



OTEN 5300 Exploring the Old Testament (online)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Summer 2022

Dr. Jonathan Patterson
Adjunct Instructor in Old Testament & Hebrew
HSC 236
504-816-8171 (office); 251-259-8145 (cell)
jpatterson@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 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

In this course, students should:

1. Gain understanding of the canonical development and arrangement of the Old Testament.
2. Be able to identify significant Old Testament themes, characters, nations, and historical events (and their relationship to the New Testament whenever appropriate).
3. Be able to demonstrate the value of the background, setting, literary structure, and message of the Old Testament books (i.e., authorship, date, content, analysis, etc.).
4. Learn to work with selected methods currently employed in the study of the Old Testament and explain the resultant implications of the various theories.

Textbooks and Resources

Arnold, Bill T. and Brent A. Strawn. *The World Around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

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

Provan, Iain W., V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. 2d edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Zondervan, 1994.

Any modern English translation of the Bible (NASB, NIV, ESV, CSB, etc.)

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will employ a variety of methods for acquisition and understanding of the Old Testament, including readings from the Old Testament and assigned textbooks, research on a variety of topics pertinent to the study of the Old Testament, and reflection on the implications of Old Testament themes, characters, etc., for New Testament Christians. Brief explanatory videos will be provided for each unit dealing with these various topics and students are expected to view these videos and complete the required reading and writing assignments for each unit.

Course Requirements

1. Reading Quizzes (20%): Students are responsible for completing each of the assigned textbook readings as well as the readings from the Old Testament for each unit. Quizzes on the readings will be given for each unit and students will be expected to complete the reading quizzes by Sunday of each week. *Reading quizzes may not be taken late unless prior approval has been granted by the professor.*
2. Worksheets (60%): Students will demonstrate mastery of the canonical text by submitting three (3) worksheets during the course term. The worksheets will consist of four research questions each. While students are encouraged to pursue their own research whenever possible, the professor recognizes that many online students have limited, if any, access to a good theological library. Consequently, a number of essays and articles from dictionaries, encyclopedias, commentaries, and other research works will be provided in the Blackboard shell for the course. At a minimum, students will be expected to have read these materials and use them (properly citing them, as necessary) to answer the research questions for each worksheet. But students should make every effort to locate other source material for researching these questions if they wish to receive credit for doing more than the minimum. Each worksheet must be well-written with proper formatting (footnotes, headings, margins, etc.) and should be a minimum of 14-20 pages, double-spaced and include a selected bibliography (not included in total page count). *Worksheet 1 is due **June 19**; Worksheet 2 is due **July 10**; Worksheet 3 is due **July 24**.*
3. Discussion Boards (20%): Each unit will contain a Discussion Board to which students will respond. Responses should be roughly 150-250 words and reflect critical engagement with the readings for that unit. Discussion Board responses are due by Sunday each week.
4. Extra Credit: Students may earn up to **three (3) points** on their final average by completing one of the following extra credit assignments. The assignment should demonstrate research on the topic, by means of footnotes and a selected bibliography, and should be well-written and properly formatted. The extra credit assignment must be submitted no later than **Thursday, July 29**.
 - a. Write a 2-3 single-spaced page critical introduction to the book of Jeremiah. The critical introduction should include discussions of authorship, date, structure historical background and context, and the differences between the Masoretic Text (Hebrew) and the Septuagint (Greek) versions of the book.
 - b. Write a 2-3 single-spaced page introduction to the Book of the Twelve (the English Minor Prophets), including discussion on the compositional/editorial history and processes that brought the twelve individual books together into a single collection in the Hebrew Bible.
 - c. Write a 2-3 single-spaced page introduction to the Psalter, detailing its usage for the ancient Israelites as well as its organization and division into five distinct "books."

Late Work: Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of **ten (10) points each day** after the due date; however, reading quizzes *will not* be available after the due date and students will not be able to take quizzes late unless they have received approval from the professor *prior to the due date*. Because of the hurried nature of a shortened summer term, students who fall behind in one week are falling behind the equivalent of two weeks in a regular semester. Consequently, it is vital that students are diligent in submitting their assignments in a timely manner. Any late work submitted after **Thursday, July 28** will not be accepted.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Reading Quizzes	20%
Discussion Board Posts	20%
Worksheets (3 @ 20% each)	<u>60%</u>
	100%

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.

Attendance and Classroom Etiquette

While an online course does not have an "attendance policy" per se, students are expected to be active participants each week of the class. Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner, including weekly assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Students are also expected to be respectful of their classmates in any online discussion and interaction. Any student who repeatedly demonstrates a lack of respect for classmates or the professors may be required to meet with the professors and the Dean of Students and could be subject to removal from the class.

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

Units	Topics	Readings	Assignments	Due Date
1 & 2	Course Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hess: 1-24 • Provan: 3-152 • Walton: 12, 60-61, 76-79, 90-93, 96 	<i>Unit 1 Discussion Board</i> <i>Syllabus Quiz</i>	June 5
	Genesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis • Hess: 25-54 • Provan: 155-176 • Arnold: 1-105 • Walton: 13-18, 80-82, 97-98, 100-101 	<i>Unit 2 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	
3 & 4	Exodus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exodus • Hess: 55-78 • Provan: 176-189 • Arnold: 107-196 • Walton: 21, 62-65, 71-73, 84-85, 99, 102-110, 112-113 	<i>Unit 3 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	June 12
	Leviticus & Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leviticus & Numbers • Hess: 79-122 • Arnold: 197-265 • Walton: 19-23, 37 	<i>Unit 4 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	
5 & 6	Deuteronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deuteronomy • Hess: 123-153 • Arnold: 267-352 • Walton: 24-25, 38, 71-73, 79, 83-84, 86-87 	<i>Unit 5 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	June 19
	Joshua & Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua & Judges • Hess: 155-219 • Provan: 190-258 • Arnold: 353-377 • Walton: 26, 37-39, 83, 104, 111 	<i>Unit 6 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i> Worksheet 1	
7 & 8	Ruth; 1 & 2 Samuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth; 1 & 2 Samuel • Hess: 220-274 • Provan: 259-317 • Walton: 40-46 	<i>Unit 7 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	June 26
	1 & 2 Kings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 & 2 Kings • Hess: 275-316 • Provan: 318-378 • Arnold: 379-415 • Walton: 27-34 	<i>Unit 8 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	

9 & 10	Psalms & Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalms & Job • Hess: 389-451 • Walton: 47-51 	<i>Unit 9 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	July 3
	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, & Lamentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, & Lamentations • Hess: 452-510, 561-567 	<i>Unit 10 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	
11 & 12	8 th Century Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, & Micah • Hess: 511-539, 599-610, 618-630, 637-655 • Arnold: 417-465 • Walton: 46, 52-56, 58, 65-67, 74 	<i>Unit 11 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i> Worksheet 2	July 10
	7 th Century Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, & Zephaniah • Hess: 540-560, 656-682 • Provan: 379-411 • Walton: 68-69 	<i>Unit 12 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	
13 & 14	6 th Century Prophets 5 th Century Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ezekiel, Obadiah, Joel, Haggai, Zechariah, & Malachi • Hess: 568-584, 611-617, 631-636, 683-710 • Walton: 58-70 	<i>Unit 13 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	July 17
	Post-Exilic Writings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esther, Ezra, & Nehemiah • Hess: 348-387 • Walton: 27, 35-36, 75, 107-118 	<i>Unit 14 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	
15 & 16	Chronicles & Daniel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 & 2 Chronicles, Daniel • Hess: 317-347, 585-598 • Arnold: 467-500 • Walton: 57, 75, 105-106 	<i>Unit 15 Discussion Board</i> <i>Reading Quiz</i>	July 24
			Worksheet 3	

***Any assignments submitted after Thursday, July 28 will not be accepted.**

Worksheet Questions

Worksheet 1

- Who were the Israelites and where did they come from?
- What is the purpose of Gen 1-11 as a whole unit?
- Discuss the authorship of the Pentateuch. Include arguments for single authorship, the fragmentary hypothesis, supplementary hypothesis, and documentary hypothesis.
- Discuss the idea of covenant in the Pentateuch with special focus on the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants.

Worksheet 2

- Thoroughly discuss the theories concerning the entry of Israel into the land of Canaan (vast military conquest, peasant revolt, socio-political assimilation, etc.). Include the progression of destruction within the land (the destruction of Ai, Shechem, Jericho, etc.).
- Discuss the difference between the Kings corpus and the Chronicler's history.
- Briefly discuss the theologies in the Psalter.
- List and explain the three major interpretive approaches to the Song of Songs.

Worksheet 3

- Discuss the importance of Josiah's reform (2 Kgs 22-23) in relation to history and the Old Testament canon.
- Discuss the authorship views of the book of Isaiah.
- Summarize the theologies of the Minor Prophets (answers should include a brief paragraph about each book).
- Is the book of Daniel apocalyptic? Discuss the arguments for prophetic and apocalyptic genre. Include a discussion of dating and authorship.

Selected Bibliography

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