

OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Spr. 2010, 3 Hours
Hybrid class CIV, Orlando to Miami 3:00-4:50pm
August 30; September 13, 27; October 11, 25; November 8, 29; December 6
D. A. Warner, PhD
dwarner@nobts.edu or dwarenr@embarqmail.com
Cell – 407-468-4251

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. 1

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.

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 values of this course will add to the spiritual vitality of the student through interaction with the Scripture.

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.

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. In the Introduction to Greek course on Blackboard

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

5. 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 week 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. 8-15 pages, one can follow Turabian (6th ed.), SBL and MLS 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 week 14, Nov 29th

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
Wk 1, Aug 30 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
Wk 2, Sept 6 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
Wk 3, Sept 13 Exodus	SOT: 81-99 ROT: 241-312	Pg 97:1,2	Group Question 98:4	Respond to the Group Report
Wk 4, Sept 20, Lev-Deut	SOT:100-168	Pg 112:2 & 142:1	Group Question 112:4 or 142:4	Respond to the Group Report
Wk 5, Sept 27 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
Wk 6, Oct 4, Judge & Ruth	SOT:192-208 ROT: 199-240	Pg 202:2 & 207:1	Group Question 202:3 or 207:2	Respond to the Group Report
Wk 7, Oct 11 1 & 2Sam	SOT: 209-226 ROT: 81-107	Pg 225:2	Group Question Page 225:4	Respond to the Group Report
Week 8, Oct 18, NO Class	Fall Break	No Assignments	Yeah!	
Wk 9, Oct 25 Kings & Chron	SOT: 227-266 ROT: 7-64 & 107-128	Pg 248 Group Question:2, 3 & 265:1	Group Question Pg 248:4 or 265:5	Respond to the Group Report
Wk 10, Nov 1, Ezra-Neh-Est	SOT:267-306 ROT: 65-80	Page 279:5	Group Question Pg 279:1 or 286:2	Respond to the Group Report
Wk 11, Nov 8 Poetical Books Intro-Job-Psalms	SOT:307-355	340:1, 2 & 354:2, 5	Group Question Pg 325:1 or 340:3	Respond to the Group Report

Wk 12 Nov 15, Prov-Ecc-SS	SOT:356-402	Pg 364:1& 372:2 & 381:1	Group Question Pg 372:3 or 381:2	Respond to the Group Report
Wk 13, Nov 22, NO Class	Thanksgiving	Eat Turkey!		
Wk 14, Nov 29 Prophets Intro-Isa- Daniel Paper due	SOT:403-461 ROT:373-420	Page 413:1, 4 & 423:4 & 460:2	Group Question Pg 413:2 or 432:2	Respond to the Group Report
Wk 15, Dec 6 Hosea-Malachi	SOT:462-554	Pg 471:2 & 486:3 & 502:3	Group Question Pg 471:5 or 550:4	Respond to the Group Report

Assignments will be due on the date listed by Midnight

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Sample Paper Topics

Ahab and Jezebel	Cyrus
Alexandria	Date of the Exodus
Alphabetic Acrostics	David's Census
Amorite	Davidic Covenant
Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah,	Day of Atonement
Micah, Zephaniah	Dead Sea Scrolls
Amos' Vocation	Deuteronomistic History
Amphictyony	Dialogue
Ancient Versions	Diaspora
Apocalypse Writings	Dirges
Apocalyptic Eschatology	Documentary Hypothesis
Apocrypha	<i>Ebenezer</i>
Ashdod Crisis	Edom
Asherah/Asherim	Enacted Prophecy
Baal	Enuma Elish
Babylonian Job	Faith
Baruch	Fertility Religion
Battle of Carchemish	Freedom of God
Biblical Wisdom	Gilgamesh Epic
Book of the Law	Gleaning
Canaanite	Habiru
Canon	<i>Herem</i>
Centralized Monarchy	<i>Hesed</i>
Cities of Refuge	Hexateuch
City Gate	Hezekiah's Tunnel
Complaints	Historiography
Confessions of Jeremiah	Hosea's Marriage
Co-regencies	I Am Yahweh
Court History of David	Imprecatory Writings
Covenant	Inspiration
Covenant	Jeroboam

Jeroboam II	Oral Prophets	Son of Man (Ezekiel)
Joshua's Conquest	Oral Tradition	Speculative
Josiah	Oral Transmission	Suzerain-vassal Treaty
Jubilee Year	Parallelism	Syro-Ephraimitic Crisis
Judge	Patriarchs	Teleology
Justice	Pentateuch	Tetragrammaton
Kingdom and Kingdoms	Polytheism	Tetrateuch
Kosher	Predictive Prophecy	Textual Criticism
Lamentations	Primeval History	The Book of Kingdoms
Latter Prophets	Prophecy	The Book of the Covenant
Levirate Marriage	Prophet	The Chronicler
Levites	Prophetic Model of Inspiration	The Chronological Puzzle
Literary Prophets	Prophets and Prophecy,	The Day of the Lord
Maccabean Period	Proverb	The Holy One of Israel
Malachi	Proverbial Wisdom	The Lord's Anointed
Manasseh	Purification Offering	The Passover
Marriage Alliance/Treaty	Purim	The Satan
Masoretes	Qohelet	The Servant of the Lord
Megilloth	Rehoboam	The Shema
Messiah	Remnant	The Tabernacle
Messianic Prophecy	Reparation Offering	Theocracy
Monarchy	Rest	<i>Toledoth</i>
Monolatry	Righteousness	<i>Torah</i>
Monotheism	Sabbatical Year	Uncover the feet
Mt. Carmel	Sacral Kingship	Woe Oracle
Mt. Sinai	Samuel	Yahweh of Hosts
Nazarite	Seer	Zedekiah
New Covenant	Sennacherib	Zerubbabel
Nineveh	Sennacherib Crisis	Zion Tradition
Old Testament Languages	Sheshbazzar	
Omri	Solomon's Apostasy	
Oracle	Son of Man (Daniel)	

Biblical Studies Periodical List

Andrews University Seminary studies	Estudios Biblicos
Archaeology Odyssey	Interpretation of Scripture
Australian Biblical Review	Expository Times
Bible Review	Hebrew studies
Bible Translator	Hebrew Union College Annual
Biblica	Interpretation
Biblical Archaeology Review	Israel Exploration Journal
Biblical Research	Jewish Bible Quarterly
Bibliotheca Sacra	Jewish Quarterly Review
Biblishe Notizen	Journal for the Study of the Old Test.
Biblishe Zeitschrift	Journal of Biblical Literature
Bibliotheca Orientalis	Journal of Cuneiform Studies
Bulletin for Biblical Research	Journal of Jewish studies
Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research	Journal of Near Eastern studies
Catholic Biblical Quarterly	Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages
Currents in Research: Biblical Studies	Journal of Semitic Studies
Dead Sea Discoveries	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 Wissenschaft