copy righted and cannot be published w/o written permission from me).

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

Exams – note there are study guides 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 come from class notes, power point lectures, and reading **it is up to the student to gather the necessary information!** 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.).

Text's Abbreviations

AOT = Archaeology & the Old Testament (Hoerth)

HBA = Holman Bible Atlas, (Brisco)

RANE = Readings from the Ancient Near East, (Arnold & Beyer)

WKBK = Course Workbook – Available in Blackboard Course Documents

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

Fall 2014 Semester: Classes Begin - Aug 18; Final Exam Deadline - Dec 8 Midnight

Research Paper - will be posted on Blackboard. Students have two options to write on:

- 1) Historical geography of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc.) or a Site/City:

Research for a region should include:

1. Geological/topographical make-up of the region
2. The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper), comprehend how the regions was used, i.e. as defensive, commercial, agricultural, or maybe a combination of all, do some critical homework here
3. All major roads (locate both local and international), where did they go and why
4. Key cities (explain what is their main importance, include key archaeological excavations)
5. All bodies of water
6. Map of the region, locating key cities, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)

Or

Research for a Site/City: should include the history and the identification of the biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.), its history, why it is located where it is, function in history, who controlled it, role it played in the development of the country it is in etc.

- 2) Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard for list of suggested topics. Make sure to get to the point, argue & present the significant elements of your research, have good interaction with sources (note original firsthand sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eyewitnesses' accounts etc.).

Format - Length 12-14 pages (title page and bibliography does not count), double-spaced, standard 12 pt font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7th ed.), optional APA or MLA.

Grading - Form & style and Spelling & grammar = 5% - make sure the theme is developed, logical, coherent!
- Research & bibliography = 10% - use first hand sources when possible, textbooks are secondary, by a good bibliography one is showing me that you did your homework!
- Content = 85% - the argument, the key issues, relevant data, correct page length, etc.

NOTE: 30% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals (1 ½ source per typed page is the acceptable norm, 10 pages = 7 sources etc.). See Handout: Suggested Paper Topics and Biblical Studies Journals for help!

RESEARCH PAPER Due Date: Post marked by Nov 30, 2013 by midnight.

Class ProcedureRead Carefully****

Materials for the class are located in Course Documents on Blackboard they consist of 1) Workbook – Sections 1-8, which are notes that correspond with the PowerPoint lectures; 2) Lectures - these are PowerPoint presentations that you need to look at & work through all in numerical/chronological order. They consist of a lecture usually followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography, and some 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 (they usually match the PowerPoint's but do contain extra materials) if there are any problems please e-mail me or call ASAP. Most sections are followed by slides that give one a visual dimension of the regions studied, but the best thing is to visit

the Holy Land. There are 4 Sections or Units to work through; 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 needful for exams. Note the index of each class textbook as they correspond to the lectures, as the class follows a chronological order. Lectures include:

Four Units (one can go as fast as you want, but lectures are timed to give the maximum amount of interval for each section) make sure to know the geography and key events):

- 1. Unit 1- Setting the Stage: Introduction, Geographic overview of Israel, Genesis 1-11, & Pre-History**
- 2. Unit 2 - Bronze Age (Middle & Late): Patriarchs; Exodus & Conquest & Settlement**
- 3. Unit 3 - Iron Age: United & Divided Monarchy**
- 4. Unit 4 - NT Backgrounds: Jesus in the Galilee & Jesus in Jerusalem**

In Course Documents, the following are located: Map Quizzes, Exams, and Related Materials (extra maps, study guides for exams, and extra articles for you to enhance your understanding and knowledge), please make use of them.

Class Discussion

Each student will participate in the Discussion questions on Blackboard. These are just general questions that highlight key areas that you have read and are looking at in the PowerPoint lectures. Each student will compose a comment and discuss one other students comment. These need to be completed by the time indicated (a 5pt reduction for each day late).

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: Setting the Stage — In the Beginning

August 18 – September 21, Workbook: Sections 1 & 2

1. Introduction
Reading - AOT Chpt 1
2. Geographical Overview: The Land of the Bible
Reading: HBA Part I (Ch 1-3, pp. 2-32)
3. In the Beginning: Gen 1-11
Reading: Gen 1-1; AOT Chpt 9; HBA Ch 4, pp. 33-34; Creation: Ancient Near East, (ANE)
Mythology vs. Genesis Creation: RANE #4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 45
4. Rise of Urbanization Early Bronze Age: Egypt and Mesopotamia
Reading: AOT Chpt 2; HBA pp. 35-40

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

Contribute a comment to Geography/Introduction by September 1

NOTE: In this and the following **Discussion Board topics**, each student is to submit a comment and then follow-up with interactions with two of the other students in the class.

Contribute a comment to Creationism/Beginnings by September 16.

Map Quiz #1 (Must be taken by September 21)

UNIT II: The Bronze Age - World of the Patriarchs & Exodus

September 22-October 25, Workbook Part 3 & Parts of 4

1. Middle Bronze Age: World of the Patriarchs

Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 4, 5, 6; HBA pp.41-51; RANE #14-16, 18, 21-26, 30; Gen 12-50

2. Late Bronze Age: World of Moses - The Political Setting of the Exodus, the Exodus & Wilderness Wanderings

Reading Assignments: AOT Chp 7, 8 & 10: pp. 201-205; HBA pp. 52-74; RANE #17, 27-29, 31, 32, 55; Exodus 12-20;

Read: "Sacrifices and Offerings," by A. Rainey from *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*

Quizzes, Exams and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to *World of the Patriarchs* by October 16th. Remember to interact with at least one other student's comments.

Map Quiz #2 (must be taken by October 19, midnight)

Midterm: Must take exam by October 26, midnight; note study guide may overlap with the next sections!

UNIT III: Late Bronze Age Continued into the Iron Age

October 26-November 29, Workbook: Section Parts of 4, 5 & 6

1. Conquest and Settlement - Joshua and Judges

Reading Assignments: AOT 10 & 11; HBA pp. 89-101; RANE #50; Joshua, Judges

2. Emergence of the Monarchy: From Tribe to Nation: The United Monarchy

Reading Assignments: AOT 12-14; HBA pp. 102-114; RANE #51, 54, 59; II Sam 1-12, I Kings 1-11

3. Divided Monarchy/Kingdom: Fall of Samaria

Reading Assignments: AOT 15, 16; HBA pp. 115-141; RANE #39-43, 48; I Kgs 12-2, Kgs 17;

4. Southern Kingdom: Judah

Reading Assignments: AOT 17-19; HBA pp. 142-157; RANE 56-58, 60-62, 155

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the Iron Age by November 16

UNIT #4: New Testament Backgrounds

November 30- Dec. 8, Workbook 7 & 8

1. Jesus in Galilee

Reading Assignments: OTA 20; HBA pp. 207-215; Matthew 1-20

2. Jesus in Jerusalem

Reading Assignments: HBA pp. 216-235; Matthew 21-28; Luke 19-24

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board: Contribute a comment to the NT Backgrounds by December 5

Map Quiz #3 must be taken by December 6, midnight.

FINAL: Must take exam by Dec 8, midnight, Blackboard closes then and I cannot open it!

RESEARCH PAPER Due Date: Post marked by Nov 30, 2014 by midnight.

Course Bibliography: General References

Dictionaries, etc.

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- Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. (rev. ed.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- 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: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.
- Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Gralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids (ed.), 1997
- Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*. Craig Evans & Stanley Porter (eds.). Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1955.
- _____. *The Ancient Near East*, vols 1 and 2: *Anthology of Texts and Pictures*, 1958, 1975.

Atlases

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- Wright, Paul H. *Greatness Grace & Glory: Carta's Atlas of Biblical Biography*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2008.

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- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.
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- Smith, George Adam. *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1931.

Bible Handbooks, etc

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- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.
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Wiseman, Donald J. ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: University Press, 1973.

Archaeology

Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.

Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.

Hoerth, A. *Archaeology and the Old Testament, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.*

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