



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Biblical Backgrounds: LCBS 2310-30 (211)

Fall 2020

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the geographical, historical, social, and cultural backgrounds of the Old and New Testament periods. Additionally, students will examine relevant biblical, extra-biblical, and archaeological data of these periods in order to understand the context of the biblical books. *Prerequisite: None*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Appreciate the geography of the Old and New Testament times;
2. Understand the historical background of the biblical times;
3. Discuss the social background of the biblical times;
4. Recognize the value of understanding the religions, cults, and philosophies prevalent during the biblical times;
5. Understand a basic chronology of the biblical times; and
6. Discern the importance of understanding the background information in order to interpret Scripture properly.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

Wilson, Marvin R. *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

The following textbooks are optional:

Jewish Publication Society. *The Jewish Study Bible: Tanakh Translation*, ed. Michael Fishbane. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Grand Rapids: IVP, 2014.

Walton, John H., and Victor H. Matthews. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: IVP, 2000.

Yamauchi, Edwin, and Marvin R. Wilson. *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical & Post-Biblical Antiquity*. 4 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2014-2016. (1 vol., 2017).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Weekly Textbook Reading Guide [10% of grade]

The student will read a chapter each week from Wilson's *Our Father Abraham*. Questions will be provided.

2. Article Reading Guide [10% of grade]

The student will read several articles or essays throughout the semester as assigned by the professor. Questions will be provided.

3. Background Studies [15% of grade]

Each student will exam four (4) assigned biblical texts

- a) Identify the background components of the passage,
- b) Determine the interpretative significance which the background components provide,
- c) Develop a detailed teaching outline for the passage that intentionally highlights the background material as essential to understanding and applying the biblical text to a contemporary audience.
- d) Include Background components such as but not limited to, the Jewish cultural and religious customs; geography notations, time notations, meanings of personal and geographical names, specific historical references, and historical flashbacks and/or flash-forwards in Jewish history.

Only documents submitted in MS Word or Word Perfect will be acceptable. Each Background Study will include a title page, 1-2 pages of expository outline, and a select bibliography. All background material noted in the outline will be footnoted. Suggested resources are the IVP Bible Background Commentary: OT; Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary; Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary and Anchor Bible Dictionary.

Due dates: September 26th; October 18th; November 21st; and December 12th.

4. Exams [40% of grade]

The student will complete a mid-term and final exam on Blackboard. **Due dates:** October 18th and December 14th.

EVALUATION

The final evaluation for the course will be tabulated according to the following percentage breakdown:

Weekly Reading Reviews	20%
Background Studies	40%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

GRADING SCALE

- A: 93 - 100
- B: 85 - 92
- C: 77 – 84
- D: 70 – 76
- F: below 70

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Reading	Assignment Due Dates
1	Aug 27	Syllabus Overview Introduction: Why Biblical Backgrounds?		
2	Sept 3	Ethnicity		
3	Sept 10	Methodology	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Preface & Chapter 1 Dever – Archaeology & Ideology	
4	Sept 17	Methodology	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Chapters 2 & 3	
5	Sept 24	Philosophy & Worldview	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> –Chapter 4	Due on Blackboard by Sept. 26th <i>-Background Study 1: Genesis 17</i>
6	Oct 1	Philosophy & Worldview	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Chapters 5 & 6 Reid, “Minimalism and Biblical History	
7	Oct 8	Conceptions of the Divine	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Chapters 7 & 8	
8	Oct 15	Conceptions of the Divine	Kitchen, “The Patriarchal Age: Myth or History?”	Due on Blackboard by Oct. 18: <i>Midterm;</i> <i>Background Study 2: 1 Samuel I</i>
9	Oct 19-24	Fall Break: No Class	Fall Break	
10	Oct 29	Conceptions of the Divine	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> –Chapter 10	

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Reading	Assignment Due Dates
11	Nov 5	Conceptions of the Divine	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Chapter 12 Krahmalkov, “Exodus Itinerary Confirmed by Egyptian Evidence	
12	Nov 12	Sacred Geography	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Chapter 13	
13	Nov 19	Social Backgrounds		Due on Blackboard by Nov. 21 st <i>Background Study 3: John 4</i>
14	Nov 23–28	Thanksgiving Break No Class	Thanksgiving Break	
15	Dec 3	Social Backgrounds	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – Chapter 14 Wood, “Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho?”	
16	Dec 10	Review	<i>Our Father Abraham</i> – 15	Due on Blackboard by Dec. 12 th <i>Background Study 4; Revelation 3:14-22</i>
Final Exam	Dec 14			Due on Blackboard by 6:00 pm on Dec. 14 th Final Exam

* Subject to change

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: All late assignments will be penalized five points for the first day and one point per day thereafter, with no assignments being accepted more than two weeks past the due date.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate

Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.

5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

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