



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BSCM 2300 BIBLICAL BACKGROUNDS

Spring 2017

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The mission of Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *Characteristic Excellence*: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Course Description

Biblical Backgrounds is designed to familiarize the student with the geographical, archaeological, historical, and cultural background of the Old and New Testament periods. Special attention is given to the intertestamental period. In addition, the Roman and Jewish backgrounds are discussed as the backdrop for understanding the Old and New Testaments.

Prerequisite: None

Student Learning Outcomes

The student who successfully completes this course will

1. Be familiar with the geography of the Old and New Testament times.
2. Understand the historical background of the biblical times, particularly the intertestamental

period.

3. Gain a general knowledge of the social background of the biblical times.
4. Understand the religions, cults, and philosophies prevalent during the biblical times.
5. Have a general understanding of the chronology of the biblical times.
6. Discern the importance of understanding the background information in order to interpret the Scriptures properly.

Course Texts

Brisco, Thomas, ed. *Holman Bible Atlas: A Complete Guide to the Expansive Geography of Biblical History*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 1998.

Smith, Marsha A. Ellis, ed. *Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps, and Reconstructions*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1993.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. *Quizzes and Class Participation (20 POINTS)*. Each week there will be a quiz covering the assigned reading for that class period. Students may miss one quiz per semester without penalty.
2. *Midterm Exam (15 POINTS)*. The mid-term will cover all material from lectures and reading until that point in the semester.
3. *Final Exam (25 POINTS)*. The final will be comprehensive, covering all material from the entire semester.
4. *Paper (25 POINTS)*. Each student will complete a 6-8 page research paper on one of the topics from the semester. The paper must follow Turabian style guidelines and include 10 independent sources.
5. *Reading (15 POINTS)*. Completion of the assigned reading is required.

Course Outline

DATE	TOPIC	DUE
1/23	Introducing Biblical Backgrounds	*HBA = Holman Bible Atlas
1/30	Geography of Palestine Biblical History	HBA ch. 1-3
2/6	Primeval and Patriarchal History	HBA ch. 4-5
2/13	Exodus, Canaan, Judges	HBA ch. 6-8
2/20	Davidic and Solomonic Kingdoms	HBA ch. 9-10
2/27	Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Periods	HBA ch. 11-12
3/6	MID-TERM	
3/13	SPRING BREAK	

3/20	Persian Period	HBA ch. 13
3/27	Greek, Hasmonean/Maccabean Period	HBA ch. 14
4/3	Roman Period/Herod the Great	HBA ch.15-16
4/10	Jesus' Lifetime	HBA ch. 17
4/17	Jesus' Lifetime	HBA ch. 18
4/24	The Early Church	HBA ch. 19
5/1	Jewish Revolt; Church after AD70	HBA ch. 20-21 PAPER DUE
5/8	FINAL EXAM	

Additional Course Information

Plagiarism

A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all 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 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.

Computer/Phone usage policy

If you have any questions about Blackboard, SelfServe, or ITC services, please access the ITC page on our website: www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Selected Bibliography

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Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. 2d ed. Translated by Anson F. Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.

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Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago, Moody Publishers, 2009.

Bell, Albert A., Jr. *Exploring the New Testament World: An Illustrated Guide to the World of Jesus and the First Christians*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998.

Bettenson, Henry, and Chris Maunder, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3d ed. London: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Charles, R. H., trans. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*. London: Epworth, 1913.

Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, 1983.

Curtis, Adrian, ed. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. Fourth Ed. Oxford: University Press, 2007.

Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough, ed. *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1993.

Hallo, William W., and William Kelly Simpson. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971.

Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Hoerth, Alfred J., Gerald L. Mattingly and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.

Jeffers, James S. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era: Exploring the Background of Early Christianity*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Matthews, Victor H. *Manners and Customs in the Bible: An Illustrated Guide to Daily Life in Bible Times*. Rev. ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible--10,000-586 B.C.E.* The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.

Shanks, Hershel, James C. Vanderkam, P. Kyle McCarter, Jr., and James A. Sanders. *The Dead Sea Scrolls After Forty Years*. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeological Society, 1992.

Whiston, William, trans. *The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987.