



Hebrew Exegesis: Genesis 12-36 OTHB6302
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
Spring 2022 Tuesday/Thursday

Cory Barnes
Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew
Office: Frost Building
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

An advanced course giving consideration to textual, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis in a variety of genres. The course will emphasize proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching. Students may repeat this course if the individual biblical books or collections being studied are not duplicated. Prerequisites: OTHB5300 Introductory Hebrew Grammar and OTHB6300 Intermediate Hebrew Grammar for Exegesis.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to do exegetical work using the Hebrew text of Genesis 12–36.
- Develop a general knowledge of the state of research of Genesis 12–36.
- Develop an appreciation of the role of the book of Genesis in biblical scholarship in general and Christian theology in particular.
- Locate the message of Genesis 12–36 within its ANE context.
- Explore how the message of Genesis 12–36 speaks to God's people now and throughout history.

Textbooks

The following textbooks are required:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsch Bibelgesellschaft, 1997.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, 2nd edition. New York: Basic Books, 2011.

Goldingay, John. *Genesis*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament. Pentateuch. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2020.

Waltke, Bruce, and Kathy J. Fredricks. *Genesis: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

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 Hebrew text based on student translations. Students will also learn through reading and research assignments which they will complete outside of class meetings.

Course Requirements

Course Participation (10% of course grade)

In class students are expected to be present and to translate passages in class using only their Hebrew text. Screens on computers, smart phones, and tablets must be turned off when students are translating.

Flex students must complete the "flex lecture survey" each week. To complete these 3-question, short answer surveys students must have watched both the Tuesday and Thursday lectures. The surveys are available in the folder titled "Flex Lecture Surveys" in Blackboard. Surveys are due 7 days after the last lecture of each week with the exception of the week 16 survey, which is due on December 7.

Outline of Genesis(10% of course grade)

Students will create a 3-4 page (single spaced) outline of the entire book of Genesis. The outline should focus on major thematic and literary structures within Genesis.

Weekly Translation and Commentary Analysis (20% of course grade)

Each week students will submit a translation of the assigned passage for the week that includes the following elements:

1. A translation of the assigned passage for the week.
2. An analysis of grammatical and syntactical issues in the passage
3. A reflection of the commentary readings from Goldingay and Waltke for the passage

A template for these assignments is available on Blackboard.

Weekly translations analyses are to be submitted via blackboard by 11:59pm on Saturday in the week in which they are due.

Midterm Exam (10% of course grade)

A midterm exam will be given that covers background issues related to Genesis 12-36 as well as Hebrew translation.

Review of *The Art of Biblical Narrative* by Robert Alter (20% of course grade)

The review must be between 1000-1200 words and include the following sections: Background of authors, structure of book, critical analysis. The review *should not be a summary of the book's contents.*

Research Paper (30% of course grade)

Students will write a paper dealing with an interpretive, theological, or textual issue that is based in Gen 12-26. The thesis for a student's paper must be approved by the professor before the date indicated on the course schedule. Acceptable thesis statements must make a clear and compelling argument. Papers will be 8-10 pages double spaced.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 10% - Course Participation\
- 10% - Outline of Genesis
- 20% - Weekly Translation Analysis

- 10% - Midterm Exam
- 20% - Review of *The Art of Biblical Narrative*
- 30% - Research Paper

NOLA2U FLEX Policies

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See "Absences" category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through submitting the flex lecture survey after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

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.

Resource Use in the Classroom

Students who are attending the course in person (i.e. not via NOLA2U Flex) should bring only their translation analysis and Hebrew Bible to class meetings. Use of Bible software, English Bibles, or other resources are prohibited in the classroom.

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

Week	Date	Topic	Quiz/Assignment
1	Jan 28	Intro to Course and Review of Weekly Translation and Commentary Analysis	
	Jan 20	Genesis Background 1	
2	Jan 25	Genesis Background 2	
	Jan 27	Writing Workshop #1	
3	Feb 1	Theological Reading in Genesis	Outline of Genesis Due
	Feb 3	Genesis 12:1-9	Translation and Analysis
4	Feb 8	Genesis 12:10-20	
	Feb 10	Genesis 14:11-24	Translation and Analysis
5	Feb 15	Narrative Analysis in Genesis	Alter Book Review Due
	Feb 17	Genesis 15:1-21	Translation and Analysis
6	Feb 22	Genesis 16:1-15	
	Feb 24	Genesis 17:9-22	Translation and Analysis
7	March 1	Mardi Gras – No Class	
	March 3	Genesis 22:1-24	Translation and Analysis
8	March 8	Genesis 23:1-20	
	March 10	Midterm	Midterm Exam
9	March 15	Spring Break	
	March 17	Spring Break	
10	March 22	Genesis 24:1-14	
	March 24	Genesis 25:19-34	Translation and Analysis
11	March 29	Writing Workshop #2	
	March 31	Genesis 27:18-28	Translation and Analysis
12	April 5	Genesis 28:10-22	
	April 7	Genesis 29:21-35	Translation and Analysis
13	April 12	Genesis 31:25-35	
	April 14	Genesis 32:22-32	Translation and Analysis
14	April 19	Genesis 34:1-12	
	April 21	Genesis 34:1:13-31	
15	April 26	Genesis 35:1-15	Final Paper Due
	April 28	Genesis 35:16-29	
16	May 3	Q&A/Catch Up	

Selected Bibliography

Commentaries

- Brueggemann, Walter. *Genesis*. Interpretation, A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.
- Calvin, John. *Commentaries on the First Book of Moses Called Genesis*. Translated by John King. Calvin's Commentaries 1. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948.
- Cassuto, Umberto. *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis*. Translated by Israel Abrahams. Vol. 1. Jerusalem: The Magnes Press, 1972.
- Galambush, Julie. *Reading Genesis: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Incorporated, 2018.
- Gunkel, Hermann. *Genesis*. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. Mercer Library of Biblical Studies. Macon, Ga: Mercer University Press, 1997.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1–17*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Kuruwilla, Abraham. *Genesis: A Theological Commentary for Preachers*. Illustrated edition. Resource Publications, 2014.
- Longman, Tremper. *Genesis*. Edited by Scot McKnight. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Academic, 2016.
- Mathews, Kenneth A. *Genesis 1–11:26*. New American Commentary 1A. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
- Miller, Johnny V., and John M. Soden. *In the Beginning... We Misunderstood: Interpreting Genesis 1 in Its Original Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2012.
- Rad, Gerhard von. *Genesis: A Commentary*. Rev. ed. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1972.
- Sarna, Nahum M., ed. *Genesis*. The JPS Torah Commentary 1. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1991.
- Walton, John H. *Genesis*. NIV Application Commentary 1. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Westermann, Claus. *Genesis 1-11*. Continental Commentary. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

ANE Background of Genesis

- Gunkel, Hermann. *The Legends of Genesis: The Biblical Saga and History*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003.
- Gunkel, Hermann, and Heinrich Zimmern. *Creation and Chaos in the Primeval Era and the Eschaton: A Religio-Historical Study of Genesis 1 and Revelation 12*. Translated by K. William Whitney. The Biblical Resource Series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Heidel, Alexander. *The Babylonian Genesis: The Story of Creation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993.
- Hvidberg, Flemming Friis. "Canaanite Background of Gen 1-3." *Vetus Testamentum* 10.3 (1960): 285–94.

Theological Interpretation of Genesis

- Allert, Craig D. *Early Christian Readings of Genesis One: Patristic Exegesis and Literal Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2018.
- Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *The Gospel in Genesis: From Fig Leaves to Faith*. 1st edition. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2009.
- Luther, Martin. *Luther's Commentary on Genesis*. Translated by J. Theodore Mueller. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1958.
- McKeown, James. *Genesis*. First Edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2008.
- Miller, Johnny V., and John M. Soden. *In the Beginning... We Misunderstood: Interpreting Genesis 1 in Its Original Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2012.
- Ortlund, Gavin. *Retrieving Augustine's Doctrine of Creation: Ancient Wisdom for Current Controversy*, 2020.

Reno, R. R. *Genesis*. Edited by R. Reno and Robert Jenson, 2017.

Genesis Monographs

Arnold, Bill. *Encountering The Book Of Genesis*. Illustrated edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Publishing Group, 2009.

Coats, George W. *Genesis: An Introduction to Narrative Literature*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1983.

Davis, John James. *Paradise to Prison: Studies in Genesis*. Salem, Wisc.: Sheffield Publishing Co., 1998.

Day, John, Andrew Mein, and Claudia V. Camp. *From Creation to Babel: Studies in Genesis 1-11*. Reprint edition. London: T&T Clark, 2015.

Hess, Richard S., and David Toshio Tsumura, eds. *I Studied Inscriptions from Before the Flood: Ancient Near Eastern, Literary, and Linguistic Approaches to Genesis 1-11*. 1st edition. Eisenbrauns, 1994.

Huddleston, Jonathan. *Eschatology in Genesis*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012.

Longman, Tremper. *How to Read Genesis*. IVP Academic, 2009.

Mbuvi, Amanda Beckenstein. *Belonging in Genesis: Biblical Israel and the Politics of Identity Formation*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2016.

Mein, Andrew, and Claudia V. Camp. *World of Genesis*. Edited by Philip R. Davies and David J. A. Clines. 1st edition. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.

Provan, Iain. *Discovering Genesis: Content, Interpretation, Reception*. Eerdmans, 2016.

Rendsburg, Gary A. *The Redaction of Genesis*. Paperback reprint of 1986 edition. Place of publication not identified: Eisenbrauns, 2013.