



**OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament, Internet  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Biblical Studies  
Fall 2020, Aug 24-Dec 17**

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**Mission Statement**

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

**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 **Mission Focus**.

**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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 but note the next quiz will open automatically only after you complete the one before). Each quiz is looked at for typing errors so must be close to received credit. Midterm and Final Exams are also posted in the Test section and are to be taken by the given dates in class schedule.

## **Course Requirements**

1. **Summative Assignment:** Write a minimum of a 500-word paper (New Roman Times 12 pt. font, can be single-spaced) summarizing the value to the church of **one** of the following OT books: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Psalms, or Isaiah. Using the format, similar to the class text, one will: Indicate the historical context, genre, major theologies, and interpretive concerns of the book. Here one will have to be concise and to the point making sure what one states is relevant to and category being discussed. The paper should indicate good research using appropriate resources and tools. Communicate how the book impacts the faith and life of the contemporary church. The paper should demonstrate good form and documentation using footnotes as needed per Turabian style. Grading Matric i.e. rubric is given below.
2. **Discussion Boards (DB):** Each person is to post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 Discussion Forms. Then each student is to comment on at least one other person's posting during each given section to advance

**NOTE: Discussion Boards** -- A 2-point reduction for each day late will be assessed, with

no credit being offered after 5 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 (where they stayed, historical events), key celebrations (i.e. Shavuot, Passover) 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, lowest 2 quizzes are dropped, Yeah! |
| 2. Discussion Board     | 10% (100 points) – 2 pts off for each day late  |
| 3. Mid-Term Exam        | 20% (200 points) – Closed book – see schedule   |
| 4. Summative Assignment | 20% (200 points) – Due 12/7 midnight  |
| 5. Final Exam           | 20% (200 points) – Closed book – see schedule   |

### **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. A link to the Writing Center should be on the Menu Bar for all classes in BB.

### **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 24-September 20*

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 24
2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by August 31
3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by September 21

##### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #1 Genesis, *OTS*, Background sections – Chs 46-48 (not quizzed over these chapters, 46-48, but have to read them) & Chs. 1-3, Due Date - September 2
- QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus, *OTS*, Chs. 4-6, Due Date - September 14
- QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, *OTS*, Chs. 7-8, Due Date - September 20

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

*September 21-Oct 18*

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

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

4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by Sept 28
5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by October 17

##### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, *OTS*, Chs. 9-11 Due Date September 30
- QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, *OTS*, Chs. 12-13 Due Date October 12
- QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings, *OTS*, Chs. 14-15 Due Date October 18

**MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by October 21, by midnight**

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

*October 19 - November 18*

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

#### **Discussion Board:**

6. Contribute a comment to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by October 26
7. Contribute a comment to the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC prophets by November 9
8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by November 17

#### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea, OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19 Due Date October 27
- QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah, OTS, Chs. 20-22 Due Date, November 2
- QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24  
Due Date November 9
- QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43  
Due Date November 15
- QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30  
Due Date November 18

## **UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS**

*November 19 - December 17*

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

#### **Discussion Board:**

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by November 26
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by December 7

#### **Quizzes:**

- QUIZ #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, OTS, Chapters 17, 31-32  
Due Date November 25
- QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS, Chapters 33-34, Due Date December 2
- QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS, Chapters 35-36, Due Date December 10
- QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah  
OTS, Chapters 37-42, Due Date December 16

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM Must be taken by December 17\*\*\***

**Blackboard course will close at midnight December 17**

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

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### GRADING MATRIX FOR SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT

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

Total Points =