



**Interpreting the Old Testament 2 OTEN 5352**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Biblical Studies**

**Mr. Ricky Michalski**  
**Adjunct Instructor**  
**Email: rickymichalski@gmail.com**

**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 introduces the content and major interpretive issues of the OT books of Job–Malachi. The course covers literary, historical, and theological contexts as well hermeneutical principles related to reading the OT genres of wisdom, poetry, and prophecy. This course complements OTEN5351 OT Interpretation I: Genesis–Esther.

**COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Recognize the key issues in the critical study of the OT books of Job–Malachi.
2. Recognize the purpose and message of the OT books of Job–Malachi.
3. Understand the significance of Old Testament as Christian Scripture.
4. Utilize key hermeneutical principles to interpret OT genres of Prophecy, Poetry, and Wisdom.
5. Develop an appreciation for and enjoyment of the Old Testament.

**COURSE TEXTS**

The following textbooks are required:

1. Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
2. Hess, Richard S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
3. One of the following translations of the Bible:
  - a. Christian Standard Bible
  - b. New Revised Standard Version
  - c. Robert Alter's *The Hebrew Bible*
  - d. John Goldingay's *The First Testament*
  - e. New Jerusalem Bible
  - f. New American Bible
  - g. English Standard Version
  - h. New American Standard Bible
  - i. New International Version

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. The primary method of instruction for this course will be lecture and guided analysis of the Old Testament.
2. Students will also learn through reading, discussion, and research assignments which they will complete as required components of the course.

## **Course Requirements**

1. **Weekly Quizzes (30%)** – Weekly Quizzes cover material from the lecture/notes/slideshow as well as the reading for the week. Students should set aside 45 minutes to take the weekly quiz.
2. **Critical Thinking Forum Posts (10%)** – There are Critical Thinking Forums throughout the course. Each forum post requires critical engagement with a discussion prompt. Students must provide a post of at least 500 words that addresses the forum prompt. Avoid using language like “I think, I feel, etc.” Give direct answers to the prompt. While you are not required to respond to your peers, you are free to do so by informing them in a polite manner what questions you have about their post, additional thoughts you may add to their observations, or what qualities of their post you found particularly engaging
3. **OT Chats (10%)** – On the five dates listed below, students will participate in a 30 minute “Chat” with the professor and other members of the course. Students who are able to participate live in the discussion receive full credit based on their attendance. Students who cannot attend the conversation must write a 200 word summary of the conversation and submit it via Canvas by the due date for the weekly assignments to receive credit.

### **Chat Schedule:**

- Chat 1: Friday, June 2, 12:30-1:00pm**
- Chat 2: Friday, June 9, 12:30-1:00pm**
- Chat 3: Friday, June 23, 12:30-1:00pm**
- Chat 4: Friday, June 30, 12:30-1:00pm**
- Chat 5: Friday, July 14, 12:30-1:00pm**

4. **Sermon/Teaching Outline (10%)** – Each student will complete a comprehensive teaching/sermon outline on an assigned passage from an OT book. Passages will be assigned by the professor by the tenth week of the course. Students will use the Sermon/Teaching Outline template provided in Canvas.
5. **Worksheets (40%)** – Students will complete 4 worksheets which cover material relevant to the Old Testament. Worksheets are guided research that will require students to engage particular questions using specific sources and methodologies. Worksheets are to be 3-4 pages single spaced (i.e., 1,500-2,000 words) in length. Worksheets must be submitted on Canvas by the dates given in the Course Outline below.

## **Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 30% - Weekly Quizzes
- 10% - Discussion Forums
- 10% - OT Chats
- 10% - Outline
- 40% - Worksheets

## **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

## **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. [canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System [nobts.instructure.com](http://nobts.instructure.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 | Topic                                  | Reading  | Assignments                   | Due Date                                       |
|------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1    | Introduction to Wisdom Literature      | Job 1–27<br>Fee & Stuart 233–57  | Forum Post #1,<br>Weekly Quiz | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 2    | Proverbs, Song of Songs                | Job 28–42; Proverbs 1–5<br>Hess 452–74; 494–512                                  | OT Chat #1,<br>Weekly Quiz    | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 3    | Job, Ecclesiastes                      | Proverbs 6–31;<br>Ecclesiastes 1–12; Song of Solomon 1–8<br>Hess 393–416; 475–93 | Forum Post #2,<br>Weekly Quiz | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 4    | Introduction to OT Poetry              | Psalms 1–55<br>Fee & Stuart 212–32   | OT Chat #2,<br>Weekly Quiz    | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 5    | Psalms                                 | Psalms 57–84<br>Hess 417–51  | Worksheet #1,<br>Weekly Quiz  | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 6    | Introduction to Prophecy               | Psalms 85–150<br>Fee & Stuart 187–211  | Forum Post #3,<br>Weekly Quiz | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 7    | Isaiah                                 | Isaiah 1–27<br>Hess 513–39   | OT Chat #3,<br>Weekly Quiz    | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 8    | Jeremiah/Lamentations                  | Isaiah 28–66<br>Hess 540–67  | Worksheet #2,<br>Weekly Quiz  | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 9    | Ezekiel                                | Jeremiah 1–35<br>Hess 568–84   | Forum Post #4,<br>Weekly Quiz | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 10   | Hosea, Joel, Amos                      | Jeremiah 36–52;<br>Lamentations 1–5<br>Hess 599–630                              | OT Chat #4,<br>Weekly Quiz    | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 11   | Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk | Ezekiel 1–23<br>Hess 631–75  | Worksheet #3,<br>Weekly Quiz  | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 12   | Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi  | Ezekiel 24–48<br>Hess 676–710  | Forum Post #5,<br>Weekly Quiz | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |

|    |                                   |  |                           |  |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
|    |                                   |  |                           | Saturday                                       |
| 13 | Daniel and Apocalyptic Literature | Daniel 1–12; Hosea 1–14; Joel 1–3; Amos 1–9<br><br>Hess 585–98   | OT Chat #5, Weekly Quiz   | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 14 | OT Theology and Intertextuality   | Obadiah, Jonah 1–4; Micah 1–7; Nahum 1–3; Habakkuk 1–3; Zephaniah 1–3; Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–14; Malachi 1–4 | Worksheet #4, Weekly Quiz | All Assignments are due by 11:59pm on Saturday |
| 15 | Finals Week                       |  | Sermon/Teaching Outline   | Due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday of Finals Week.   |

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boda, Mark J., and J. Gordon McConville, eds. 2012. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic.
- Carson, D. A., and G. K. Beale, eds. 2007. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Unknown edition. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Nottingham, England: Baker Academic.
- Declaisse-Walford, N., and Nancy L. De Claisse-Walford. 1997. *Reading from the Beginning: The Shaping of the Hebrew Psalter*. First Edition. Macon, Ga: Mercer University Press.
- Goldingay, John. 2003. *Israel's Gospel*. Old Testament Theology. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press.
- Gundry, Stanley N., Walter C. Kaiser Jr, Darrell L. Bock, and Peter E. Enns. 2008. *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Edited by Kenneth Berding and Jonathan Lunde. Illustrated edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.
- Longman III, Tremper ed. 2008. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry and Writings*. Downers Grove, Ill. : Nottingham, England: IVP.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2009. *How to Read Proverbs*. IVP Academic.
- Moberly, R. W. L. 2015. *Old Testament Theology: Reading the Hebrew Bible as Christian Scripture*. Reprint edition. Baker Academic.
- Troxel, Ronald L. 2012. *Prophetic Literature: From Oracles to Books*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- VanGemeren, Willem. 2004. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word: An Introduction to the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament*. Nachdr. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J., Craig G. Bartholomew, Daniel J. Treier, and N. T. Wright, eds. 2005. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Edition Unstated. London : Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic.
- Wright, N. T. 2013. *The Case for the Psalms: Why They Are Essential*. New York: HarperOne.