

**BBBW5300 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

**Course Description:**

A survey is undertaken of a wide range of materials and issues related to the background of the Old and New Testaments, including: archaeology, historical geography, religion, manners and customs, economics, social concerns, and the literature of the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world. The course is designed to help students bridge the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the historical eras of the Bible.

**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.

**Seminary Core Values:**

1. Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God
2. Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God's Revelation with Diligence
3. Spiritual Vitality: Transforming Power of God's Word

**Goals & Objectives:**

1. The student will recognize the physical elements of the land of Israel and the ancient Near East -- the geography, topography, geology, climate, etc. -- via slide, book and map study.
2. The student will read excerpts from the Old and New Testaments with an archaeological and geographical perspective.
3. The student will examine materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.
4. The student will probe the interrelationship between geography, politics, economics, cultural mores, and religion in the development of the nation of Israel.
5. The student will become conversant in the historical, geographical, and cultural materials of the Old and New Testaments.

**Textbooks:**

To be read in conjunction with class lectures (see Blackboard)

1. English Bible (*a good translation*)
2. Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E., 2002, *Readings From the Ancient Near East*, Baker, (**RANE**)
3. Brisco, Thomas, 1998 *Holman Bible Atlas* by (Broadman & Holman Publishers, (**HBA**))
4. Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook (Posted on Blackboard)
5. Hoerth, Alfred 1998, *Archaeology & The Old Testament*, Baker Book House, (**AOT**)

**Recommended reading:**

1. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)

2. *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor M., (Hendrickson)
3. *The Sacred Bridge* by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., 2006 (Carta, Jerusalem)
4. *Life in Biblical Israel*, by Stager, L. & King, P., 2001, (Westminster John Knox Press)

### **Course Evaluation:**

Midterm Exam	20%
Map Quizzes (4)	25%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion Participation	10%
Research Paper	25%

Map Quizzes (4 total) – Get to know the World & land of the Bible, see handout “Regions, Cities to Know” for list of regions, cities and places to identify for the quizzes (there are study maps, available as well as extra detailed maps for you to use in Course Documents). You will need to consult besides class text other Bible geography books; I have also placed many maps for you on Blackboard (under study helps) for use both in study and personal presentations. (\*\*Remember many illustrations & photos used in this course are copy righted and cannot be published w/o written permission).

Quiz 1 = Land of Israel Includes: Regions, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and Bodies of Waters of Palestine (HBA Map 7 for help)

Quiz 2 = Tribes of Israel & OT Cities (Consists of 1 map for Tribes & 1 map for OT cities)

Quiz 3 = ANE/ the OT World - Cities & Kingdoms/Countries Consult for help *HBA*: 4 (Map 3), 5 (Maps 4), 9 (Map 5), 11 (Map 6), et al.

Quiz 4 = NT World (Mediterranean) of Cities & Kingdoms/Countries (Consists of 1 map for Kingdoms/Countries & 1 map for NT cities)

Exams – note there are study guides available for both midterm and final. They are only guides to help one organize and know what materials will be covered on the exams. Information for the exams comes from class notes, power point lectures, and reading **it is up to the student to gather the necessary information!** Test will include matching (i.e. dates, inscriptions etc), multiple choice, some fill in the blank, and short essays usually over various topics (i.e. Philistines, Shephelah, David etc.).

### **Text’s Abbreviations**

AOT = Archaeology & the Old Testament

HBA = Holman Bible Atlas, Brisco

RANE = Readings from the Ancient Near East, Arnold & Beyer

WKBK = Course Workbook – Available in Blackboard Course Documents

**Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date!**

### **RESEARCH PAPER**

\*\*\*NOTE: If you are graduating in May 2009, I need to receive your paper by May 10, 2008

**Research Paper** - Can be posted on Blackboard under the “**Digital Dropbox**” section or emailed to my seminary address or me directly. Topic for ones paper can include one of the following:

- 1) Historical geography of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc) or site/city.

Research for a region should include:

- Geological make-up of the region
- The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper)
- All major roads (both local and international)

- ❑ Key cities (their main importance)
- ❑ Bodies of water
- ❑ Map of the region, locating key cities, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)

Research for a site/city: which should include the history and the identification of a biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.), its history, why it is located where it is, function in history, who controlled it, role it played in the development of the country it is in etc.

- 2) Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard for list of suggested topics. Make sure to get to the point, argue & present the significant points, have good interaction with sources (note original first hand sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eye witnesses etc).

Format - Length 12-18 pages, double spaced, standard 12 pt font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7<sup>th</sup> ed.), optional APA. See <http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper. The file is under the Hermeneutics course section and titled “NOBTSPapers.pdf”

Grading - Form & style = 5%;

- Spelling & grammar = 5%;

- Research & bibliography = 10% - first hand sources, good bibliography, one is showing me that you did your homework!

- Content = 80% - the argument, the key issues, relevant data etc.

NOTE: 75% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals (1 ½ source per page typed is the acceptable norm). See Handout: Suggested Paper Topics and Biblical Studies Journals for help!

### **Class Procedure\*\*Read Carefully\*\*:**

Note materials for the class are located in 2 Folders on Blackboard: 1) Course Documents & 2) Lectures. In Course documents one will find files labeled Workbook 1-8, which contains notes that go along with the Lectures. In file labeled Lectures, it contains the lectures one needs to look & work through all in numerical/chronological order. The Lectures contain both Power Point (which usually consists of: the lecture followed by slides emphasizing the lecture & related geography) and Videos (usually a summary of the lectures) to give you the necessary information one needs for the course. Notes and Lectures should be labeled the same if there are any problems please e-mail me or call ASAP. There are 4 Sections or Units to work through; each lecture is supplemented with outside reading from class texts as noted in Course Schedule, make sure to read them (best before viewing the Lectures) for they will be needful for exams. Note the index of each book as they correspond to the lectures, as the class follows a chronological order. Lectures include:

- 1. Unit 1 Setting the Stage: Introduction, Geographic overview of Israel, Genesis 1-11, & Pre-History**
- 2. Unit 2 Bronze Age (Middle & Late): Patriarchs; Exodus & Conquest & Settlement**
- 3. Unit 3 Iron Age: United & Divided Monarchy**
- 4. Unit 4 NT Backgrounds: Jesus in the Galilee & Jesus in Jerusalem**

## **Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

### **Course Bibliography: General References**

#### **Dictionaries, etc.**

- The Anchor Bible Dictionary* New York:Doubleday, 1993.
- Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. (rev. ed.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Joel B. Green, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: Intervarsity Press, 1992.
- Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Gerald F. Hawthorne, et. al. (eds.) Leicester:InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Gralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids (ed.), 1997
- Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*. Craig Evans & Stanley Porter (eds.). Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1955.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Ancient Near East*, vols 1 and 2: *Anthology of Texts and Pictures*, 1958, 1975.

#### **Atlases**

- The Macmillan Bible Atlas* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), Y. Aharoni, et.al., New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993
- New Bible Atlas*, J.J. Bimson, et.al., Leicester:InterVarsity Press, 1985.
- Cleave, Richard. *Pictorial Archive: ANE History; Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.
- Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*, C. Rasmussen, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

#### **Historical Geography**

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.
- Baly, Dennis. *The Geography of the Bible*. NY: Harper, 1957.
- Bimson, John J. (ed.), *Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
- Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World*. Nashville: Nelson, 1985.
- Smith, George Adam. *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1931.

#### **Bible Handbooks, etc.**

- Hoerth, A., G. Mattingly, and E. Yamauchi (eds.). *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.
- Matthews, Victor. *Manners and Customs in the Bible*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Matthews, Victor and Don C. Benjamin. *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.
- The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. NY, London: Tyndale Publishers, 1980, 1986.
- Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. *The World of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- Walton, John, et. al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove:

InterVarsity Press, 2000

Wiseman, Donald J. ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: University Press, 1973.

### **Archaeology**

Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.

Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.

Hoerth, A. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Baker, 1998.

Levy, T. (ed.). *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*.

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.* Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

Meyer, E. (ed.). *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Archaeology in the Near East*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Moorey, Roger. *Excavation in Palestine*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.

Negev, Avraham, ed. *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Lands*. Jerusalem: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1972.

Stern, Ephraim (ed.). *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Carta, 1992.

### **History**

#### **Ancient Near East**

Craigie, Peter. *Ugarit and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Hallo, W.W. and Simpson, W.K. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971.

Lloyd, Seton. *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: From the Stone Age to the Persian Conquest*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1978.

Olmstead, A.T. *History of the Assyrian Empire*. Chicago: University Press, 1960

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Yamacuchi, Edwin. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

#### **Egypt**

Kathryn Bard (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*. New York: Routledge Press, 1999.

Redford, Donald. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1992.

Redford, Donald B. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. London: Oxford, 2000.

Wilson, John A. *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*. Chicago: University Press, 1951.

#### **Ancient Palestine**

Albertz, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament. Volume I: From the beginnings to the End of the Monarchy* (trans. John Bowden; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994)

Albertz, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period, Volume 2; From the Exile to the Maccabees* (Louisville: Westminster/John Know, 1994)

Ahlstrom, *The History of Ancient Palestine From the Palaeolithic Period to Alexander's Conquest* (Sheffield: JSOT, 1992).

Avi-Yonah, Michael. *The Holy Land: From the Persian to the Arab Conquest (536 BC-AD 640)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1966.

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- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.
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- Hayes and Miller, *Israelite and Judean History*. London: SCM Press, 1977.
- Noth, *The History of Israel*. London: SCM, 1958.
- Schurer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ (175 B.C.-A.D. 135)* (Revised and Edited by Geza Vermes and Fergus Millar; Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1973)
- Shanks (ed.), *Ancient Israel: A Short History from Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. Washington DC: BAS, 1988.
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- Wellhausen, *Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel* (Translated from German). Meridan Paperback edition, 1957; 1883.