



OTHB9401 RELIGION IN THE FORMER PROPHETS
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
Spring Semester 2016-17

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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. The core value focus for the 2016-17 academic year is *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.”

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian and Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation. The curriculum competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.

Course Description

This seminar is designed as an intensive exegetical study of selected texts in Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Attention is given to the ancient Near Eastern religious environments and the practices of ancient Israel, including the areas of cultic leadership, practices, symbols, and worship centers.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, in order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student should:

1. Be able to demonstrate a mastery of the historical background, the theological themes, and the critical religious issues of the Former Prophets.
2. Value the contributions of the Former Prophets to the theology of the Church.
3. Be able to apply, with the help of resources, into both scholarly and church settings an in-depth analysis of the various texts of the Former Prophets.
4. Be able to translate, with the help of resources, the Hebrew text of the Former Prophets.

Required Textbooks

1. Hess, Richard S. *Israelite Religion: An Archaeological and Biblical Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
2. Niditch, Susan. *Ancient Israelite Religion*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Additionally, students should consult standard historical and theological works, as well as standard contemporary commentary series, such as the following:

Works on Israel's History

Rainer Albertz, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period, Vol 1: From the Beginnings to the End of the Monarchy*

John Bright, *A History of Israel* (4th edition)

John Hayes and Maxwell Miller, *Israelite and Judean History*

Siegfried Herrmann, *A History of Israel in Old Testament Times*

Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests* (2d ed.)

Iain Provan, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III, *A Biblical History of Israel*

Alberto Soggin, *A History of Ancient Israel*

Theological Works

Alberto Soggin, *A History of Ancient Israel*

- Walther Eichrodt, *Theology of the Old Testament* (2 vols)
- Gerhard von Rad, *Old Testament Theology* (2 vols)
- Commentary Series
 - Anchor Bible
 - International Theological Commentary
 - Interpreter's Bible
 - New American Commentary
 - New Century Bible
 - New International Commentary on the Old Testament
 - NIV Application Commentary
 - Old Testament Library
 - Tyndale Old Testament Commentary
 - Word Biblical Commentary
 - Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary

Course Teaching Methodology

The methodologies for the seminar include:

1. The professor will employ the lecture method to introduce the seminar.
2. The student will prepare and present critical reviews of books and articles related to the history and themes of the Former Prophets.
3. The student will prepare and present a background study related to the religious environment of Israel/Judah during the period of the Former Prophets.
4. The student will translate key passages, develop a textual outline, and analyze an assigned portion of the Former Prophets.
5. The student will prepare and present a major seminar paper related to the religion of Israel/Judah during the period of the Former Prophets. The paper must demonstrate in-depth research and appropriate methodologies as well as the use of Hebrew, Greek, or any other language applicable to the particular subject.
6. The student will serve as the major critic for a fellow student's major seminar paper, focusing on form, style, and content.
7. The student will complete a final examination.

Course Requirements

The student will:

1. Prepare and present a critical book or article review related to the history and themes of the Former Prophets.
2. Prepare and present a background study on the religious environment of Israel during the Former Prophets.
3. Translate key passages, develop a textual outline, and analyze an assigned portion of the Former Prophets.
4. Prepare and present a major seminar paper related to the religion of Israel/Judah during the period of the Former Prophets. The paper must demonstrate in-depth research and appropriate methodologies as well as the use of Hebrew, Greek, or any other language applicable to the particular subject.
5. Serve as the major critic for a fellow student's major seminar paper, focusing on form, style, and content.
6. Complete a final examination.

Course Evaluation

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation.	10%
Book/Article Reviews.	15%
Translation, Outline, and Analysis.	15%
Background Study.	20%
Seminar Paper/Major Critic.	30%
Final Examination.	10%

Course Schedule

Jan 24 Introduction to the Course; Distribution of the Work of the Seminar

Jan 31 Critical Book Reviews

----- - Rainer Albertz, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period* (Vol. 1)

----- - Martin Noth, *Deuteronomistic History*

Feb 7 Critical Book Reviews
----- - Patrick D. Miller, *The Religion of Ancient Israel*
----- - J. Andrew Dearman, *Religion and Culture in Ancient Israel*
----- - E. W. Heaton, *The Hebrew Kingdoms*

Feb 14 Background Study
----- - “Syncretism in the Kingdoms”
----- - “Canaanite Worship Practices”
----- - “Sanctuaries: One v. Many”

Feb 21 Background Study
----- - “Sanctuaries at Bethel and Dan”
----- - “The Roles of Prophet, Priest, and King”

Feb 28 **Mardi Gras - No Classes**

Mar 7 Translation, Outline, and Analysis of Joshua -----

March 13-17 Spring Break

Mar 21 Translation, Outline, and Analysis of Judges -----

Mar 28 Translation, Outline, and Analysis of Samuel -----

Apr 4 Translation, Outline, and Analysis of Kings -----

Apr 11 Review/Discussion of Required Texts

Apr 18 Seminar Paper Presentations
----- (Major Critic -----)
----- (Major Critic -----)

Apr 25 Seminar Paper Presentations
----- (Major Critic -----)
----- (Major Critic -----)

May 2 Seminar Paper Presentations
----- (Major Critic -----)

May 9 FINAL EXAMINATION

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