



**OTEN5300 Exploring the Old
Testament, Online**
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Spring 2021, 1/19-5/13

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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.

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 understand the canonical development and arrangement of the OT.
2. The student will identify significant OT themes, characters, nations, and historical events (and their relationship to the NT whenever appropriate).
3. The student will demonstrate the value of the background, setting, literary structure, and message of the OT books (Authorship, Date, Content, Analysis, etc.).
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 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*, 2nd edition, (Eerdmans, 1996). (*OTS*)

Recommended reading:

1. A good History of Israel – this is highly recommended, it will help many who are new to understanding the OT, it will also help one for the quizzes (best to compare the history with what one reads in the class text), see bibliography for suggestions.
2. [Bill T. Arnold](#), [Bryan E. Bever](#)., *Readings from the Ancient Near East Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. (Baker, 2002)

3. [*Philip J. King, Lawrence E. Stager. Life in Biblical Israel*](#), (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001)

Course Teaching Methodology

This course is primarily a reading course which involves three major activities:

1. **Bible Reading** - read 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 "Course Documents" section (along with Notes and Exams).
Note: Additional notes and helps in interpretation are also posted in "Course Documents" mainly with each new Unit section which includes such items as outlines of the Biblical books, Biblical background information, and articles for reading for which one is responsible.
2. **Discussion Board** - one will enter the "Discussion Board" as found on Blackboard in which ten different sections are posted. Each section (relating to specific books of the Bible) has a question (or questions) under the subject area for which you will enter your contribution (post) to the discussion. One's post should be a thoughtful analysis based on one's readings and personal study considering assumptions, analyzing implications, and comparing/contrasting concepts.
3. **Textbook Reading & Quizzes** - one will take the given quizzes (about one per week) on or before the date posted in the syllabus. They are given in Course Documents on Blackboard (you can take them early, hence once you complete one quiz the next will open automatically). Quizzes are based upon the reading of both the biblical text and class textbook, so read well.

Course Requirements

1. **Written Assignment:** Write a 600-word paper that does not include the bibliography or title page, (Word Document, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, it can be 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, so be specific and to the point. 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 (2-3 sentences).
2. **Discussion Boards (DB):** Each person is to post their own discussion thread (at least 100 words) on each of the 10 sections. Then each student is to comment on at least two other person's posting during each given section. Replies should always seek to advance the discussion not merely agreeing with the post.
NOTE: Discussion Boards -- A 5-point reduction for each day late will be assessed, with no credit being offered after 4 days late.

3. **Quizzes** (usually one per week up to 20 questions of fill in the blank, T or F and multiple-choice, and do note all quizzes are checked for spelling so one does not have to email us here) which are based upon the reading of the biblical text, class textbook, and any related handouts placed in Course Docs on BB, so read well. One can use their notes for the quiz, so organize notes well and I would even outline the book, do note any key dates and any issues associated with hem, geographical movements and where events took place and why, key biblical celebrations and their biblical name (see handout here) and events, who did what, when and where, etc. Notes, as noted, can be used but only for the quizzes which are timed (20 min.), points will be deducted if one goes over. If not familiar with the OT, I highly recommend one read another introduction alongside the class text and compare the two, but the class text is the final authority. Also, read several different translations of the Bible.
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% - (20 pts each, 2 pts off for each day late) |
| 2. Discussion Participation | 10% |
| 3. Research Paper | 20% – May 3 by midnight |
| 4. Mid-Term Exam | 20% – Closed book |
| 5. Final Exam | 20% – Closed book, by May 13 midnight (If graduating by 12 th) |

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. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.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.

Netiquette: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online with professors and peers. 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.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

Students are given the task of writing reports & answering worksheet questions in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the result of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students & a grade of “F” will be assigned.

Course Outline & Schedule**UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH***January 19 – February 14*

1. Introductions – (see Discussion Board = DB), introduce yourself, if you have a picture post it, like to see a face!
2. Reading Assignments: Genesis – Deuteronomy
3. For sections/quizzes, #2-3, also read the article from *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* on “Sacrifices and Offerings”, (posted on Blackboard in this section of notes)

Quizzes and Discussion Lists:**Discussion Board:**

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction | Jan 23 |
| 2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism | Jan 24 |
| 3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy | Feb 6 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| #1 Genesis, <i>OTS</i> : Background read Chs. 46-48 (not quizzed over) & Chs. 1-3 (which are!) | Jan 25 |
| #2 Exodus & Leviticus, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 4-6, | Feb 7 |
| #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, <i>OTS</i> : and Chs. 7-8, | Feb 14 |

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS*February 15 – March 21**(Note tried to allow for some Spring Break but need to manage well!)***Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:****Discussion Board:**

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|---|--------|
| 4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges | Mar 2 |
| 5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings | Mar 16 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| #4 Joshua- Judges, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 9-11 | Feb 24 |
| #5 1-2 Samuel, <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 12-13 | Mar 10 |
| #6 1-2 Kings; <i>OTS</i> : Chs. 14-15 | Mar 21 |

MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by March 22, by midnight!

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

March 22 – April 19

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

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|---|--------|
| 6. Contribute a comment to the 8 th century BC | Mar 27 |
| 7. Contribute a comment to the 7- 6 th century BC prophets | Apr 10 |
| 8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets | Apr 18 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea OTS: Chs. 16, 18-19, | Mar 27 |
| #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah OTS: Chs. 20-22, | Apr 3 |
| #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS: Chs. 23-24 | Apr 9 |
| #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS: Chs. 25-27, 43, | Apr 14 |
| #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS: Chs. 28-30, | Apr 19 |

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

April 20 – May 13

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section | Apr 29 |
| 10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section | May 8 |

Quizzes:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, OTS: Chs. 17, 31-32, | Apr 25 |
| #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, OTS: Chs 33-34, | May 1 |
| #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, OTS: Chs 35-36, | May 6 |
| #15 S of S's, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah; OTS: Chs. 37-42 | May12 |
| Research paper due May 3 | |

*****FINAL EXAM Must be taken by May 13*****

Blackboard course will close at Midnight

If you are anticipating graduation in May - You must take the Final Exam by May 12th at the latest.

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

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