

BISR9301 READINGS IN OLD TESTAMENT GENRE
Ph.D. Reading Colloquium
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
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Fall Semester 2012

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.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that helps prepare the student to grow in the interpretation and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should exhibit excellence in the ability to interpret Scripture. This course primarily addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Course Description

This Ph.D. reading colloquium in Biblical Hermeneutics covers a variety of topics essential for a complete understanding of the field of Old Testament Interpretation. The student is expected to read thoroughly the assigned material and to participate actively in the discussions of the material. Written reviews and/or summaries of the works are expected. This colloquium addresses specifically Old Testament interpretation within the field of Biblical Hermeneutics.

Required Textbooks

Narrative

1. Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.
2. Berlin, Adele. *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*. Sheffield: Almond Press, 1983.
3. Walsh, Jerome T. *Old Testament Narrative: A Guide to Interpretation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Pentateuch

4. Vogt, Peter T. *Interpreting the Pentateuch: An Exegetical Handbook*. In *Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.

Prophets

5. VanGemeren, Willem A. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word: An Introduction to the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Poetry and Wisdom

6. Crenshaw, James. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Revised and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.
7. Petersen, David L., and Kent Harold Richards. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. In *Old Testament Series*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Theology

8. Baker, David W., and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.
9. Brueggemann, Walter. *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*. In *Library of Biblical Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.
10. Hasel, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Methodology and Practice of Interpretation

11. Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*. Revised and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
12. Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
13. Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Text

14. Tov, Emmanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

Course Requirements

The student will:

1. Read and review the required texts as stipulated in the schedule below.
 - a. Each student will prepare a review of one book and one review of selected chapters in another book for each meeting. The book review will consist of the following: bibliographic data about the author, the thesis/purpose of the book, a summary of the development of the thesis, a critique of the book, and a synopsis of 3 reviews of the book from scholarly journals. The reviews should be 4-5 pages, single-spaced. The chapters review should be 2-3 pages, single-spaced.
 - b. Each student will read the books being reviewed by fellow students in order to discuss the books during the meeting.
2. Participate actively in the discussion of the readings.
3. Attend every meeting. Because of the nature of the course, no absences are allowed. If emergency situations dictate an absence, the student will schedule a make-up session with the professor. Work is still due the day scheduled even if the student is absent. Any student missing more than one meeting must repeat the colloquium.

Course Schedule

Session 1

Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*

Adele Berlin, *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*

Jerome Walsh, *Old Testament Narrative: A Guide to Interpretation*

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 1-6

Session 2

Peter Vogt, *Interpreting the Pentateuch: An Exegetical Handbook*

James Crenshaw, *Old Testament Wisdom*

David Petersen and Kent Richards, *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 7-9, 11-13

Session 3

Gerhard Hasel, *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. 4th ed.

John Barton, *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*

Walter Brueggemann, *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*

Willem VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*, chapters 1-3, 8, 12

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 10 and 14

Session 4

Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 4th ed.

Robert Chisholm, *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide for Using Biblical Hebrew*

Emmanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, 3rd ed.

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 15-16

Willem VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*, chapters 4-7, 9-11

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- _____. *The World of Biblical Literature*. New York: Basic Books, 1992.
- Anderson, Cheryl B. *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Baker, David W., and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.
- Bar-Efrat, Shimon. *Narrative Art in the Bible*. Sheffield: Almond, 1992.
- Barr, James. *The Scope & Authority of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1980.
- Bartholomew, Craig G., and David J. H. Beldman, eds. *Hearing the Old Testament: Listening for God's Address*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.
- Bartholomew, Craig G., et al eds. "Behind the Text": *History and Biblical Interpretation*. In Scripture and Hermeneutics Series. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- _____. *Canon and Biblical Interpretation*. In Scripture and Hermeneutics Series. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
- Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*. Revised and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Berlin, Adele. *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985.
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- Bray, Gerald. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Bridge, Steven L. *Getting the Old Testament: What It Meant to Them, What It Means for Us*. Peabody, MA: Hedrickson, 2009.
- Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Brown, Jerry Wayne. *The Rise of Biblical Criticism in America, 1800-1870; The New England Scholars*. Middleton, Conn: Wesleyan University Press, 1969.
- Broyles, C. C., ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament. A Guide for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*. In Library of Biblical Theology. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.
- Cameron, Nigel M. de S. *Biblical Higher Criticism and the Defense of Infallibilism in 19th Century Britain*. In Text and Studies in Religion Vol. 33. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1987.
- Carson, D.A. and Woodbridge, John D., eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
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- Couch, Mal, ed. *An Introduction to Classical Evangelical Hermeneutics: A Guide to the History and Practice of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000.
- Cox, William E. *An Examination of Dispensationalism*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1963.
- Crenshaw, James. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Revised and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.
- Dana, H. E. & Glaze, R. E. *Interpreting the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman, 1961.
- Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*, Revised and Expanded. St. Louis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1993.
- Dyck, Elmer, ed. *The Act of Bible Reading: A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Evans, Craig A. and Stinespring, William F., eds. *Early Jewish and Christian Exegesis: Studies in Memory of William Hugh Brownlee*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1987.
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