



**Exploring the Old Testament (Online)**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Biblical Studies**  
**Summer Online, 2018**  
**June 4 – July 27**

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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**

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.

**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 **Servant Leadership**.

**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.

### Course 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.

### Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

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), 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 (materials maybe on exams).

**Third** - you will need to enter the "Discussion Board" (DB) 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 discussion. One can make more contributions, but two are required. Note the two lowest quizzes are dropped.

**Fourth** - you will take the given quizzes (about one per week) by the date posted in the syllabus. They are given in Course Documents on Blackboard (you can take them early, hence once you complete one the next will open automatically). Quizzes 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 (hence must be completed w/in the time allotted). A 2pt per-day point reduction for lateness unless for medical, death in the family or military deployment reasons. Midterm and Final Exams are also posted in the Test section and are to be taken by the given dates per class schedule.

### **Embedded Assignment: See below**

#### **Course Textbooks**

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

#### **Recommended reading**

1. [Bill T. Arnold](#), [Bryan E. Beyer.](#), *Readings from the Ancient Near East Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. (Baker, 2002)
2. [Philip J. King](#), [Lawrence E. Stager](#). *Life in Biblical Israel*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001)
3. A good History of Israel – this will help many who are new to understanding the OT, see 1bibliography for suggestions

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### **Grade Evaluation**

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Weekly Quizzes (15)      | 30% (300 points, 20 pts each, 2 pts off for each day late, can use notes but timed) |
| 2. Mid-Term Examination     | 20% (200 points) – Closed book  |
| 3. Final Exam               | 20% (200 points) – Closed book  |
| 4. Discussion Participation | 10% (100 points)  |
| 5. Embedded Assignment      | 20% (200 points)  |

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## **COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT RUBRIC – EMBEDDED SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT OTEN5300 EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student, by the end of the course should:

1. Be able to apply his/her knowledge and comprehension of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament to the practice of interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately to the community of faith.
2. Value the following concepts as needful in interpreting and communicating the Bible accurately:
  - a. The authority of the Old Testament in all matters of faith and practice for Christian living and Church growth.
  - b. Old Testament interpretive issues and major theological themes for Christian living.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to interpret and communicate the Old Testament accurately.
4. Develop practical skill in studying the Old Testament through standard resources.

### **Summative Assignment:**

Write a two-page paper (New Roman Times 12 pt. font, single-spaced) summarizing the value to the church of **one** of the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Psalms, or Isaiah. Indicate the historical context, genre, major theologies, and interpretive concerns of the book. The paper should indicate research using appropriate resources and tools. The paper should indicate good form and documentation using footnotes as needed. Communicate how the book impacts the faith and life of the contemporary church.

### **Understanding**

The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated and articulated a comprehension of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament but did not explain them fully. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an awareness of some of the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament but did not address all of the principles. <input type="checkbox"/> was unable to identify or explain the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament.
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### **Application**

The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a valuing and embracing of the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for Christian faith and living. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected an appreciation for the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for Christian faith and living but did not fully embrace the need to study these concepts. <input type="checkbox"/> reflected a lack of appreciation the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for
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	<p>Christian faith and living.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> rejected the authority of the Old Testament and its theological themes for Christian faith and living and saw no value in it.</p>
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**Communication**

The Student	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated a high level of practical skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament.
	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated some practical skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament but did not relate the meaning fully.
	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated only a rudimentary practical skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament.
	<input type="checkbox"/> demonstrated no skill in interpreting and communicating concepts from the Old Testament.

**GRADING MATRIX  
FOR SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT**

<p><u>Grammar</u> = 15% +15</p> <p>Spelling 10____</p> <p>Grammar 50_ _</p> <p>Sentence Structure, Clarity 20____</p> <p>Verb Tenses 10____</p> <p>Misplaced/Dangling Phrases 5____</p> <p>Split Infinitives 5____</p>	<p><u>Content</u> = 60%</p> <p>Appropriateness of Discussion (75%) + 73</p> <p>Addressed historical issues 15____</p> <p>Addressed genre issues 15____</p> <p>Addressed theological issues 30____</p> <p>Accuracy of information 25____</p> <p>Reasoning 15____</p> <p>Utilization of Resources (25%)</p> <p>Interaction w/ resources 50____</p> <p>Quality of resources and tools 50____</p>
<p><u>General Composition</u> = 15% + 13</p> <p>Paragraph flow 25 = 23</p> <p>Style (readability) 25 = 25</p> <p>Focus 25 = 25</p> <p>Depth of Analysis 25 = 23</p>	<p><u>Documentation</u> = 10% + 10</p> <p>Footnote Form 50____</p> <p>Bibliography 50_ _</p>
<p><u>Timeliness</u> - The Summative Assignment is due <b>June 27</b>, Twenty percent (20%) of the total grade for the assignment will be deducted each day the assignment is late (this includes weekends). The Summative Assignment will not be accepted after five days late.</p>	

**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 5 days a Zero will be given**

**\*\*\*\*\*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.

## Course Outline & Schedule

### UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

*June 4—17*

- **Introduction by 4/6**
- **Reading Assignments: Genesis thru Deuteronomy**
- **For sections/quizzes #2-3, also read in *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* article on “Sacrifices and Offerings.”**

#### Quizzes and Discussion Lists:

##### **Discussion Board:**

1. Contribute information about yourself in the Introduction by June 2
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by June 8
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by June 14

##### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #1 - Genesis, *OTS*, Chs. 1-3; Due Date June 9  
QUIZ #2 - Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*, Chs. 4-6; Due Date June 12  
QUIZ #3 - Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*, Chs. 7-8; Due Date June 16

### UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

*June 18-30*

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

##### **Discussion Board:**

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by June 20
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by June 24

##### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #4 - Joshua- Judges, *OTS*, Chs. 9-11; Due Date June 21  
QUIZ #5 - 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*, Chs. 12-13; Due Date June 25  
QUIZ #6 - 1-2 Kings, *OTS*, Chs. 14-15; Due Date June 30

**MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by July 1, Midnight**

### UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

*July 1-14*

#### Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

##### **Discussion Board:**

6. Contribute a comment to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by July 3
7. Contribute a comment to the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by July 9
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by July 14

**Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #7 - Prophets I: Amos & Hosea; OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19; Due Date July 4  
QUIZ #8 - Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah; OTS, Chs. 20-22; Due Date July 7  
QUIZ #9 - Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah; OTS, Chs. 23-24  
Due Date July 9  
QUIZ #10 - Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel; OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43  
Due Date July 11  
QUIZ #11 - Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi; OTS, Chapters 28-30  
Due Date July 14

**UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS**  
*JULY 15 - 27*

**Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:**

**Discussion Board:**

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by July 19
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by July 25

**Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #12 - Writings, Poetry & Psalms; *OTS* Chapters 17, and 31-32  
Due Date July 18  
QUIZ #13 - Wisdom & Proverbs; *OTS* Chapters 33-34; Due Date July 21  
QUIZ #14 - Job & Ecclesiastes; *OTS* Chapters 35-36; Due Date July 23  
QUIZ #15 - Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah;  
*OTS* Chapters 37-42; Due Date July 26

**Research paper posted on BB by July 27**

**Note final exam by July 27! Blackboard course will close at Friday midnight on the 27<sup>nd</sup>.**  
Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office

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

## Bibliography: General References

(Note a fuller bibliography is being updated regularly in BB under Information)

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