



BCOT5400 Old Testament BCPP Seminar
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
July 22-26, 2019

Professor's Name: Dr. Jonathan Patterson
Title: Director, Accelerated MDiv; Adjunct Instructor
Office: 226 Hardin Student Center
Phone: 504-816-8171 (office); 251-259-8145 (cell)
Email: jpatterson@nobts.edu

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 Doctrinal Integrity.

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 competency addressed in this course is biblical exposition.

Course Catalog Description

The seminar augments the student's knowledge in the areas covered in the course OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, plus it gives the student one Biblical Studies elective hour. The prerequisites for participating in this seminar are the completion of at least 6 undergraduate hours in the area of Old Testament and having at least a "B" average in each course. These prerequisites are pending evaluation of the student's transcript by the Director of the Baptist College Partnership Program.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the historical sweep of the Old Testament and identify key dates, people, and events.
2. Understand the significant issues regarding the three parts of the Hebrew canon.
3. Know the basic issues of introduction regarding each book of the Hebrew canon.
4. Be conversant in the current issues in Old Testament studies.

Course Requirements

- A. **PRE-WORK**: Due upon arrival to the first hour of class on Monday.

Read the following required texts and submit a written *descriptive review* of the texts listed below (to include the following components):

- a short summary of the contents
- identification of the perspective(s) from which each text was written
- discussion of how each text has sought to address the study of the OT

Each review should be 6-8 pp, double-spaced, reflecting acceptable form, style, grammar, etc. Consult Turabian 8th ed. for guidance on all matters of form and style

A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism, by Mark S. Gignilliat (Zondervan, 2012).

This Strange and Sacred Scripture, by Matthew R. Schlimm (Baker, 2015)

Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament, by Peter Enns (Baker, 2005).

Choose one of the following:

The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority, by John H. Walton and D. Brent Sandy (IVP, 2013)

The Old Testament is Dying: A Diagnosis and Recommended Treatment, by Brent A. Strawn (Baker, 2017)

Optional Extra Credit Reading (Due August 4, 2018):

Getting the Old Testament, by Steven L. Bridge (Hendrickson, 2009)

The Lost World of Genesis One, by John Walton (IVP, 2009)

The Lost World of Adam and Eve, by John Walton (IVP, 2015)

- B. **PRE-WORK**: Submit a list of the texts used in your undergraduate study of the Old Testament, including any survey texts as well as commentaries for book studies. ***Due at the beginning of the first class.***
- C. **IN-CLASS REPORTS**
- a. Thirty minutes of each session, beginning Tuesday, will be devoted to specific discussion of the pre-work books. Copies of reviews submitted on Monday afternoon will serve as a basis for addressing specific issues and questions.
 - b. Submit written reports on assigned individual/group topic and/or written summaries of research notes from assigned topics (*approximately three single-spaced pages each*)
 - c. Present oral reports on assigned topics and facilitate discussion of those topics in group meetings. Reports should be approximately 30 minutes each.
- D. **POST-WORK**: Prepare and submit (1) a post-seminar research paper on an approved topic, OR (2) complete the reading and critical reviews option. **Due by August 16, 2019.**

Course Evaluation

The course is graded on a *pass/fail* basis. Assessment of the following items will be the basis for determining the grade. All items are required and must be submitted at specified dates and times:

Class Attendance (including adequate library research times)	10%
Initial reading and reviews	20%
Daily written reports/summaries	20%
Oral presentations and group leadership	20%
Post-Seminar Research Project/Book Reviews	30%

Course Attendance

No absences are allowed in this course (see *Graduate Catalog*). Attendance will be taken at the start of each session. Seminar attendance policies and issues are handled by the Graduate Dean's office.

Use of cell phones and other devices is not permitted during class time. Computers, tablets, etc. may be used only for appropriate classroom means. Students who continually abuse this policy may be asked to leave the seminar and be counted absent for that day.

Course Schedule

Monday, July 22 **1:00 - 4:00 pm** *A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism*
How to Read the Old Testament: History, Theology, Literature

Introductions; Overview of the History of the Old Testament and its relation to the New Testament; Review of previous studies (courses, texts, approaches); Discussion based on issues and ideas drawn from the required reading; the "Big Picture" in Old Testament Study. Procedures and assignments for the remainder of the week will also be addressed.

Tuesday, July 23 **8:30 am - 12:00 pm** *Inspiration and Incarnation/Lost World*
Critical Study of the Pentateuch: History, Key Issues, Conclusions

Research Topics:

An Introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Pentateuch
The authorship and composition of the Pentateuch
The route of the Exodus
Egypt in the times of Abraham through Moses
The Masoretic Text
The Code of Hammurabi
The Role of Purity laws in the Ancient Israel

Wednesday, July 24 **8:30 am - 12:00 pm** *This Strange and Sacred Scripture*
OT Law and Former Prophets: The Nature of Law, Covenant, History, Kings

Research Topics:

The concept of Covenant in the OT
The various types of laws in the OT
The conquest under Joshua
An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Former Prophets
Who was the Deuteronomistic Historian and what did he do?
Historiography in the time of the OT
The concept, office, and function of kings in the time of the OT
An outline of the kingdom of Israel from David to Josiah
The life and times of David
What makes the Former Prophets "prophetic"?
Saul and his son Jonathan: Compare and contrast spiritual character
The Prophets' Preaching and the Law of Moses

Thursday, July 25 **8:30 am - 12:00 pm**
The Latter Prophets and the Writings

The Old Testament is Dying

Research Topics:

The history of either the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah
An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Latter Prophets
The theological message of one of the books of the Latter Prophets
Prophets and their focus on the future: How much and how far?
The books of Ruth and Esther: Questions and Answers on their message
What did Job say? Interpretation of Job 42:6
Do the Psalms teach theology?

Friday, July 26 **8:30 am - 12:00 pm**
The Writings, OT Canon, and Major Paper Topics

Miscellaneous Texts

Research Topics:

The process of canonization of the OT
The organization of the OT canon
The importance of the LXX and DSS for the OT text
An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Writings
The Kingdom of Persia and its role in the OT
What was it like to live in the post-exilic period?
What is a proverb and how is it to be read?
Ecclesiastes and the rat race

Course Work Instruction

Daily Research Assignments:

1. The professor will divide the class into groups on the first day.
2. Each group will prepare a summary paper on the topic and distribute copies for each of the seminar members. The papers will be academic in content and may be in the form of sentence outlines. The paper will be 2-3 pp, single-spaced and include bibliography. The bibliography should indicate which person read in which sources, with at least 10 sources consulted *by each group member*.
3. The bibliography should include your required texts as they contribute to the subject matter, plus other selected materials which may help answer specific questions about your subject. *Be sure to consult some periodical literature* on the subject. The bibliographies in the textbooks will provide a good starting place.
4. All the work should be written with good grammar and acceptable style. Do *not* use title pages; bibliography entries should conform to Turabian, 8th ed. Papers *are due at the beginning of each class period*, with your readings and papers serving as the basis for your class presentation.
5. The 15-30 minute presentation *may include some creativity* so that the material could be understandable to people in a church setting. *After the presentation, the group should be ready to respond to questions on the topic.*

Post-Seminar Assignment (Choose one):

Please note that by the last session of the seminar, each student should have discussed their proposed final project with the professor. The student should have selected his/her research topic by the final class period or provide the professor with the list of texts for the book review option.

A. **Research Paper** (10-12 pp, single-spaced)

Ideally, the topic of your research paper should be one which will enable you to strengthen or expand your understanding of an important subject in the study of the Old Testament. For example, you may want to study in an area in which you've had fewer classes than in other areas of the Old Testament, or you may want to study a topic of particular interest to you.

The paper will be 10-12 pages, single-spaced. This is a formal research paper and should follow Turabian, 8th ed., including footnotes and bibliography (the bibliography should be *in addition to* the 10-12 pp body of the paper. The research paper should be emailed to the professor no later than **August 16, 2019**.

B. **Three Critical Book Reviews** (each 4-5 pp, single-spaced, plus title page)

Submit a written review of *three texts, chosen from the list below*. Each review will be 4-5 pp, single-spaced, using proper grammar and style. Reviews should include a summary of the book's contents (2-2.5 pp) and a critical evaluation of the positions held by the authors/contributors (2-2.5 pp). Follow Turabian, 8th ed. for guidance on parenthetical notes, formatting, title page, etc. These reviews should be emailed to the professor no later than **August 16, 2019**.

1. Choose One:

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| Kitchen | <i>On the Reliability of the Old Testament</i> (Eerdmans, 2003) |
| Walke | <i>An Old Testament Theology</i> (Zondervan, 2007) |
| Klink & Lockett | <i>Understanding Biblical Theology</i> (Zondervan, 2012) |
| Hoffmeier & Magary, eds. | <i>Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith?</i> (Crossway, 2012) |

2. Choose One:

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| Bright | <i>A History of Israel</i> , 4 th ed. (WJK, 2000) |
| Provan, Long, Longman | <i>A Biblical History of Israel</i> (WJK, 2003) |

3. Choose One:

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| Currid | <i>Ancient Egypt and the OT</i> (Baker, 1997) |
| Hoffmeier | <i>Israel in Egypt</i> (Oxford, 1999) |
| Yamauchi | <i>Persia and the Bible</i> (Baker, 1990) |
| Walton | <i>Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the OT</i> (Baker, 2006) |
| Matthews | <i>Studying the Ancient Israelites</i> (Baker, 2007) |

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