



**OTEN5300 Exploring  
the Old Testament Internet**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
**Biblical Studies**  
Fall 2019, 8/29/  
12/12/19

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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.

### **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.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course is: **Biblical Exposition**

### **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. Be able, with the help of resources, to interpret and communicate the Old Testament accurately.
4. 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.

**Note:** 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.

**Second**, - you will need to enter the "Discussion Board" section on Blackboard 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 area. You make more contributions, but two are required.

**Third**, - you will take the given quizzes by the date posted in the class syllabus and in the Blackboard test area (you can take them early, hence once you complete one then the next will open automatically). Midterm and Final Exams are also posted in the Test section and are to be taken by the given dates in class schedule.

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

#### **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, it will also help one know the materials of the OT for the quizzes, see bibliography for suggestions.

#### **Course Requirements**

1. / **Summative/Written Assignment:** Write a two-page paper (Word Document, Times New Roman, 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 per Turabian style as needed. Communicate also how the book impacts the faith and life of the contemporary church.
2. **Discussion Boards (DB):** Each person is to post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas. Then each student is to comment on at least two other person's posting during each given section.

**NOTE: Discussion Boards** -- A 2-point reduction for each day late will be assessed, with no credit being offered after 4 days late.

3. **Quizzes** (usually one per week) which are based upon reading of biblical text and class textbook, and any handouts in folder on BB, so read well, outline the book, note key dates, geographical movements, key celebrations and events, who did what, when and where etc. Notes can be used but only for the quizzes which are timed, points will be deducted.

4. **Midterm and Final Exam:** Students will complete a midterm and a final exam. All late work will be assessed a deduction of 2pt. per day of the assignment's point value. Late work may not be penalized at the instructor's discretion in the event of a military deployment, medical emergency, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

1. Weekly Quizzes (15) - 30% (300 points - 20 pts each) - 2 pts off for each day late, the lowest 2 are dropped, Yeah!
2. Discussion Board - 10% - 2 pts off for each day late
3. Mid-Term Exam - 20% - Closed book - 10/13 midnight
4. Summative Assignment - 20% - Due 12/7 midnight
5. Final Exam - 20% - Closed book - 12/12 midnight

### **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](http://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.

## Course Schedule

### **UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH**

*August 19-September 15*

1. Introductions – (see Discussion Board (DB) schedule below), introduce yourself, what’s your major, hobbies, where you are you from, etc. If you have a picture post it, like to see a face!
2. Reading Assignments (follow quiz schedule): this unit is from Genesis – Deuteronomy
3. Note- for sections/quizzes #2-3, also read in *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* article on “Sacrifices and Offerings.” (it is posted on Blackboard in this section)

#### **Quizzes and Discussion Lists:**

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

1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction by Aug 23
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by August 26
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by September 14

##### **Quizzes:**

QUIZ #1 Genesis, *OTS*, Background sections – Chp 46-48 (not quizzed over) & Chs. 1-3,  
Due Date Aug 28

QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*, Chs. 4-6, Due Date September 9

QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*, Chs. 7-8, Due Date September 15

### **UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS**

*September 16-Oct 13*

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

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

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by Sept 23
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by October 12

##### **Quizzes:**

QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, *OTS*, Chs. 9-11 Due Date September 25

QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*, Chs. 12-13 Due Date October 7

QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings, *OTS*, Chs. 14-15 Due Date October 13

**MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by October 13, by midnight**

## **UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS**

*October 14 - November 13*

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

#### **Discussion Board:**

6. Contribute a comment to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by October 20/21 if you take Fall Break
7. Contribute a comment to the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by November 4
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by November 12

#### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea, OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19 Due Date October 22
- QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah, OTS, Chs. 20-22 Due Date, October 28
- QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24  
Due Date November 4
- QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43  
Due Date November 9
- QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30  
Due Date November 13

## **UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS**

*November 14 - December 12*

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

#### **Discussion Board:**

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by November 21
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by December 2

#### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, OTS, Chapters 17, 31-32  
Due Date November 20
- QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS, Chapters 33-34, Due Date November 27
- QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS, Chapters 35-36, Due Date December 5
- QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah  
OTS, Chapters 37-42, Due Date December 11

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM Must be taken by December 12\*\*\***

**Blackboard course will close at midnight December 12**

Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office.

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## **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 (Turabian style) 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 Christian faith and living. <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.
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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.
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**GRADING MATRIX  
FOR SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT**

<u>Grammar</u> = 15% Spelling 10____ Grammar 50____ Sentence Structure, Clarity 20____ Verb Tenses 10____ Misplaced/Dangling Phrases 5____ Split Infinitives 5____	<u>Content</u> = 60% Appropriateness of Discussion (75%) Addressed historical issues 15____ Addressed genre issues 15____ Addressed theological issues 30____ Accuracy of information 25____ Reasoning 15____ Utilization of Resources (25%) Interaction w/ resources 50____ Quality of resources and tools 50____
General Composition = 15% Paragraph flow 25____ Style (readability) 25____ Focus 25____ Depth of Analysis 25____	<u>Documentation</u> = 10% Footnote Form 50____ Bibliography 50____
<u>Timeliness</u> - The Summative Assignment is due <b>December 7, 2017</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.