

**BCOT 5400 Old Testament Seminar (Exploring the Old Testament)**  
**Baptist College Partnership**  
**July 27–31, 2015**  
**Dr. Archie England**

**I. NOBTS Mission Statement**

The mission of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminar is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the great commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**II. NOBTS Core Values**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: 1) Doctrinal Integrity, 2) Spiritual Vitality, 3) Mission Focus, 4) Characteristic Excellence, and 5) Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically, in that it further develops the students' understanding of the Old Testament and issues specifically addressed therein. Spiritual Vitality is addressed through discussion of the ways in which the Old Testament remains applicable for the daily life of the students. Encouraging students to strive for thoroughness and readiness in handling God's word address Characteristic Excellence. Directing students to address spiritual values for daily life helps them to prepare for Servant Leadership, and interacting with the Covenant between God and the Israel address a Mission Focus. The core value focus for NOBTS this year is *Spiritual Vitality*.

**III. Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide supplemental knowledge in the area of Old Testament introduction to students who have completed at least six hours in Old Testament study on the undergraduate level.

**IV. Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- A. Be able to describe the historical sweep of the Old Testament and identify key dates, people, and events
- B. Understand the significant issues regarding the three parts of the Hebrew canon
- C. Know basic issues of introduction regarding each of the Hebrew canon books
- D. Be aware of the current issues in Old Testament studies

**V. Course Requirements**

- A. ***PRE-WORK*** Due upon arrival to the first hour of the Monday class (1-2 pm). Read the following required texts and submit a written *descriptive review* of each of the above texts (including the following components):
  - a short summary of the contents
  - identification of the perspective(s) from which each text was written
  - discussion of how each text has sought to address the study of the OT
  - each review should be 6-8 pp. double-spaced

-written using good grammar, and reflecting acceptable form and style. Consult Turabian latest ed. for guidance on all matters of form and style

*Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, by Christopher J. H. Wright (IVP, 1995).  
*The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*, ed. Baker & Arnold (Baker, 1999)  
*Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament*, by Peter Enns (Baker, 2005)

Choose one:

*A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism*, by Mark S. Gignilliat (Zondervan, 2012).  
*The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority*, by John H. Walton & D. Brent Sandy (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013), 1-76; 199-232; 255-91.

Optional Extra-Credit Reading (Due last day of attended class):

*Getting The Old Testament*, by Steven L. Bridge (Hendrickson, 2009)  
*The Lost World of Genesis One*  
*The Lost World of Adam and Eve*

- B. **PRE-WORK** Submit a list of the texts used in your undergraduate study of the Old Testament, as survey texts or commentaries for book studies. **Due at the beginning of the first class.**
- C. **In-Class Reports**
1. Thirty minutes of each session beginning Tuesday will be devoted to specific discussion of the pre-work books. Copies of the reviews submitted on Monday afternoon will serve as a basis for addressing specific issues and questions.
  2. Submit written reports on assigned group topics and/or written summaries of research notes from assigned topics—***typically three single-spaced pages.***
  3. Present oral reports on assigned topics and facilitate discussion of those topics in group meetings. Approximately thirty minutes.
- D. **POST-WORK** Prepare and submit (1) a post-workshop research paper on an approved topic OR (2) complete the reading and critical reviews option. Due by **August 21, 2015.**

## VI. Course Grading

The course is graded on a ***Pass/Fail basis***. Assessment of the following items will be the basis for determining the grade (on a scale of 70 and above as passing). All items are required and must be submitted at specified dates and times:

A.	Class attendance along with Library research	10%
B.	Initial readings and reviews	15%
C.	Written Daily Reports/Summaries	25%
D.	Oral presentations and group leadership	25%
E.	Post-Workshop Assignment	25%

## VII. Course Attendance

No absences are allowed in this course--See *Graduate Catalog*. Attendance will be taken at each session. Workshop attendance policies and issues are handled by the Graduate Dean's Office.

Use of cell phones and other social networking devices are not allowed during class time. After the first warning, the student may be asked to leave or counted as absent for continued use.

### **VIII. Course Schedule**

**Monday, July 27 1:00--4:00 PM**

*Knowing Jesus Through the OT*

*Subject – How to Read the Old Testament: History, Theology, Literature*

Introductions, Overview of the History of the Old Testament and its relation to the New Testament, Review of Past Study (Courses, texts, approaches), Discussion based on issues and ideas drawn from the required reading. The Big Picture in Old Testament Study, Procedure and Assignments will also be addressed.

**Tuesday, July 28 8:30 AM--12:00 PM (Reports)**

*Inspiration and Incarnation/Lost World*

*Subject – Critical Study of the Pentateuch: History, Key Issues, Conclusions*

#### Research Topics:

An Introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Pentateuch  
The Authorship and composition of the Pentateuch  
The Route of the Exodus  
Egypt in the times of Abraham through Moses  
The Massoretic Text  
The Code of Hammurabi  
The Role of the Purity laws in Ancient Israel

**Wednesday, July 29 8:30 AM--12:00 PM (Reports)**

*The Face of Old Testament Studies*

*Subject – OT Law and Former Prophets: The Nature of Law, Covenant, History, Kings*

#### Research Topics

The concept of Covenant in the OT  
The various types of laws in the OT  
The conquest under Joshua  
A Introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the former prophets  
Who was the Deuteronomistic Historian and what did he do?  
Historiography in the time of the OT  
The concept, office, and function of kings in the time of the OT  
An outline of the kingdom of Israel from David to Josiah  
The life and times of David  
What makes the Former Prophets Prophetic?  
Saul and his son Jonathan: Compare and Contrast Spiritual Character  
The Prophets' Preaching and the Law of Moses

**Thursday, July 30 8:30 AM--12:00 PM (Reports)** *Brief History of Old Testament Criticism*

*Subject – The Latter Prophets and the Writings*

Research Topics:

The history of either the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah

An introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the latter prophets

The theological message of one of the books of the latter prophets

Prophets and their focus on the future: How much and how far?

The Books of Ruth and Esther: Questions and Answers on their Message

What Did Job Say?: Interpretation of 42:6

Do the Psalms teach Theology?

**Friday, July 31 8:30 AM--12:00 PM (Reports)**

*Miscellaneous Issues*

*Subject – The Writings, OT Canon, and Your Major Paper Topic*

Research Topics

The process of canonization of the OT

The organization of the OT canon

The importance of the LXX and the DSS for the OT text

A Introduction to the literary flow of one of the books of the Writings

The Kingdom of Persia and it's role in the OT

What was it like to live in the Post-exilic Period?

What is a Proverb and How is it to be Read?

Ecclesiastes and the Rat Race

**POST-WORK Prep**

**If . . .Major Paper Topic Instructions:** At any time during the first four days of class, submit a 1 page precis on the desired topic, including a bibliography of at least 10 pertinent sources. The professor will then schedule a meeting time to discuss ways to accomplish the desired research of the topic.

**If . . .Critical Book Review Option:** Submit a list of the books which you have chosen to read and review.

## ***Course Work Instructions***

### **Instructions on Daily Research Assignments:**

1. You will work with one or more students in a group designated by the professor.
2. Each group will prepare a summary paper on the topic and distribute copies for each of the seminar members. The papers will be academic in content and may be in the form of sentence outlines. The paper will be 2-3 pages single-spaced, plus bibliography. The

- bibliography should indicate which person read in which sources, with at least 10 sources consulted *by each group member*. {Is everyone pdf capable of downloads?}
3. The bibliography should include your required texts to see if they contributed to the subject, plus other selected materials which may help answer specific questions about the subject. *Be sure to consult some periodical literature* on the subject. The bibliographies in the textbooks will provide a good starting place.
  4. All the work should be written with good grammar and acceptable style. Do *not* use title pages; bibliography entries are to conform to Turabian, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Papers *are due at beginning of class*, with your readings and papers serving as a basis for your class presentation.
  5. The 15-30 minute presentation *may include some creativity* so that the material could be understandable to people in a church setting. *After the presentation, the group should be ready to respond to questions on the topic.*

### **Post-Workshop Assignment (Choose only one)**

Note that by the last session of the workshop, each student must have discussed their proposed final project with the professor. The student should attempt to choose and narrow the research topic or list the texts chosen from each of the three areas.

#### **A. 12-15 pp Research Paper (single-spaced)**

Ideally, the topic of your research paper should be one which will enable you to strengthen or expand your understanding of an important subject in study of the Old Testament. For example, you may want to study in an area in which you've had fewer classes than in other areas of the Old Testament, or you may want to study a topic of particular interest to you.

The paper will be 12-15 pages—including footnotes but excluding bibliography pages, written in formal style according to Turabian, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., however, footnotes are required. The research paper is due in the professor's office no later than **August 21, 2015**.

#### **B. Three Critical Book Reviews (each 4-5 pp single-spaced, plus Title Page)**

Submit a written review of *three texts, chosen from the following list*. Include a summary of the contents and a critical evaluation of the positions held by the authors/contributors. Each review will be 4-5 pp., using good grammar and style. Follow Turabian, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. for guidance on parenthetical notes, formatting, title page, etc. These reviews are due in the professor's office no later than **August 21, 2015**.

1. Choose one:

Kitchen	<i>On the Reliability of the Old Testament</i> (Eerdmans, 2003)
Waltke	<i>An Old Testament Theology</i> (Zondervan, 2007)
Klink & Lockett	<i>Understanding Biblical Theology</i> (Zondervan, 2012)
Hoffmeier & Magary, eds.	<i>Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith?</i> (Crossway, 2012)

2. Choose one:

Bright	<i>A History of Israel, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.</i> (WJK, 2000)
Provan, Long, Longman	<i>A Biblical History of Israel</i> (WJK, 2003)

3. Choose one:

Currid	<i>Ancient Egypt and the OT</i> (Baker, 1997)
Hoffmeier	<i>Israel in Egypt</i> (Oxford, 1999)
Yamauchi	<i>Persia and the Bible</i> (Baker, 1990)
Walton	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the OT</i> (Baker, 2006)
Matthews	<i>Studying the Ancient Israelites</i> (Baker, 2007)

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### Theology

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