



BSOT 8300: Old Testament Foundations
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
Fall 2025—Oct. 27-29 (Mon-Wed)

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LSC 231 C

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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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the content and major interpretive issues of the OT via its three main divisions of Law, Prophets, and Writings. The course covers literary, historical, and theological contexts as well hermeneutical principles related to reading the OT genres of Narrative, Law, Wisdom, Poetry, and Prophecy.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

Recognize the key issues in the critical study of the OT.

Recognize the purpose and message of the OT books.

Understand the significance of Old Testament as Christian Scripture.

Utilize key hermeneutical principles to interpret OT genres of Law, Narrative, Prophecy, Poetry, and Wisdom.

Develop an appreciation for and enjoyment of the Old Testament.

COURSE TEXTS (All Required, some by class; remainder by 11/30/25)

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.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglass Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Merrill, Eugene H., Mark F. Rooker, and Michael A. Grisanti. Foreward by Edwin Yamauchi. *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2011.

Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015.

One of the following translations of the Bible: Christian Standard Bible, English Standard Version, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, New American Standard Bible; others by professor approval.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

Completed prework will be presented via short presentations (by every student). The topics presented will drive the resultant teaching. Drawing from the class discussions from the three-day seminar meeting, students will complete the assigned post-work. The student bears the primary responsibility of learning course content (textbooks). Via the seminar presentations and interactions, the students will be guided in the affective and psychomotor domains of higher learning.

Course Requirements and Evaluation of the Final Grade

1. Textbook Reading (all F/S and ½ Merrill, Rooker, & Grisanti—due 10/27, 8:15am) (15%)
2. Bible Reading: Choose one of following sections and read completely by 10/27 (15%)
 - a. Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
 - b. Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings)
 - c. Latter Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Book of the Twelve)
 - d. Wisdom and Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Songs)
 - e. Persian Period (Lamentations, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, 1-2 Chronicles)
3. Sermon/lesson briefs: Five—one for each OT genre; present one in class (15%)
 - a. Prepare five lessons or sermon briefs, one from each genre, listed in b. Remaining four are due 11/30/25
 - b. Prepare and present one sermon brief in class (DUE BY 10/27, 8:15AM); present this as a Powerpoint presentation and be prepared to do so either as a devotional or as a critical discussion.
 - c. The five genres are: law, narrative, poetry, wisdom, and prophecy
 - d. All five briefs combined should be appropriately 2,000-2,500 words
 - e. Each brief should be derived from the biblical text and completed via sound hermeneutical principles (cf. Fee & Stewart)
4. Critical thinking reflection project about the formation of the Old Testament: (15%)

Using scholarly resources, develop a chronological arrangement of where each book of the OT fits into a timeline. This is a “thinking” assignment in which I’m asking you to make decisions about how the Bible evolved and was consequently put together—e.g., If Amos occurred before Jeremiah, why is it bundled with eleven other books, especially since Malachi could have been composed over 300 years later. DUE BY 10/27, 8:15AM
5. Choose to prepare either (Due by Wednesday 10/29, 8:15AM) (15%)
 - a. a powerpoint presentation on how to preach the entire OT in a single sermon (no longer than 35 min.), or
 - b. read a book on any topic in the OT and write a short reflection paper (250-500 words) on how it might help ministers preach the OT.
6. Choose one of the following topics below and then decide how you want to present it, as either: (Due 11/30/25 midnight) (25%)
 - a. Prepare a 3,000-3,500 word, research paper on the selected topic

- b. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation addressing the selected topic for your ministry context (20 slides max, with resources noted).

Topics

- i. How the Pentateuch prepared Israel for the coming of the Messiah. Be sure to show how the NT engaged the OT to do so.
- ii. How the Prophets communicated a coming Messiah. Be sure to show how this was incorporated into the NT.

This is a research project, whether presented as slides or as a formal paper.

The purpose of this research project is to prepare you for the writing components of the final project proposal (as well as, for the final project report). I'm attempting to guide you via critical thinking assignments in how to write out assessments of the work that you have done. If you choose to submit this as a research paper, I will do my best to provide copious feedback remarks to assist you in becoming a better writer. If time or circumstances limit you to presenting your results as slides, I will do my best to critique your ideas and thought flow, but there will be far less focus on the written components.

For either approach, you should use approximately 12-15 serious, scholarly resources and document the use of these resources thoroughly (on average, 2.5 footnotes per page, if in paper format). If written out, you may introduce the topic by summarizing everything that you found and, then, limit the NT use of the OT references to one particular NT element. If presented via slides, provide your talking points with supporting sources embedded.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions according to the formats offered. Any student missing class may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course.

If you are attending this course as a **NOLA2U LIVE student**, note the following attendance policies:

1. You must attend class by viewing the lecture with your camera on.
2. Stay aware at all times of what everyone else might view. You may certainly mute your camera during breaks.
3. 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 or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.

3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the **Accommodation Request Form** and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

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 copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Furthermore, NOBTS has a zero tolerance for the use of AI generated composition. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule (Hourly details will be available in the Canvas Shell)

Day	Materials Covered	Genres Analyzed	Due
Monday 1-7	Law	Law and Narrative	Book readings Bible readings One Sermon brief presentation

Tuesday 8:15-11; 12:30-4:00	Prophets	Prophecy	
Wednesday 8:15-11:50; 1:15-4:00	Writings	Poetry and Wisdom	Chronology of OT

The England/Michalski rubric for evaluating papers

	Substance (40%)	Research (30%)	Composition (20%)	Presentation (10%)
A	<p>Presentation of original concepts with subtlety and depth in conversation with major sources</p> <p>Strong, complete arguments with clear connection to data</p> <p>Research question relevant to the nature of the text, the needs of the church, and academic norms</p> <p>Discovery, use, and presentation of significant quantity of high-quality data</p>	<p>Thorough representation of the field</p> <p>Meaningful use of sources</p> <p>Responsible interaction with sources</p> <p>Transparent acknowledgment of sources</p>	<p>Compelling, readable prose</p> <p>Unique, confident authorial voice</p> <p>Serious style but not stuffy</p> <p>Well-ordered thinking and wording</p>	<p>Clean text without distractions</p>
B	<p>Promising but inconsistent/incomplete arguments</p> <p>Competent conceptual development</p>	<p>Serviceable representation of the field</p> <p>Poor acknowledgment of sources</p>	<p>Serviceable presentation of research</p>	<p>Minor errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or formatting</p>
C	<p>Failure to connect arguments with data</p> <p>Ambiguous concepts</p> <p>Inaccurate data</p> <p>Relevance is obscure</p>	<p>Shallow representation of the field, or reliant on small subset of sources</p> <p>Ambiguous acknowledgment of sources</p>	<p>Inconsistent language sometimes obscuring content or degrading research credibility</p>	<p>Frequent errors obscuring content</p>

D	Derivative arguments Obscure concepts Grossly inaccurate data Research is off-topic or irrelevant	Inaccurate representation of the field Irresponsible or insignificant handling of sources	Damaged language obscuring content and degrading research credibility	Pervasive errors obscuring content
F	No effort evident	No effort evident	No effort evident	No effort evident

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Vanhoozer, Kevin J., Craig G. Bartholomew, Daniel J. Treier, and N. T. Wright, eds. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Edition Unstated. London : Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. , *The Old Testament in Seven Sentences: A Small Introduction to a Vast Topic*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019.
- Wright, N. T. *The Case for the Psalms: Why They Are Essential*. New York: Harper One, 2013.