BBBW5200 ENCOUNTERING THE BIBLICAL WORLD
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Hybrid Course  Friday 8:00 - 11:50am
Fall 2015  8/28  9/18  10/16  11/13

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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 Addressed in This Course:
1. Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God
   This Core Value will be emphasized through the semester through the focus on the reliability of the Biblical Text in the study of archaeology and historical geography.
2. Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God’s Revelation with Diligence
3. Spiritual Vitality: Transforming Power of God’s Word
4. MISSION FOCUS: 2015-16 Emphasis – Highlighting the Message of God’s Blessing through Abraham and his descendants, His call for Israel to be Light to the Nations

Student Learning Outcomes:
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 course materials posted on Blackboard)
English Bible (a good translation)
Encountering the Biblical World Course Workbook (Posted on Blackboard)
**Recommended reading:**
*Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* ed. by Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)
*Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor Matthews, (Hendrickson)
*The Sacred Bridge* by Rainey, A. & Notley, S., 2006 (Carta, Jerusalem)

**Course Evaluation:**
- Map Quizzes (5) 20%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 20%
- Discussion & Presentations 20%
- Research Paper 20%

**Course Requirements**
1. **Complete all reading assignments** in *Archaeology & the Old Testament, Holman Bible Atlas, Readings from the Ancient Near East*, and Course Workbook available in Blackboard.
   Textbook abbreviations:
   - AOT = Archaeology & the Old Testament
   - HBA = Holman Bible Atlas
   - RANE = Readings from the Ancient Near East
   - WKBK = Arnold & Beyer Course Workbook

2. **Review course materials available in Blackboard (Handouts, PowerPoints, etc.).**

**Class Procedure****Read Carefully**:
Note materials for the class are located in 2 Folders on Blackboard: 1) Course Documents, and 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 PowerPoint (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. 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 necessary for exams. Note the index of each book as they correspond to the lectures, as the class follows a chronological order.

3. **GROUP ASSIGNMENTS**
The class will be divided into four groups for developing presentations to be given in the class meetings during the meetings on SEPTEMBER 18 and OCTOBER 16. The professor will provide guidelines for the groups, and then supplement these presentations. Each group will be asked to make a 25-30 minute presentation on the given area.

4. **Complete Workbook assignments.**
The PowerPoint lectures will be used in the completion of the Workbook assignments. These need not be handed in or submitted via Blackboard. These materials are for your study benefit and future resource access.
5. **Complete map study guides in preparation for Map Quizzes 5 total**
Get to know the world and 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 without written permission).**

Quiz 1 = Land of Israel Includes: Geographical Regions, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, and Bodies of Water of Palestine (HBA Map 7 for help). See online study maps. **DUE SEP 12**

Quiz 2 = Ancient Near East – Regions, Geographical Features, Cities. See online study maps and Textbook maps. **DUE OCT 3**

Quiz 3 = Old Testament Israel – Cites. See study maps and HBA maps. **DUE OCT 30**

Quiz 4 = New Testament Israel – Cites. See study maps and HBA maps. **DUE NOV 14**

Quiz 5 = New Testament World Mediterranean. See study maps and HBA maps. **DUE DEC 5**

6. **Prepare a research paper.** (Embedded Assignment)

**Due Date: DECEMBER 11 -- email to Dr. Cole**

A. Choose a topic. The topic for one’s paper can include one of the following: Historical geography of a major region in Israel (i.e. Hill Country, Negev, Shephelah, Coastal Plain, etc) or site/city such as Megiddo, Hazor, Gezer, Jezreel, etc. Research for a region should include:

1) Geological make-up of the region
2) The region's historical significance (its main function within Israel proper)
3) All major roads (both local and international)
4) Key cities (their main importance), Bodies of water
5) Map of the region, locating key cites, roads etc. would be fine (but not a part of the page requirement)

B. Research for a site/city: which should include

1) The history and the identification of a biblical site (where the site/city is located does not matter: Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt etc.),
2) Its history, why it is located where it is,
3) Its function in history,
4) Who controlled it,
5) The role it played in the development of the country it is in etc.

C. Topical – a topic relevant to this course; see Blackboard for list of suggested topics.

1) Make sure to get to the point, argue & present the significant points,
2) Have good interaction with sources (note primary, original first hand, sources are the best, i.e. ancient texts, documents, eye witnesses etc).

Format - Length 12-16 pages, double-spaced, standard 12 pt font (e.g. Times New Roman). The paper should follow Turabian (7th ed.), optional APA.
Research Paper Grading Rubric
- Form and style = 5%
- Spelling and grammar = 5%
- Research & bibliography = 10% - the use of primary sources, good bibliography shows that you did your homework!
- Content = 80% - the argument, the key issues, relevant data etc.

NOTE: 40% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals. See online EBSCO info through JTChristian Library web site.
See Handout: Suggested Paper Topics and Biblical Studies Journals for help!

6. Complete a Midterm and Final Exam
Study guides are 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! The 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.).

MIDTERM EXAM DUE MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 11:59pm
FINAL EXAM DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 NOON 12:00
**Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date!

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.

The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule and course requirements as conditions warrant.
Course Schedule

The listed assignments of reading, PowerPoints, Workbook, etc. should be done prior to the given Hybrid session meeting. Come ready to ask questions and discuss major issues related to the material assigned for that given meeting.

AUG 28 INTRODUCTION: ARCHAEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

Part 1 Introduction and Geography

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 1 and 9; HBA Chapters 1 and 2

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Map Quiz #1 Study Guide; Online video. Note especially the “History of Research”

Part 2 Setting the Stage – In the Beginning and The Rise of Urbanization

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 2 and 3; HBA Chapters 3 and 4; RANE: #6 Enuma Elish, #12 Epic of Gilamesh, # 13 Confusion of Tongues, #45 Sumerian King List

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online videos

Group Assignments Made
Map Quiz #1 Israel Geography Due SEP 12 midnight

SEP 18 THE PATRIARCHS, THE EXODUS, AND THE CONQUEST

Part 3 The Patriarchs

Group Assignments
A: The Historicity and Historical Context of the Biblical Patriarchs
B: The Exodus in Its Historical Context
C: The Law of Moses and the Laws of the Ancient Near East
D: The Conquest Narrative in Joshua

E #18 Tale of Sinuhe

Course Materials: PowerPoint; Workbook; Online video; Quiz #2 Study Guide

Part 4 Exodus – Judges

Reading Assignments: AOT Chapters 6-11; HBA Chapters 7 and 8; RANE #21 Mari Covenant Ritual, #30 Laws of Hammurapi, #39 Tiglath-pileser I, #55 El-Amarna

Course Materials: PowerPoints; Workbook Part 4; Online video

Map Quiz #2 ANE Geography Due October 3

Midterm Exam Due by OCTOBER 27 See Study Guidelines on Blackboard
OCT 16  THE ISRAELITE KINGDOMS

Part 5 The Rise of the Israelite Monarchy

*Group Assignments*
A: The Rise of the Monarchy Under Saul and David
B: The Solomonic Kingdom in the Bible, History, and Archaeology
C: The Divided Kingdom in the Bible, History, and Archaeology
D: The Assyrians: Kingdom Administration and War Machine

*Reading Assignments*: AOT Chapters 12-14; HBA Chapters 9 and 10; RANE # 54 Tel Dan Inscription, #59 Gezer Calendar

*Course Materials*: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video; Map #3 Study Guide

Part 6 The Fall of the Israelite Monarchy

*Reading Assignments*: AOT Chapters 15-18 HBA Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14; RANE #40 Shalmaneser III, #41 Tiglath-pileser III, #42 Sargon II, #44 Cyrus Cylinder, #51 Mesha Stele

*Course Materials*: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video

Midterm Exam  Due by OCTOBER 27  See Study Guidelines on Blackboard

Map Quiz #3 Old Testament Israel Cities  Due by OCT 30

NOV 13  NEW TESTAMENT – DR. COLE PRESENTS

Part 7 Historical Background of the Gospels and Jesus In Galilee

Part 8 Jesus in Jerusalem
A: The Impact of Hellenism on the Jewish Kingdom
B: The Romanization of the Jewish Realm under Herod the Great
C: The Galilean Ministry of Jesus
D: Jerusalem in the Late Second Temple Period

*Reading Assignments*: AOT Chapters 19 and 20; HBA Chapters 15-19
*Course Materials*: PowerPoints; Workbook; Online video; Map #4 Study Guide

Map Quiz #4 New Testament Israel Cities  Due by NOV 14
Map Quiz #5 T Mediterranean World  Due by DEC 5

Research Papers Due by DECEMBER 11

Final Exam  Due no later than DECEMBER 15  MIDNIGHT
MAP ASSIGNMENTS: GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL & THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

MAP I  QUIZ #1  ISRAEL GEOGRAPHY  DUE SEPT 12
Learn the following Geographical Features from HBA 13 (Map 7), and others.
You also may need to consult other Bible maps for some locations.

- Hill Country (Judah)  Galilee  Golan Heights
- Hill Country (Samaria)  Bashan  Gilead
- Sharon Plain  Arabah  Mt. Ebal
- Wilderness of Judah  Plain of Philistia (Coastal)  Nahal Lachish
- Shephelah (of Judah)  Jezreel Valley (Esdraelon)  Great Sea
- Dead Sea  Sea of Chinnereth  Mount Hermon
- Mt. Carmel  Mt. Tabor  Hill of Moreh
- Mt. Gilboa  Nahal Beersheba  Gerar Brook
- Yarkon River  Yarmuk River  Jordan River
- Jabbok River  Wadi Zered
- Nahal Besor  Kishon River (Brook)
- Ammon  Edom
- Way to Beth-Horon  Mt. Gerizim
- Wadi Far’ah  Jabesh River
- Way of the Land of the Philistines = Way of the Sea  = Via Maris (Roman Name)

MAP QUIZ #2— THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST  DUE OCT 3
Learn the following Cities, Regions (Countries), and Geographical Features
From HBA: 4 (Map 3), 5 (Maps 4), 9 (Map 5), 11 (Map 6), et al.
You may also need to consult other Bible maps for some locations

Cities, Regions/Countries  Geographical Features
- Thebes  Egypt  Tyre  Tigris River
- Memphis  Babylonia  Nuzi  Euphrates River
- Ebla  Assyria  Babylon  Orontes River
- Mari  Cyprus  Sumer  Zagros Mts.
- Haran  Canaan  Hittites  Taurus Mts.
- Ugarit  Phoenicia  Akkad  Nile River
- Damascus  Sinai  Persia  Habur River
- Ur  Carchemish  Hattusas  Ararat Mts.
- Sidon  Elam  Avaris  Mt. Seir
- Arabia  Nineveh  Aram-Naharaim  Arabah
- Urartu (Ararat)  Cyprus  Sinai Wilderness  Shur Wilderness
MAP QUIZ #3  CHALCOLITHIC BRONZE IRON AGES
CANAAN & ISRAEL  DUE OCT 30

Beth Shean
Megiddo
Tirzah
Shechem
Gezer
Beth Shemesh (Sorek Valley)
Lachish
Dothan
Arad
En Gedi
Bethel
Jezreel
Gath
Zoar
Timnah (Sorek V.)
Acco (Akko, Acre)
Nahariyah
Abila
Dor
Dibon
Azekah

Laish (Dan)
Hazor
Ashkelon
Hamath Gader
Ashdod
Kiriat-jearim
Ta'anach
Zoor
Hebron
Mareshah
Gerar
Heshbon
En Gedi
Bethlehem
Aroer
Rabbath-Ammon
Gaza
Chinnereth
Debir (Tel Rabud)
Shiloh
Gibeah

Ai
Jerusalem
Mizpah (Mizpeh)
Pella
Abel Beth-Maacah
Yavneh
Bab edh-Dhra
Yarmuth (Jarmuth)
Beersheba
Aphek (E of Joppa)
Succoth (Deir 'Alla)
Ashdod
Lachish
Samaria
Kedesh
Ekron
Gibeon
Joppa
Jericho
Ibleam
Yoqneam (Jokneam)
### MAP QUIZ #4  NEW TESTAMENT ISRAEL - PALESTINE
#### HELLENISTIC-HASMONEAN-ROMAN BYZANTINE
#### DUE NOVEMBER 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abila (nr Yarmuk River)</td>
<td>Machaerus</td>
<td>Tiberias</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamnia</td>
<td>Scythopolis (Beth Shean)</td>
<td>Mt. Gerizim</td>
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<td>Tyre</td>
<td>Antipatris</td>
<td>Caesarea Philippi (Paneas)</td>
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<td>Ptolemais (Acco)</td>
<td>Gamla</td>
<td>Jericho</td>
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<td>Sepphoris</td>
<td>Azotus (Ashdod)</td>
<td>Kh. Qumran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ascalon (Ashkelon)</td>
<td>En Gedi</td>
<td>Aelia Capitolina</td>
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<td>Gadara</td>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>Herodium (Herodian)</td>
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<td>Caesarea Maritima</td>
<td>Joppa</td>
<td>Nazareth</td>
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<td>Pella</td>
<td>Modin</td>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
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<td>Gerasa</td>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>Schar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masada</td>
<td>Sebaste (Samaria)</td>
<td>Philadelphia (R.-Ammon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capernaum</td>
<td>Magdala</td>
<td>Chorazin</td>
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### MAP QUIZ #5  NEW TESTAMENT - MEDITERRANEAN WORLD
#### DUE DECEMBER 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions &amp; Islands</th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Cities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
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<td>Cyrenaica</td>
<td>Fair Havens</td>
<td>Tarsus</td>
<td>Antioch (Syria, Orontes)</td>
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<td>Cilicia</td>
<td>Ephesus</td>
<td>Smyrna</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Galatia</td>
<td>Sardis</td>
<td>Pergamum</td>
<td>Thyatira</td>
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<td>Salamis</td>
<td>Colossae</td>
<td>Laodicea</td>
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<td>Philippi</td>
<td>Thessalonika</td>
<td>Iconium</td>
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<td>Cappadocia</td>
<td>Corinth</td>
<td>Miletus</td>
<td>Ostia</td>
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<td>Syracuse</td>
<td>Troas</td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td>Crete</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>Carthage</td>
<td>Antioch (Pisidia)</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
<td>Petra</td>
<td>Damascus</td>
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<td>Aegyptica</td>
<td>Sicily</td>
<td>Syria</td>
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9
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Works and Dictionaries


Atlases


Historical Geography


Bible Handbooks, etc.


**Archaeology**

**History**

**Ancient Near East**

**Egypt**

**Ancient Palestine**
Recommended Periodicals

Biblical Archaeology Review (BAR)  
Archaeology
Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (BASOR)  
Iraq
Palestine Exploration Quarterly (PEQ)  
Levant (LEV)
Biblical Archaeologist (BA), now Near Eastern Archaeology (NEA)  
Biblical Illustrator
Revue de Qumran (RQ)  
Archaeology Odyssey
Israel Exploration Journal (IEJ)
Anatolian Studies (AnSt)
### Competency Assessment Rubric for BBBW5200 Encountering the Biblical World Research Papers & Projects

Student Name____________________________________  Semester____________________

#### Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

| 1. The Student | ☐ demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research  
☐ reflected an awareness of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize those resources adequately  
☐ reflected an awareness of some of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize many of the resources  
☐ was unable to identify or explain the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. The Student | ☐ demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the physical world of the Bible  
☐ reflected an awareness of the process of the physical world of the Bible but did not adequately relate it to Biblical interpretation  
☐ reflected an awareness of some of the issues related to the Biblical geography but did not utilize them fully in Biblical interpretation  
☐ was unable to identify or explain the geography of the Bible |

#### Application Assessment

| 1. The Student | ☐ demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible  
☐ reflected an awareness of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not explain them adequately  
☐ reflected an awareness of some of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not address them fully  
☐ was unable to identify or explain the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to the process of interpreting the Bible |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. The Student | ☐ demonstrated a valuing of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world  
☐ reflected a general appreciation of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world  
☐ reflected a lack of appreciation for the need of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world  
☐ rejected the need for bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world |
**Communicative Assessment**

| 1. The Student | □ fully interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials |
|                | □ interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing some Biblical background materials but did not relate the meaning fully |
|                | □ inadequately interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials |
|                | □ was unable to interpret and communicate the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials |