



**BISR9301 READINGS IN OLD TESTAMENT GENRE**  
**Ph.D. Reading Colloquium; Division of Biblical Studies**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Dr. Harold R. Mosley, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew**  
**Dodd 209; 282-4455 (ext. 3251); [hmosley@nobts.edu](mailto:hmosley@nobts.edu)**  
**Fall Semester 2014**

**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 by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting the Bible. Spiritual Vitality, the focus core value for the academic year, is addressed by reminding students that principles of Scripture are to be studied and practiced. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Gospel to the world. Characteristic Excellence by preparing students to be excellent interpreters of the Bible. Servant Leadership is modeled through classroom deportment. This course 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*. 4<sup>th</sup> 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*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

**Text**

14. Tov, Emmanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 (if available). The book review 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

The time for all class meetings is 6:00-8:00 PM.

### August 28

#### Book Review

Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Adele Berlin, *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Chapters Review

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 1-2

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 3-4

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 5-6

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

**September 25**

Book Review

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

James Crenshaw, *Old Testament Wisdom*

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

David Petersen and Kent Richards, *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters Review

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 7-8

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

David Baker and Bill Arnold, *The Face of Old Testament Studies*, chapters 12-13

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

**November 6**

Book Review

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Walter Brueggemann, *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters Review

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Willem VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*, chapters 8 and 12

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

**December 4**

Book Review

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Emmanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters Review

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

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