



**OTSR/BISR9301 Old Testament Overview and Backgrounds
SPRING 2018**

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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.

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 it enhances the student's ability to interpret the Bible accurately. Characteristic Excellence is addressed in that the student should exhibit excellence in the ability to interpret Scripture. Servant Leadership is the focus core value for this year and is expected to be modeled in classroom demeanor. This course primarily addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The 2017-18 Core Value focus is on **Servant Leadership**.

Course Description

This Ph.D. reading colloquium in Biblical Backgrounds in Interpretation covers general works related to biblical backgrounds in the field as well as the specific areas of Old Testament and New Testament studies. 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.

Required Textbooks

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

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 4-5 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.
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

Feb 15 Meeting One - Introduction / History, Methodology & Literature

McKenzie, Steven L. and M. Patrick Graham, eds. *The Hebrew Bible Today: An Introduction to Critical Issues*.

Brisco, Thomas. *Holman Bible Atlas*. **Comparison with other Bible Atlases.**

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4 ed.

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

***Walton, John. Editor. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the Old Testament*. 5 vols.

***Josephus, Flavius. *Antiquities of the Jews: Complete and Unabridged*. CreateSpace, 2013.

Mar 15 Theology & Hermeneutics

Baker, David W. and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*.

Broyles, Craig C., ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*.

Dockery, David S., Kenneth A. Mathews, and Robert B. Sloan. *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*. Library of Biblical Theology.

Klink, Edward W., III, and Darian R. Lockett. *Understanding Biblical Theology*.

Apr 5 Backgrounds and Archaeology

Dever, William G. *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?*. Eerdmans, 2003.

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000-586 BCE*.

Stern, Ephraim. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Vol. II. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 BCE)*.

Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, & Israel in Ancient Times*.

Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

May 3 Text & Canon

Brotzman, Ellis R. and Eric Tully, *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*.

Lim, Timothy H. *The Formation of the Jewish Canon*.

McDonald, Lee Martin. *The Biblical Canon: Its Origin, Transmission, and Authority*.

Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd Rev. & Exp. Ed.

Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. 3 edition.

Bibliography and Books for Review:

Overview & Reference

- Brisco, Thomas. *Holman Bible Atlas*. Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- McKenzie, Steven L. and M. Patrick Graham, eds. *The Hebrew Bible Today: An Introduction to Critical Issues*. Westminster John Knox, 1998.
- Walton, John. Editor. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the Old Testament*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
- Josephus, Flavius. *Antiquities of the Jews: Complete and Unabridged*. CreateSpace, 2013.

Background, History, and Archaeology

- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4 ed. Westminster, 2000. th
- Dever, William G. *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?*. Eerdmans, 2003.
- Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Provan, Iain, V. Phillips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Westminster, 2003. Selections
- Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, & Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton Univ., 1992.
- Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000-586 BCE*. Doubleday, 1990.
- Stern, Ephraim. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Vol. II. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 BCE)*. Doubleday, 2001.

Theology

- Brueggemann, Walter. *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*. Library of Biblical Theology. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.
- Klink, Edward W., III, and Darian R. Lockett. *Understanding Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Old Testament Hermeneutics

- Baker, David W. and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*. Baker, 1999.
- Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*. Revised and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Broyles, Craig C., ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Dockery, David S., Kenneth A. Mathews, and Robert B. Sloan. *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994. "General Articles" and "Foundations for Old Testament Interpretation," pp. 1-352.

Text and Canon

- Brotzman, Ellis R. and Eric Tully, *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Lim, Timothy H. *The Formation of the Jewish Canon*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013.
- McDonald, Lee Martin. *The Biblical Canon: Its Origin, Transmission, and Authority*. New York: T & T Clark, 2017.
- Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd Rev. & Exp. Ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.
- Würthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament*. 3 edition. Rev. & expanded by Alexander Achilles Fischer. Trans. by E. F. Rhodes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.