

**OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Online**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**3 Hours Spring 2017**

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**Seminary 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 worshiping 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 Characteristic Excellence.

**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.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition.

### **Catalog Description**

This course is an introduction to the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament. Significant interpretive issues are noted, major theological themes covered, and their relevance for Christian living addressed.

### **Goals & Objectives**

1. The student will read and comprehend the Old Testament noting the structure and content of the various books contained within.
2. The student will apply principles of interpretation (Biblical Hermeneutics) to the text of the Bible in order to glean its meaning and importance for the Christian community of faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. The student will explore materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

This course is primarily a reading course, which involves three major activities:

**First** - is the reading the Old Testament in its entirety following the three-fold organization of the Hebrew Bible: Torah (Pentateuch) Former and Latter Prophets (Joshua-Kings and Isaiah-Malachi respectively), and the Writings (Psalms, Wisdom, Megilloth, Chronicles-Ezra/Nehemiah). The exception is reading Daniel which is found in the Writings, along with the reading of the Book of Ezekiel). The reading assignments are outlined in the "Course Syllabus" according to a date schedule which has corresponding "Discussion Board" postings and quizzes in the "Test" section.

**Second**, - additional notes and helps in interpretation are posted in the "Course Documents" section which includes such items as outlines of the Biblical books, Biblical Backgrounds information, and articles for reading for which you are responsible.

**Third**, - you will need to enter the "Discussion Board" section in which ten different sections are posted. Each of the ten sections has a question (or questions) under the subject area for which you will enter your contribution to the

discussion. During the prescribed time frame you will also need to make two responses to those contributions made by fellow classmates or additions I may make to the area. You make more contributions, but two are required.

**Fourth**, - you will take the given quiz by the date posted in the syllabus and in the Blackboard test area (you can take them early, hence once you complete one the next will open automatically). Midterm and Final Exams are also posted in the Test section and are to be taken by the given dates in class schedule.

### **Textbooks**

1. Contemporary English Bible (a good translation such as the revised NASB, NKJV, HCBS, NRSV)
2. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by W. LaSor, D.A. Hubbard, F.W. Bush, and L.C. Allen. Eerdmans, 1996. OTS

### **Recommended reading**

1. *Readings From the Ancient Near East* by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer (Baker, 2002) RANE
2. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. By Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
3. *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor Matthews. (Hendrickson)

### **Course Requirements**

1. **Research Paper: Due Wednesday, May 3, 2017**
  - a. Research one of the topics suggested below or a topic relevant to this course in consultation with the professor, please email me your request in this regard.
  - b. Length 12-15 pages, double spaced, 12 pt font.
  - c. The paper should follow Turabian (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) or other accepted style (SBL, APA)
  - d. See <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/turabiantutor7thjan08.pdf> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper.
  - e. NOTE: 30% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals.
  - f. See Blackboard postings on Biblical Studies Journals for help

### *Suggested Research Topics*

Other topics may be suggested in consultation with the professor.

1. Genesis Creation in the Context of ANE Mythology
2. The Concept of Faith in the Life of Abraham and Later Israelite Leaders
3. The Location of Mount Sinai
4. The Law of Moses and the Law Codes of Ancient Mesopotamia
5. The Mosaic Covenant in Light of ANE Covenant Making
6. The Number of Israelites in the Exodus from Egypt and Wilderness Wanderings
7. The Israelite Pilgrimage Festivals and Their Function in the Nation's History and Worship
8. Principles of Leadership from the Book of Joshua

9. The Conquest of the Promised Land in Joshua and Judges
10. Israelite Kingship: The Rise of David and the Decline of Saul
11. The Rise and Fall of the Solomonic Kingdom
12. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal and Asherah: Prophetic vs. Popular Religion
13. Jeremiah Versus The False Prophets
14. Justice and Righteousness in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
15. Prophetic Vision and the Emergence of Messianic Hope Among Israelite Prophets
16. Worship in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
17. The Role of the Psalms in Ancient Israel's Worship
18. Biblical Wisdom and Wisdom in the ANE: Comparison and Contrast

You may use any of the following presentation forms: Turabian, APA, MLA, or SBL. Submit your paper via Blackboard.

2. **Discussion Boards (DB):** Each person is to post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas. Then each student is to comment on at least two other person's posting during each given section.

\*\*\*\*\*NOTE: Discussion Boards\*\*\*\*\*

Each student must post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas. Each student must also comment on at least two other student's posts for each area. A reduction in percentage for each day late, after 4 days no credit given.

3. **Quizzes** (usually one per week) which are based upon reading of both the biblical text and class textbook, so read well, outline the book, noted key dates, geographical movement, key celebrations and events, who did what, etc. notes only can be used but the quizzes are timed. Additionally, students will complete a midterm and a final exam.

\*\*\*Note\*\*\*

2-point reduction for per-day for late quizzes and Discussion Board, after a week no grade given! Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date

### Course Evaluation

- |                             |                  |   |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| 1. Weekly Quizzes (15)      | 30% (300 points) | 20 pts ea, 2 pts off for each day late) |
| 2. Mid-Term Examination     | 20% (200 points) | – Closed book                           |
| 3. Final Exam               | 20% (200 points) | – Closed book,                          |
|                             |                  | <b>Completed by</b>                     |
|                             |                  | <b>Thurs., May 11th</b>                 |
| 4. Discussion Participation | 10% (100 points) | – 2 pts off each day late               |
| 5. Research Paper           | 20% (200 points) | <b>Due, Wednesday,</b>                  |
|                             |                  | <b>May 3, 2017</b>                      |

*Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments.  
Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date  
Quizzes 2 Points off for each day late, after 4 days a Zero will be given*

# Course Schedule

Note: This is mainly a reading course supplemented by class notes (Posted on Blackboard), So please read all materials!

## UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

January 23–February 12

1. Introductions – (see Discussion Board (DB) schedule below), introduce yourself, what’s your major, hobbies, where you are you from, etc. If you have a picture post it, like to see a face! (**Due Wednesday, January 25, 2017**)
2. Reading Assignments (follow quiz schedule): this unit is from Genesis – Deuteronomy
3. Note- for sections/quizzes #2-3, also read in Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible article on “Sacrifices and Offerings.” (it is posted on Blackboard in this section)

### *Quizzes and Discussion Lists:*

#### Discussion Board:

1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction by **January 25**
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by **February 1**
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by **February 8**

#### Quizzes:

1. QUIZ #1 Genesis, OTS, Background section – 46-48 (note quizzed over) & Chs. 1-3, **Due Date January 29**
2. QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus, OTS, Chs. 4-6, **Due Date February 5**
3. QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, OTS, Chs. 7-8, **Due Date February 12**

## UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

February 13–March 5

### *Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:*

#### Discussion Board:

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by **February 22**
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by **March 1**

#### Quizzes:

1. QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, OTS, Chs. 9-11 **Due Date February 19**
2. QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, OTS, Chs. 12-13 **Due Date February 26**
3. QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings, OTS, Chs. 14-15 **Due Date March 1 (note the change to Wednesday rather than Sunday)**

MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by **March 5**, by midnight

## UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

March 6–April 9

*Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:*

Discussion Board:

6. Contribute a comment to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by **March 15**
7. Contribute a comment to the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by **March 22**
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by **March 29**

Quizzes:

1. QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19 **Due Date March 12**
2. QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah OTS, Chs. 20-22 **Due Date March 19**
3. QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24  
**Due Date March 26**
4. QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43  
**Due Date April 2**
5. QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30  
**Due Date April 9**

## UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

April 10– May 11

*Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:*

Discussion Board:

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by **April 19**
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by **April 26**

Quizzes:

1. QUIZ #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, OTS, Chapters 17, 31-32 **Due Date April 16**
2. QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS, Chapters 33-34, **Due Date April 23**
3. QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS, Chapters 35-36, **Due Date April 30**
4. QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah OTS, Chapters 37-42, **Due Date May 7**
- 5.

**\*\*\*\*FINAL EXAM Must be taken by May 11, 2017\*\*\*\***

**Blackboard course will close at midnight May 11, 2017.**

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office.

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