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 Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus of NOBTS for this year is Mission Focus. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in understanding and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. This course primarily addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

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
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.

Course Texts
*The Holy Bible;* any modern version (preferably NASB, ESV, HCSB, NIV, or Tanakh)


*Recommended reading:*
Course Requirements
1. **Weekly Quizzes**: Students will take weekly quizzes over the assigned readings. These quizzes must be completed by the end of the day on Friday of the assigned week. The only exception is week one; students will have until the end of the second week to complete quizzes for both weeks one and two as they become acquainted with the format of the course. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

2. **Mid-Term Exam**: Students will complete their mid-term exam on Blackboard no later than **Friday, March 4**. After 11:59 pm CST on March 4 the mid-term will close down on Blackboard and students will not have the opportunity to make it up unless granted prior approval by the professor.

3. **Final Exam**: Students will complete their final exam on Blackboard no later than **Thursday, May 12**. After 11:59 pm CDT on May 12, the final will close down on Blackboard and students will not have the opportunity to make it up. Please take note of the fact that the final is due **Thursday** instead of Friday in order to give the professor adequate time to grade the final exams and calculate final grades prior to graduation. Any student who is planning to graduate in May should make sure the professor is aware.

4. **Discussion Board Participation**: Each student is to post his/her own discussion thread in each of the 10 discussion board sections. In addition, each student is to comment on at least two other posts within each section.

5. **Research Assignments**: Students will complete two research worksheets during the semester, consisting of four (4) research questions each. These research worksheets will be a minimum of 7 pages single-spaced (see the attached worksheets for specific page requirements). These worksheets are designed to improve your research and writing skills, and students are expected to follow proper Turabian formatting. Worksheet 1 should be posted to Blackboard, or a hard copy submitted to the professor, by the beginning of the second class meeting on **February 20**. Worksheet 2 is due by the beginning of the final class meeting on **April 30**.

Course Evaluation

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Late Policy
Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner. All quizzes, as well as the mid-term and final exams, will be available on Blackboard immediately following the end of the previous week (12:00 a.m. each Saturday) until 11:59 p.m. on the Friday they are due. After this time they will close down and students will not be able to access them unless they have received prior approval from the professor. For Discussion Board posts and the Research Assignments, students may submit assignments up to **one week** after the due date at a cost of 5 points per day. Any assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of 0.

Class Attendance
Because this class meets only four (4) times during the semester, students are to make every effort to attend each class meeting. However, as per the graduate catalog, students are allowed one (1) absence for a hybrid course. Students who miss more than one class meeting, or the equivalent of four (4) hours of class time, will receive a failing grade for the course.
COURSE SCHEDULE

UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

- Introduction
- 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 **January 20**
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by **January 27**
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by **February 3**

Quizzes:
QUIZ #1 - Genesis, *OTS*, Chs. 1-3; Due Date **January 22**
QUIZ #2 - Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*, Chs. 4-6; Due Date **January 29**
QUIZ #3 - Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*, Chs. 7-8; Due Date **February 5**

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

Worksheet 1 due February 20

Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:
Discussion Board:
4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by **February 10**
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by **February 24**

Quizzes:
QUIZ #4 - Joshua- Judges, *OTS*, Chs. 9-11; Due Date **February 12**
QUIZ #5 - 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*, Chs. 12-13; Due Date **February 19**
QUIZ #6 - 1-2 Kings, *OTS*, Chs. 14-15; Due Date **February 26**

Mid-Term due March 4

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:
Discussion Board:
6. Contribute a comment to the 8th century BC prophets by **March 9**
7. Contribute a comment to the 7th-6th century BC prophets by **March 23**
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by **April 6**

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

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

Worksheet 2 due April 30

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:
9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by April 13
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by April 27

Quizzes:
QUIZ #12 Writings, Poetry & Psalms, OTS, Chapters 17, and 31-32
Due Date April 15
QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS, Chapters 33-34; Due Date April 22
QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS, Chapters 35-36; Due Date April 29
QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah
OTS, Chapters 37-42; Due Date May 6

Final Exam due May 12
Worksheet 1

Section 1
Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of 2 pp single-spaced. Students should make every effort to consult the resources listed, but should not limit their research to these resources alone.

1. Who were the Israelites and where did they come from?

- Other Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus.

2. Discuss the authorship of the Pentateuch. Include arguments for one author (traditional authorship), the fragmentary hypothesis, supplementary hypothesis, and documentary hypothesis.

- John Van Seters, "The Pentateuch," in *The Hebrew Bible Today*
- See articles on the "Yahwist Source," "Elohist Source," "Priestly Source," and the "Deuteronomic Source" in the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
- Any Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus

3. Discuss the arguments for the early and late date of the exodus.

- Any Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus.

Section 2
Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of 1.5 pp single-spaced.

1. How does Genesis 1-11 relate to Genesis 12-50? Should these two be understood separately? Explain your reasoning.

2. Discuss the idea of covenant in the Pentateuch. Students should focus on the Abrahamic and Sinaitic covenants.
3. Discuss how the theology of Deuteronomy closes the Pentateuch and opens the Deuteronomistic History.

4. Discuss the sacral system in the Pentateuch, particularly the burnt offering, sin offering, and votive offering, as well as the Day of Atonement.
Worksheet 2

Section 1
Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of 2 pp single-spaced. Students should make every effort to consult the resources listed, but should not limit their research to these resources alone.

1. Thoroughly discuss the theories concerning the entry of Israel into the land of Canaan (vast military conquest, peasant revolt, socio-political assimilation, etc.). Include the progression of destruction within the land (the destruction of Ai, Shechem, Jericho, etc.).

   - David Howard, *Joshua*, New American Commentary
   - John Bright, *A History of Israel*
   - Any Old Testament introductions listed in the bibliography of the syllabus.

2. What is biblical law and what is its relationship to Ancient Near Eastern law? Students should include etiological arguments, as well as the classifications of Israelite law.


3. Discuss the relationship between the kings of Israel and the prophets of Israel.

   - John Bright, *A History of Israel*.
   - Students should also consult other introductory books on prophecy.

4. Discuss the authorship views of the book of Isaiah.

   - At least 3 commentaries on the book of Isaiah.
   - At least 2 Old Testament introductions included in the bibliography of the syllabus.
Section 2
Answer 2 of the following questions. Answers should a minimum of 1.5 pp single-spaced.

1. Discuss the difference between the Kings corpus and the Chronicler's History.

2. Discuss the importance of Josiah's reform (2 Kings 22-23) in relation to history and the OT canon.

3. Discuss arguments for and against the unitary nature of the Book of the Twelve.

4. Briefly discuss the theologies in the Psalter.
Student _______________________________ Site ________________________________
Format ______________________________ Semester _______________________

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. The student will be able to understand the history of the Israelites, the book collections, and selected themes of the Old Testament.
2. The student will address selected needs of the Church (or Christians) by examining and explaining how the Old Testament theology and message impact the contemporary church.
3. The student will be able to communicate clearly the meaning of the Old Testament to a contemporary audience.

Assignment Description:
1. A summative question or questions will be answered by the students by the end of the semester. Each question (or research problem) requires research of some aspect of the historical context, genre, theology, and/or interpretive concerns of a selected period or event. Answers should be well-developed and provide documentation (as needed). Students should use New Roman Times 12 pt. font, single-spaced, approximately two pages in length.
2. Indicate through documentation (and/or reference to key contributors in the field of study) the use of appropriate tools and resources in the investigation of the selected OT issues.
3. Communicate how the answer of each research question might impact the faith and life of contemporary believers.

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### FINAL PROJECT GRADE===========>>
08/29/14; grading matrix.eot.reviesed.wpd

NOTE: For any area not required (e.g., subheadings), simply enter the max points to the matrix subunit.

Values in parentheses indicate the values for Worksheet 2.
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Old Testament Introductions


**Specialized Introductions**

**Pentateuch**


**Historical Books**


**Prophets**


Hagiographia


**Old Testament History**


**Old Testament Theologies**


