

OTEN5300 EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT

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3hours

Fall 2009

Catalog 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.

Seminary Mission Statement:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency especially by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately

Goals & Objectives:

1. The student will read and comprehend the Old Testament noting the structure and content of the various books contained within.
2. The student will apply principles of interpretation (Biblical Hermeneutics) to the text of the Bible in order to glean its meaning and importance for the Christian community of faith in the 21st century.
3. The student will explore materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.

Core Values Addressed:

1. Characteristic Excellence – Diligence in the study of God’s Word to know and understand Him and His revelation.
2. Spiritual Vitality – The study of God in the Old Testament that will bring transformation to the life and heart of the individual.
3. Doctrinal Integrity – Reading and Interpreting God’s Word with a conviction that it is His Authoritative and Inerrant revelation.

Textbooks

Contemporary English Bible (a good translation such as the revised NASB, NKJV, HCBS, NRSV)

Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament, 2nd edition, by W. LaSor, D.A. Hubbard, F.W. Bush, and L.C. Allen. Eerdmans, 1996, **OTS**

Recommended reading:

Readings From the Ancient Near East by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer (Baker, 2002) **RANE**

Zondervan Handbook to the Bible ed. By Pat and David Alexander (Zondervan, 1999)

Manners and Customs in the Bible by Victor Matthews. (Hendrickson)

Course Evaluation:

Weekly Quizzes (15)	30% (300 points, 20 pts ea)
Mid-Term Examination	20% (200 points)
Final Exam	20% (200 points)
Discussion Participation	10% (100 points)
Research Paper	20% (200 points)

Note the dates for the Midterm, Quizzes, and Assignments.

Exceptions must be approved by the professor prior to due date

*******NOTE: Discussion Boards*******

Each person is to post their own discussion thread on each of the 10 areas. Then each student is to comment on at least two other person's posting during each given section.

Course Schedule

UNIT I: THE PENTATEUCH

August 17(Opens) /24 (Begins)-September 14

- **Introduction** – see discussion board
- **Reading Assignments: Genesis – Deuteronomy**
For sections/quizzes #2-3, also read in *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* article on “Sacrifices and Offerings.”

Quizzes and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

- 1. Contribute a discussion to Introduction by August 28**
- 2. Contribute a comment to Genesis - Creationism by August 30**
- 3. Contribute a comment to Exodus – Deuteronomy by September 7**

Quizzes:

QUIZ #1 Genesis, OTS, Chs. 1-3, Due Date August 29

QUIZ #2 Exodus & Leviticus, OTS, Chs. 4-6, Due Date September 4

QUIZ #3 Numbers & Deuteronomy, OTS, Chs. 7-8, Due Date September 12

UNIT II: THE FORMER PROPHETS

September 15 - 30

Quizzes, Exam, and Discussion Areas:

Discussion Board:

- 4. Contribute a discussion to Joshua – Judges by September 15**
- 5. Contribute a discussion to Samuel – Kings by September 22**

Quizzes:

QUIZ #4 Joshua- Judges, OTS, Chs. 9-11 Due Date September 15

QUIZ #5 1-2 Samuel, OTS, Chs. 12-13 Due Date September 22

QUIZ #6 1-2 Kings, OTS, Chs. 14-15 Due Date September 30

MIDTERM: Must take the Mid-Term Exam by October 13, midnight

UNIT III: THE LATTER PROPHETS

October 1 - November 3

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

- 6. Contribute a comment to the 8th century BC prophets by October 9**
- 7. Contribute a comment to the 7th-6th century BC prophets by October 23**
- 8. Contribute a comment to the Post-Exilic prophets by October 30**

QUIZ #7 Prophets I: Amos & Hosea OTS, Chs. 16, 18-19 Due Date October 6

QUIZ #8 Prophets II: Micah, Isaiah OTS, Chs. 20-22 Due Date October 13

**QUIZ #9 Prophets III: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, OTS, Chs. 23-24
Due Date October 20**

**QUIZ #10 Prophets IV: Ezekiel, Obadiah, Daniel, OTS, Chapters 25-27, 43
Due Date October 27**

**QUIZ #11 Prophets V: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, OTS, Chapters 28-30
Due Date November 3**

UNIT IV: THE WRITINGS

November 4 – December 12

Quizzes, Exams, and Discussion Lists:

Discussion Board:

9. Contribute a comment to the Poetry Section by November 21
10. Contribute a comment to the Wisdom Section by December 4

QUIZ #12 Writings - Poetry & Psalms, *OTS*, Chapters 17, 31-32

Due Date November 10

QUIZ #13 Wisdom & Proverbs, *OTS*, Chapters 33-34 Due Date November 17

QUIZ #14 Job & Ecclesiastes, *OTS*, Chapters 35-36 Due Date November 27

QUIZ #15 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah

***OTS*, Chapters 37-42 Due Date December 12**

*****FINAL EXAM Must be taken by December 16*****

The Blackboard course will close at midnight December 17.

Any requests for late submissions, testing, or otherwise must be submitted through the Registrar's Office

*****Note if you are anticipating graduation in December 2009 you must take the Final Exam by December 14.**

RESEARCH PAPER – Due Date: Post marked or posted by December 12, 2009, can either e-mail it to me or digital drop box.

*****NOTE: if you are planning to graduate on December 19, 2009, I need to receive your paper by December 10, 2008.**

Research Paper

- Research one of the topics listed below or a topic relevant to this course in consultation with the professor.
- Length 12-15 pages, double spaced, 12 pt font.
- The paper should follow Turabian (6th ed.) or other accepted style (SBL, APA)
- See <http://homepage.mac.com/glstevens> for an example on how to format a Turabian paper.
- NOTE: 40% of Bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals.
- See Blackboard postings on Biblical Studies Journals for help

Suggested Research Topics

Other topics may be suggested in consultation with the professor.

1. Genesis Creation in the Context of ANE Mythology
2. The Concept of Faith in the Life of Abraham and Later Israelite Leaders
3. The Location of Mount Sinai
4. The Law of Moses and the Law Codes of Ancient Mesopotamia
5. The Mosaic Covenant in Light of ANE Covenant Making
6. The Number of Israelites in the Exodus from Egypt and Wilderness Wanderings
7. The Israelite Pilgrimage Festivals and Their Function in the Nation's History and Worship
8. Principles of Leadership from the Book of Joshua
9. The Conquest of the Promised Land in Joshua and Judges
10. Israelite Kingship: The Rise of David and the Decline of Saul
11. The Rise and Fall of the Solomonic Kingdom
12. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal and Asherah: Prophetic vs. Popular Religion
13. Jeremiah Versus The False Prophets
14. Justice and Righteousness in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
15. Prophetic Vision and the Emergence of Messianic Hope Among Israelite Prophets
16. Worship in the Teaching of the Israelite Prophets
17. The Role of the Psalms in Ancient Israel's Worship
18. Biblical Wisdom and Wisdom in the ANE: Comparison and Contrast

You may use any of the following presentation forms: Turabian, APA, MLS, or SBL. You may email the paper to my email box or post it on the "Digital Dropbox" in Blackboard.

Fall Semester Bible Reading Plan

September 1, 2009 – December 19, 2009

The Seminary Family is committing to read the Bible through this year. Each course is including a plan for that part of the year covered by the particular course. The reading is not a part of the academic requirement for the course, but it is a suggestion for all of us to participate in the Bible reading. This form is being provided for you to follow so your reading will be connected to the reading of the rest of the Seminary family.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Genesis 1:1-2:25, Matthew 1:1-25, Psalm 1:1-6, Proverbs 1:1-4
- 2 Genesis 3:1-4:26, Matthew 2:1-23, Psalm 2:1-6, Proverbs 1:5-6
- 3 **Genesis 5:1-6:2**, Matthew 3:1-17, Psalm 2:7-12, Proverbs 1:7
- 4 Genesis 7:1-9:7, Matthew 4:1-20, Psalms 3:1-8, Proverbs 1:8-9
- 5 Genesis 9:8-10:32, Matthew 4:21-5:12, Psalm 4:1-8, Proverbs 1:10-14
- 6 **Genesis 11:1-12:20, Matthew 5:13-32, Psalm 5:1-6, Proverbs 1:15-16**
- 7 **Genesis** 13:1-15:6, Matthew 5:33-6:4, Psalm 5:7-12, Proverbs 1:17-19
- 8 Genesis 15:7-17:27, Matthew 6:5-24, Psalm 6:1-5, Proverbs 1:20-23
- 9 Genesis 18:1-19:22, Matthew 6:25-7:12, Psalm 6:6-10, Proverbs 1:24-27
- 10 Genesis 19:23-21:21, Matthew 7:13-8:4, Psalm 7:1-8, Proverbs 1:28-31
- 11 Genesis 21:22-23:20, Matthew 8:5-27, Psalm 7:9-17, Proverbs 1:32-33
- 12 Genesis 24:1-54, Matthew 8:28-9:17, Psalm 8:1-9, Proverbs 2:1-5
- 13 Genesis 24:55-26:11, Matthew 9:18-38, Psalm 9:1-6, Proverbs 2:6-8
- 14 Genesis 26:12-27:29, Matthew 10:1-20, Psalm 9:7-12, Proverbs 2:9-10
- 15 Genesis 27:30-29:12, Matthew 10:21-42, Psalm 9:13-20, Proverbs 2:11-15
- 16 Genesis 29:13-30:43, Matthew 11:1-19, Psalm 10:1-6, Proverbs 2:16-19
- 17 Genesis 31:1-55, Matthew 11:20-12:8, Psalm 10:7-12, Proverbs 2:20-22
- 18 Genesis 32:1-33:20, Matthew 12:9-37, Psalm 10:13-18, Proverbs 3:1-2
- 19 Genesis 34:1-35:29, Matthew 12:38-13:9, Psalm 11:1-3, Proverbs 3:3-4
- 20 Genesis 36:1-43, Matthew 13:10-35, Psalm 11:4-7, Proverbs 3:5-6
- 21 Genesis 37:1-38:30, Matthew 13:36-58, Psalm 12:1-5, Proverbs 3:7-8
- 22 Genesis 39:1-41:7, Matthew 14:1-21, Psalm 12:6-8, Proverbs 3:9-10
- 23 Genesis 41:8-42:4, Matthew 14:22-15:9, Psalm 13:1-6, Proverbs 3:11-12
- 24 Genesis 42:5-43:14, Matthew 15:10-39, Psalm 14:1-7, Proverbs 3:13-14
- 25 Genesis 43:15-44:34, Matthew 16:1-20, Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 3:15-16
- 26 Genesis 45:1-46:27, Matthew 16:21-17:13, Psalm 16:1-6, Proverbs 3:17-18
- 27 Genesis 46:28-48:22, Matthew 17:14-18:9, Psalm 16:7-11, Proverbs 3:19-20
- 28 Genesis 49:1-50:26, Matthew 18:10-35, Psalm 17:1-5, Proverbs 3:21-24
- 29 Exodus 1:1-2:25, Matthew 19:1-22, Psalm 17:6-12, Proverbs 3:25-26
- 30 Exodus 3:1-4:31, Matthew 19:23-20:19, Psalm 17:13-15, Proverbs 27-28

OCTOBER

- 1 Exodus 5:1-6:30, Matthew 20:20-21:11, Psalm 18:1-6, Proverbs 3:29-32
- 2 Exodus 7:1-8:32, Matthew 21:12-27, Psalm 18:7-12, Proverbs 3:33-35
- 3 Exodus 9:1-10:20, Matthew 21:28-46, Psalm 18:13-19, Proverbs 4:1-2
- 4 Exodus 10:21-12:36, Matthew 22:1-22, Psalm 18:20-24, Proverbs 4:3-4
- 5 Exodus 12:37-14:20, Matthew 22:23-46, Psalm 18:25-29, Proverbs 4:5-6
- 6 Exodus 14:21-16:20, Matthew 23:1-22, Psalm 18:30-36, Proverbs 4:7-9
- 7 Exodus 16:21-18:27, Matthew 23:23-39, Psalm 18:37-42, Proverbs 4:10-13
- 8 Exodus 19:1-20:26, Matthew 24:1-14, Psalm 18:43-50, Proverbs 4:14-17
- 9 Exodus 21:1-22:20, Matthew 24:15-35, Psalm 19:1-6, Proverbs 4:18-19
- 10 Exodus 22:21-24:18, Matthew 24:36-51, Psalm 19:7-14, Proverbs 4:20-22
- 11 Exodus 25:1-26:14, Matthew 25:1-13, Psalm 20:1-9, Proverbs 4:23-24
- 12 Exodus 26:15-28:14, Matthew 25:14-30, Psalm 21:1-7, Proverbs 4:25-27
- 13 Exodus 28:15-29:25, Matthew 25:31-26:5, Psalm 21:8-13, Proverbs 5:1-2
- 14 Exodus 29:26-30:38, Matthew 26:6-25, Psalm 22:1-5, Proverbs 5:3-6
- 15 Exodus 31:1-32:35, Matthew 26:26-50, Psalm 22:6-10, Proverbs 5:7-8
- 16 Exodus 33:1-34:35, Matthew 26:51-75, Psalm 22:11-15, Proverbs 5:9-10
- 17 Exodus 35:1-36:19, Matthew 27:1-23, Psalm 22:16-21, Proverbs 5:11-14
- 18 Exodus 36:20-37:29, Matthew 27:24-44, Psalm 22:22-26, Proverbs 5:15-17
- 19 Exodus 38:1-39:31, Matthew 27:45-66, Psalm 22:27-31, Proverbs 5:18-20
- 20 Exodus 39:32-40:38, Matthew 28:1-20, Psalm 23:1-6, Proverbs 5:21-23
- 21 Leviticus 1:1-3:17, Mark 1:1-20, Psalm 24:1-10, Proverbs 6:1-3
- 22 Leviticus 4:1-5:19, Mark 1:21-45, Psalm 25:1-7, Proverbs 6:4-5
- 23 Leviticus 6:1-7:21, Mark 2:1-22, Psalm 25:8-15, Proverbs 6:6-8
- 24 Leviticus 7:22-8:36, Mark 2:23-3:12, Psalm 25:16-22, Proverbs 6:9-11
- 25 Leviticus 9:1-11:12, Mark 3:13-35, Psalm 26:1-7, Proverbs 6:12-15
- 26 Leviticus 11:13-13:17, Mark 4:1-20, Psalm 26:8-12, Proverbs 6:16-19
- 27 Leviticus 13:18-14:14, Mark 4:21-41, Psalm Ps 27:1-6, Proverbs 6:20-22
- 28 Leviticus 14:15-15:12, Mark 5:1-20, Psalm 27:7-14, Proverbs 6:23-26
- 29 Leviticus 15:13-16:34, Mark 5:21-43, Psalm 28:1-5, Proverbs 6:27-29
- 30 Leviticus 17:1-19:10, Mark 6:1-20, Psalm 28:6-9, Proverbs 6:30-31
- 31 Leviticus 19:11-20:27, Mark 6:21-46, Psalm 29:1-6, Proverbs 6:32-33

NOVEMBER

- 1 Leviticus 21:1-22:33, Mark 6:47-7:16, Psalm 29:7-11, Proverbs 6:34-35
- 2 Leviticus 23:1-24:23, Mark 7:17-37, Psalm 30:1-6, Proverbs 7:1-3
- 3 Leviticus 25:1-55, Mark 8:1-21, Psalm 30:7-12, Proverbs 7:4-5
- 4 Leviticus 26:1-46, Mark 8:22-9:1, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 7:6-8
- 5 Leviticus 27:1-34, Mark 9:2-29, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 7:9-12
- 6 Numbers 1:1-54, Mark 9:30-50, Psalm 31:19-24, Proverbs 7:13-17
- 7 Numbers 2:1-3:16, Mark 10:1-22, Psalm 32:1-7, Proverbs 7:18-21
- 8 Numbers 3:17-4:20, Mark 10:23-45, Psalm 32:8-11, Proverbs 7:22-23
- 9 Numbers 4:21-5:31, Mark 10:46-11:11, Psalm 33:1-9, Proverbs 7:24-27
- 10 Numbers 6:1-7:29, Mark 11:12-33, Psalm 33:10-17, Proverbs 8:1-3

- 11 Numbers 7:30-89, Mark 12:1-27, Psalm 33:18-22, Proverbs 8:4-5
- 12 Numbers 8:1-10:10, Mark 12:28-44, Psalm 34:1-7, Proverbs 8:6-7
- 13 Numbers 10:11-11:35, Mark 13:1-20, Psalm 34:8-14, Proverbs 8:8-9
- 14 Numbers 12:1-14:4, Mark 13:21-37, Psalm 34:15-22, Proverbs 8:10-13
- 15 Numbers 14:5-45, Mark 14:1-21, Psalm 35:1-10, Proverbs 8:14-17
- 16 Numbers 15:1-41, Mark 14:22-42, Psalm 35:11-16, Proverbs 8:18-19
- 17 Numbers 16:1-50, Mark 14:43-72, Psalm 35:17-21, Proverbs 8:20-21
- 18 Numbers 17:1-19:8, Mark 15:1-21, Psalm 35:22-28, Proverbs 8:22-24
- 19 Numbers 19:9-21:9, Mark 15:22-47, Psalm 36:1-6, Proverbs 8:25-26
- 20 Numbers 21:10-22:41, Mark 16:1-20, Psalm 36:7-12, Proverbs 8:27-29
- 21 Numbers 23:1-24:25, Luke 1:1-23, Psalm 37:1-6, Proverbs 8:30-31
- 22 Numbers 25:1-26:22, Luke 1:24-56, Psalm 37:7-13, Proverbs 8:32-33
- 23 Numbers 26:23-65, Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 37:14-20, Proverbs 8:34-36
- 24 Numbers 27:1-28:31, Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 37:21-26, Proverbs 9:1-2
- 25 Numbers 29:1-30:16, Luke 2:21-38, Psalm 37:27-33, Proverbs 9:3-6
- 26 Numbers 31:1-54, Luke 2:39-52, Psalm 37:34-40, Proverbs 9:7-9
- 27 Numbers 32:1-42, Luke 3:1-20, Psalm 38:1-8, Proverbs 9:10-12
- 28 Numbers 33:1-56, Luke 3:21-38, Psalm 38:9-14, Proverbs 9:13-15
- 29 Numbers 34:1-35:34, Luke 4:1-21, Psalm 38:15-22, Proverbs 9:16-18
- 30 Numbers 36:1- Deuteronomy 1:46, Luke 4:22-44, Psalm 39:1-6, Proverbs 10:1-2

DECEMBER

- 1 Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29, Luke 5:1-20, Psalm 39:7-13, Proverbs 10:3-5
- 2 Deuteronomy 4:1-49, Luke 5:21-6:11, Psalm 40:1-5, Proverbs 10:6-8
- 3 Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25, Luke 6:12-36, Psalm 40:6-10, Proverbs 10:9-11
- 4 Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20, Luke 6:37-7:10, Psalm 40:11-17, Proverbs 10:12-14
- 5 Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22, Luke 7:11-35, Psalm 41:1-6, Proverbs 10:15-17
- 6 Deuteronomy 11:1-12:19, Luke 7:36-8:3, Psalm 41:7-13, Proverbs 10:18-21
- 7 Deuteronomy 12:20-14:21, Luke 8:4-25, Psalm 42:1-11, Proverbs 10:22-25
- 8 Deuteronomy 14:22-16:22, Luke 8:26-56, Psalm 43:1-5, Proverbs 10: 26-27
- 9 Deuteronomy 17:1-19:13, Luke 9:1-22, Psalm 44:1-8, Proverbs 10:28-30
- 10 Deuteronomy 19:14-21:23, Luke 9:23-45, Psalm 44:9-16, Proverbs 10:31-32
- 11 Deuteronomy 22:1-23:25, Luke 9:46-62, Psalm 44:17-26, Proverbs 11:1-4
- 12 Deuteronomy 24:1-26:19, Luke 10:1-24, Psalm 45:1-5, Proverbs 11:5-6
- 13 Deuteronomy 27:1-28:14, Luke 10:25-11:4, Psalm 45:6-12, Proverbs 11:7-8
- 14 Deuteronomy 28:15-68, Luke 11:5-28, Psalm 45:13-17, Proverbs 11:9-11
- 15 Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20, Luke 11:29-54, Psalm 46:1-11, Proverbs 11:12-13
- 16 Deuteronomy 31:1-29, Luke 12:1-21, Psalm 47:1-9, Proverbs 11:14-15
- 17 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:52, Luke 12:22-40, Psalm 48:1-7, Proverbs 11:16-18
- 18 Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12, Luke 12:41-59, Psalm 48:8-14, Proverbs 11:19-21
- 19 Joshua 1:1-3:17, Luke 13:1-21, Psalm 49:1-9, Proverbs 11:22-23