



OTSR9303 Supervised Reading Colloquium: Pentateuch, Prophecy, Wisdom, and Poetry Fall 2018

Dr. R. Dennis Cole Professor of Old Testament Hebrew and Archaeology
Office: Dodd Faculty Building #201 Phone: 504-282-4455 ext 3248
Email: rdcole@nobts.edu

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

The seminary has five core values.

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 deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Doctrinal Integrity**.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

Competencies Addressed in this course:

1. **Biblical Exposition.**
2. **Christian Theological Heritage**
3. **Spiritual and Character Formation**

Required Textbooks

See Bibliography (except for multi-volume reference works).

7 Students

Course Requirements

The student will:

1. Read and review the required texts as stipulated in the schedule below.
 - a. Each student will prepare **four** book reviews. The reviews 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 2 reviews of the book from scholarly journals. The reviews of the more lengthy books should be 4-6 pages, single-spaced.
 - b. Each student will read the books being reviewed by fellow students in order to discuss the books during the meeting. Thus reviews should be submitted to the professor and to fellow students a minimum of 2 days in advance of the colloquium 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.

Student Outcomes: Goals and Objectives

1. Students will comprehend the roles of theological, historical, archaeological, socio-cultural, and literary background materials in the interpretation of the Old Testament Pentateuch, Prophecy, Wisdom, and Poetry.

2. Students will value the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the biblical period.
3. Students will apply their knowledge and comprehension of the Old Testament including: theology, introduction, archaeology, historical geography, religion, manners and customs, historical and social setting, and the literature of the ancient world to the process of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately.

Colloquium Schedule

September 7 Pentateuch

Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch as Narrative*. Zondervan, 1992.

Alexander, T. D. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed. Baker, 2002.

Averbeck, Richard E. "Clean and Unclean," "Leviticus, Theology of," and "Offerings and Sacrifices." Pages 477-86, 907-923, and 996-1022 in vol. 4 of *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*.

Fretheim, Terence E. *The Pentateuch*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Abingdon, 1996.

Hartley, John E. "Excursus: Ritual Purity." In *Leviticus*. WBC. Vol. 4. Word, 1992: 140-47.

Rainey, Anson. "Sacrifices and Offerings." Pages 194-211 in vol. V of *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*.

Wenham, Gordon J. "Introduction," and "Unclean Animals." In *The Book of Leviticus*. NICOT. Eerdmans, 1979: 3-37, 161-85.

Whybray, R.N. *The Making of the Pentateuch*. JSOT Supp. 53. JOST, 1987.

October 5 Prophecy

Blenkinsopp, J. A. *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. Rev. Westminster John Knox, 1996.

Gordon, Robert P. "The Place is Too Small for Us": *The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship*.

Eisenbrauns, 1995. Selections: Introduction, Part 1, Part 3:107-175, Part 4: 275-88, 308-331, 345-76, Part 5: 415-52, Part 5: 525-38, 563-75, Part 7.

Gowan, Donald E. *Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Westminster John Knox, 1998.

Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Petersen, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Westminster John Knox, 2002.

November 2 Wisdom

Crenshaw, James. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Rev. ed. Westminster John Knox, 1998.

Crenshaw, James, ed. In *Studies in Ancient Israelite Wisdom*. KTAV, 1976. Selections: 1-45, 314-26.
Perdue, L. *Wisdom and Creation: A Theology of Wisdom Literature*. Abingdon, 1994.
Rad, Gerhard von. *Wisdom in Israel*. Trinity, 1993.

December 7 Poetry

Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Basic Books, 1985.
Crenshaw, James. *The Psalms: An Introduction*. Eerdmans, 2001.
Berlin, A. *Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. Indiana University, 1985.
Kugel, James. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Johns Hopkins. 1981.
Westermann, Claus. *Praise and Lament in the Psalms*. John Knox, 1981.

Pentateuch

Alexander, T. D. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. 2nd ed. Baker, 2002.
Averbeck, Richard E. "Clean and Unclean," "Leviticus, Theology of," and "Offerings and Sacrifices." Pages 477-86, 907-923, and 996-1022 in vol. 4 of *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*.
Fretheim, Terence E. *The Pentateuch*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Abingdon, 1996.
Hartley, John E. "Excursus: Ritual Purity." In *Leviticus*. WBC. Vol. 4. Word, 1992: 140-47.
Rainey, Anson. "Sacrifices and Offerings." Pages 194-211 in vol. V of *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*.
Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch as Narrative*. Zondervan, 1992.
Wenham, Gordon J. "Introduction," and "Unclean Animals." In *The Book of Leviticus*. NICOT. Eerdmans, 1979: 3-37, 161-85.
Whybray, R.N. *The Making of the Pentateuch*. JSOT Supp. 53. JOST, 1987.

Reference

Alexander, T. Desmond and David W. Baker, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

Prophetic Books

Blenkinsopp, J. A. *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. Rev. Westminster John Knox, 1996.
Gordon, Robert P. "The Place is Too Small for Us": *The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship*. Eisenbrauns, 1995. Selections: Introduction, Part 1, Part 3:107-175, Part 4: 275-88, 308-331, 345-76, Part 5: 415-52, Part 5: 525-38, 563-75, Part 7.
Gowan, Donald E. *Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Westminster John Knox, 1998.
Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
Petersen, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Wisdom

Crenshaw, James. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Rev. ed. Westminster John Knox, 1998.
Crenshaw, James, ed. In *Studies in Ancient Israelite Wisdom*. KTAV, 1976. Selections: 1-45, 314-26.
Perdue, L. *Wisdom and Creation: A Theology of Wisdom Literature*. Abingdon, 1994.
Rad, Gerhard von. *Wisdom in Israel*. Trinity, 1993.

Poetic Books

Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Basic Books, 1985.

Crenshaw, James. *The Psalms: An Introduction*. Eerdmans, 2001.

Berlin, A. *Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. Indiana University, 1985.

Kugel, James. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Johns Hopkins. 1981.

Westermann, Claus. *Praise and Lament in the Psalms*. John Knox, 1981.