



Interpreting the Old Testament 1 OTEN 5351
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
Spring 2023 New Orleans Prepare Here Weekend
Hybrid

Dr. Cory Barnes
Associate Professor of OT and Hebrew
Nelson Price Chair of Distance Learning
Associate Vice President of Distance Learning
Office: Frost 202
Phone: 504-330-1074 (cell)
Email: cbarnes@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the content and major interpretive issues of Genesis–Esther. The course covers literary, historical, and theological contexts as well hermeneutical principles related to reading the OT genres of law and historical narratives. This course complements OTEN5352 OT Interpretation II: Job–Malachi.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

- Recognize the key issues in the critical study of the OT books of Genesis–Esther.
- Recognize the purpose and message of the OT books of Genesis–Esther.
- Understand the significance of Old Testament as Christian Scripture.
- Utilize key hermeneutical principles to interpret OT genres of narrative, law, and history.
- Develop an appreciation for and enjoyment of the Old Testament.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglass Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Hess, Richard S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

One of the following translations of the Bible: Christian Standard Bible, English Standard Version, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, New American Standard Bible.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

The primary method of instruction for this course will be lecture and guided analysis of the Old Testament. Students will also learn through reading, discussion, and research assignments which they will complete as required components of the course.

Course Requirements

1. *Weekly Quizzes* (30%) – Weekly Quizzes cover material from the lecture/notes/powerpoints as well as the reading for the week. Students will take quizzes on Canvas and should set aside 45 minutes to take the weekly quiz.
2. *Critical Thinking Forum Posts* (10%) – There are Critical Thinking Forums throughout the course. Each forum post requires critical engagement with a discussion prompt. Students must provide a post of at least 500 words that addresses the forum prompt. Avoid using language like “I think, I feel, etc.” Give direct answers to the prompt. While you are not required to respond to your peers, you are free to do so by informing them in a polite manner what questions you have about their post, additional thoughts you may add to their observations, or what qualities of their post you found particularly engaging.
3. *OT Chats* (10%) – On the five dates listed below, students will participate in a 30 minute “Chat” with the professor and other members of the course. Students who are able to participate live in the discussion receive full credit. Students who cannot attend the conversation must write a 200 word summary of the conversation and submit it via Canvas by the due date for the weekly assignments to receive credit.

Chat Schedule [Semester]

4. *Why the OT Matters Essay* (10%) – Students will write a 4–5 page doublespaced essay on “Why the Old Testament matters.” Address the following questions: What is the overarching story told by the OT? Do God’s commands in the Old Testament still apply to contemporary Christians? What does the OT teach Christians about Jesus? What role should the OT play in the teaching/preaching ministry of the local church? The essay does not have to be in official Turabian format, though it must be consistent and presentable. Students are to use 12 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins at top and bottom of the page.
5. *Worksheets* (40%) – Students will complete 4 worksheets which cover material relevant to the Old Testament. Worksheets are guided research that will require students to engage particular questions using specific sources and methodologies. Worksheets are to be 3-4 pages (Single Spaced) in length. Worksheets must be submitted on Canvas by the dates given in the Course Outline below.

Worksheet 1 will include the following question, which will be used as an embedded assignment in the course:

Identify how the ten commandments relate to the succession of covenants throughout the Pentateuch and Former Prophets. Draw from your assessment how this covenant idea should impact the body of Christ, including individual believers.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 30% - Weekly Quizzes
- 10% - Discussion Forums
- 10% - OT Chats
- 10% - Essay
- 40% - Worksheets

Attendance Policy

Intensive and Weekend Hybrid Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Technical Assistance

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

1. 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. canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System NOBTS.instructure.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. 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.

Late Submissions

Students will not receive credit on assignments submitted after the due date.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignments	Due Date
------	-------	---------	-------------	----------

1	Formation of OT/ANE Culture	Genesis 1–25 ANE Texts (Canvas)	Forum Post #1, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
2	OT Geography/Intro to Pentateuch	Genesis 26–50; Exodus 1–2 Hess 1–24	OT Chat #1, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
3	Reading OT Narrative	Exodus 3–37 Fee & Stuart 93–111	Forum Post #2, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
4	Reading OT Law	Exodus 38–40; Leviticus 1–22 Hess 25–54	OT Chat #2, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
5	Exodus	Leviticus 23–27; Numbers 1–29 Fee & Stuart 168–86	Worksheet #1, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
6	Leviticus/Numbers	Numbers 30–36; Deuteronomy 1–23 Hess 55–78	Forum Post #3, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
7	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy 24–34; Joshua 1–24 Hess 79–122	Worksheet #2, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
8	Weekend Hybrid Meets March 10-11: Genesis, Joshua, Judges, OT Lagniappe	Judges 1–21 Hess 123–60	Attend Hybrid Weekend!	
9	Reading OT Historical Books	Ruth 1–4; 1 Samuel 1–31 Hess 155-93	Forum Post #4, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
10	Ruth	2 Samuel 1–24 Hess 194-235	OT Chat #3, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
11	1-2 Samuel	1 Kings 1–22 Hess 236-74	Worksheet #3, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday

12	1-2 Kings	2 Kings 1–25 Hess 275-316	Forum Post #5, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
13	1-2 Chronicles	2 Chronicles 1–36 Hess 317-47	OT Chat #4, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
14	Ezra/Nehemiah/Esther	Ezra 1–10; Nehemiah 1–13; Esther 1–10 Hess 348–92	Worksheet #4, Weekly Quiz	All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday
15	Finals Week		Why the OT Matters Essay	Due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday of Finals Week.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alexander, T. Desmond, and David W. Baker, eds. 2002. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic.

Anderson, Amy, and Wendy Widder. 2018. *Textual Criticism of the Bible: Revised Edition*. Edited by Douglas Mangum. 2nd edition. Lexham Press.

Arnold, Bill T., and H. G. M. Williamson, eds. 2005. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*. Student edition. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic.

Briscoe, Thomas V. 1998. *Holman Bible Atlas: A Complete Guide to the Expansive Geography of Biblical History*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman.

Goldingay, John. 2015. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Exploring Text, Approaches and Issues*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.

Imes, Carmen Joy, and Christopher J. H. Wright. 2019. *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic.

Provan, Iain W, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman. 2015. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press.

Richter, Sandra L. 2008. *The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament*. Illustrated edition. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic.

Walton, John H. 2018. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic.