



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

**BISR9301 READINGS IN OLD TESTAMENT GENRE
Ph.D. Reading Colloquium
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Fall Semester 2016-2017**

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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

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for academic year 2015-2016 is *Characteristic Excellence*. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom department.

Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses six competencies directly and one indirectly.

1. **Biblical Exposition:** by preparing students to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** through study of historical and modern methods of interpreting Scripture, thus enhancing the development of theological and interpretive principles.
3. **Discipleship Making:** by modeling the principles of discipleship through classroom department.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** through interaction among students within the group.
5. **Servant Leadership:** by modeling and reflecting the attitude of Christ in the life of a disciple.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** through discussion and modeling of spiritual disciplines.

Course Description

This Ph.D. reading colloquium in Biblical Hermeneutics covers a variety of topics essential for a complete understanding of interpretation of Old Testament genre. 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 genre 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 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

All class meetings is 6:00-8:00 PM.

September 1

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: _____

October 6

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 3

Book Review

Gerhard Hasel, *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. 4th 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 1

Book Review

Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 4th 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*, 3rd 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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- _____. *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.
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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.
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- 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.
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