

OTEN5300 EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT
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.

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.

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.

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 21st 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.

Core Values Addressed:

1. Characteristic Excellence – Diligence in the study of God's Word to know and understand Him and His revelation.
2. Spiritual Vitality – The study of God in the Old Testament that will bring transformation to the life and heart of the individual.
3. Doctrinal Integrity – Reading and Interpreting God's Word with a conviction that it is His Authoritative and Inerrant revelation.

Textbooks

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

Recommended reading:

Readings From the Ancient Near East by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer (Baker, 2002) **RANE**

Zondervan Handbook to the Bible ed. By Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)

Manners and Customs in the Bible by Victor Matthews. (Hendrickson)

Course Evaluation:

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| Weekly Quizzes (15) | 30% (300 points, 20 pts ea) |
| Mid-Term Examination | 20% (200 points) |
| Final Exam | 20% (200 points) |
| Discussion Participation | 10% (100 points) |
| Research Paper | 20% (200 points) |

Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments.

Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date

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

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.

Research Paper

- Research one of the topics listed below or a topic relevant to this course in consultation with the professor.
- Length 12-15 pages, double spaced, 12 pt font.
- The paper should follow Turabian (6th ed.) or other accepted style (SBL, APA)
- See <http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper.
- NOTE: 40% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals.
- 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, MLS, or SBL. You may email the paper to my email box or post it on the "Digital Dropbox" in Blackboard.

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.