



# NEW ORLEANS

## BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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### **OTEN5300-65, 37, 30: Exploring the Old Testament**

**Spring 2016 Hybrid Class**

**(CIV from ORG to TLG & SFG), 3-4:50 PM EST**

**Mondays, Dates: 1/25, 2/8, 2/22, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 4/18, 5/2)**

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**D. A. Warner, Phd**  
[dwarner@nobts.edu](mailto:dwarner@nobts.edu)  
Cell: 407-468-4251

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*The mission 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.*

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#### **Core Value**

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *Mission Focus*: “We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local Church and its ministries.”

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#### **Course 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.

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#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. The student will read the Old Testament for the purpose of comprehending the literary 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 to better understand their relationship to the Old Testament.
4. The student will learn to appreciate the divine nature of the Old Testament and its unique content and character when compared to the cultural settings it was written in.

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### **Course Texts (Note all can be purchased through Logos)**

1. Walton, J & Hill, A., *A Survey of the Old Testament*, Zondervan 2009 (SOT)
2. Kitchen, K., *On The Reliability of the Old Testament*, Eerdmans, 2003 (ROT)

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### **Course Requirements and Grading**

#### **Student Responsibilities**

1. Read syllabus carefully
2. Students will complete all reading assignments (Bible, class text and notes) following the Reading Assignment Schedule, confirmation that reading has been completed and will be submitted along with assigned questions. A **penalty** of 2-points per day will be assessed for late reading and questions submission.
3. Students will answer individual questions each week supplied by the class text SOT (see schedule for page and questions to answer) and post answer on Blackboard, along with stating one has completed all readings to date.
4. A book summary of K. Kitchen's text, *Reliability of the Old Testament*, it must be at least 10 pages, not including the title page. Please be sure to summarize each chapter, as well as the introduction and conclusion if applicable. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Week 12 (4/15). The summary can be written as the reading is being done then collected into one coherent paper for submission. Each section should have its own heading in the paper. The major topics discussed in each section of the book should be summarized well. These are not intended to be book reviews, but summary re-statements of the authors' work in your own words. A 5 point per day reduction for late work. Please use the following guidelines (see rubrics in Assignments): - Rubric found on BB under Information
  - Limit direct quotations from the books. Summarize the authors' concepts in your own words.
  - Add a title page in Turabian format for Book Summary. Title page does not count toward the total number of pages.
  - With the exception of the title page, use 1-inch margins all around
5. There will be a midterm and final.
6. Discussion Board – a series of questions are posted on DB for students to interact with, dealing with specific topics related to critical issues of the OT (based on reading). Each student will post a 250-word post followed by a 200-word reply to one other students post the following week. So kept current 2-point penalty reduction for each day late.
7. Research Paper
  - a. A 10 -page paper, double spaced, one inch margins, (Note title page and bibliography do not count, 5 point off for each page short), following Turabian format.
  - b. Research paper must either: 1) address an issue in Old Testament Studies (e.g. Date of the Exodus), 2) discuss a theological concept (e.g. sacrifice), see suggested topics under Information on BB.
  - c. Minimum bibliography = 8 sources, 4 of these sources must be from scholarly journals, see list under Information on BB.
  - d. Research paper is due Wk. 15, Monday May 2, by midnight, 5-point reduction per day for late work, after two weeks it will not be accepted.

## **Percentage of Grading**

1. Reading & Class Questions = 15%
2. Book Summary = 15%
3. Discussion Board = 10%
4. Research project = 20%
5. Midterm & Final Exam = 40%

<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Research Paper Rubric</b>
<u>From</u> = 5%	<b>Mechanics/Turabian</b>
<u>Grammar and Style</u> = 5%	Spelling Punctuation Sentence Structure; clarity
<u>Research and bibliography</u> - (this includes good footnoting) = 5%	Minimum 10 sources, but 30% of bibliography should consist of sources from scholarly journals, a minimum of 8 sources; use first hand sources when possible, textbooks are secondary, demonstrated good interaction with books and articles, hence by a good bibliography one is showing me that you did your homework!
<u>Content and argument</u> = 85%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A well-organized paper (develop a table of contents if needed),</li><li>2. A well stated premise (note intro should only be a paragraph at best with such a short paper),</li><li>3. A logical flow of ideas,</li><li>4. Good interaction with the sources,</li><li>5. Work based upon sound exegesis of biblical passages were applicable,</li><li>6. Key sub-points substantiate your premise, sound reasoning,</li><li>7. And just plain reads well☺</li></ol>

**Note:** "This assignment is also an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for assessing this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric."

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## **Additional Course Information**

### **Class Methodology/Format**

The student in this class will come to grasp an overall knowledge of the theological, critical, and historical settings of the books of the Old Testament. This will be accomplished by reading the biblical text and notes provided in the Course Documents on Blackboard. Students will also answer weekly questions (to be posted each week) and participate in Discussion Board questions.

### **Dropping a Hybrid Class**

Hybrid students cannot receive credit for the course if they miss more than one class session of a four-time hybrid course, or two class sessions of an eight-time hybrid course. A student may drop a Hybrid class before the second class meeting."

### **Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

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**Class Reading and Assignment Schedule Class Reading and Assignment Schedule**

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<b>Schedule &amp; Topic Note Monday's Listed for Class</b>	<b>Reading SOT &amp; ROT</b>	<b>Questions Assigned Due Saturday Midnight by end of each week listed</b>	<b>Additional Assignments Due</b>
Wk. 1, - 1/24 <b>Class Day 1/25</b> Intro to OT	SOT:17-54; 356-373; 480-501 ROT:1-6; 421-448	Pg. 31:2, 53:2; Due end of this week Saturday Midnight 1/30	
Wk. 2, -1/31 Pent & Genesis	SOT:57-98 ROT: 313-372	Pg. 73:2,3 & 97:2,3	Answer DB Q#1, by Sunday Midnight - 1/31
Wk. 3, - 2/7 <b>Class Day - 2/8</b> Exodus	SOT: 100-123 ROT: 241-312	Pg. 121:1,2	Reply to One Student Sunday Midnight – 2/7
Wk. 4, - 2/14 Lev-Deut	SOT:124-179	Pg. 140:2 & 160:1	Answer DB Q#2, by Sunday Midnight - 2/14
Wk. 5, - 2/21 <b>Class Day 2/22</b> Chronology & Intro Historical Bks,	SOT: 180-215 ROT: 159-199	Pg. 200: 2 & 4	Reply to One Student Sunday Midnight - 2/21
Wk. 6, - 2/28 Joshua	SOT:216-233 ROT: 199-240	Pg. 233:4	Answer DB Q#3, by Sunday Midnight - 2/28
Wk. 7, - 3/6 <b>Class Day 3/7</b> Judge & Ruth	SOT: 234-255 ROT: 81-107	Pg. 247:2 & 254:1	Reply to One Student, Sunday Midnight - 3/6
<b>Week 8, 3/13</b> <b>NO Class, Yeah</b>	<b>Spr Break</b>	<b>No Assignments</b>	
Wk. 9- 3/20 <b>Class Day 3/21</b> 1 & 2Sam	SOT: 256-277 ROT: 7-64 & 107-128	Pg. 275:2	Answer DB Q#4, by Sunday Midnight - 3/20
Wk. 10, 3/27 Kings & Chron.	SOT:278-327 ROT: 65-80	Pg. 304:2,3 & 325:1	Reply to One Student, Sunday Midnight - 3/27
Wk. 11 – 4/3 <b>Class Day- 4/4</b> Ezra-Neh-Est	SOT:328-355 ROT:373-420	Pg. 344:5	
Wk. 12, 4/10 Poetical Books Intro-Job-Psalms	SOT:374-438 ROT: 449-500	Pg. 417:1,2 & 437:2,5	<b>Book Report due, Friday 15th</b>
Wk. 13, 4/17 <b>Class Day 4/18</b> Prov-Ecc-SS	SOT: 440-479	Pg. 451:1 & 465:2 & 478:1	Answer DB Q#5, by Sunday Midnight - 4/17
Wk. 14, 4/24 Prophets Intro-Isa-Daniel	SOT:480-579	Pg. 516:1 & 541:2	Reply to One Student, Sunday Midnight - 4/24
Wk. 15, 5/1 <b>Class Day 5/2</b> Hosea-Malachi	SOT: 580-712	No Questions Just Read Finish SOT:712-752	<b>Paper due 5/2</b>
Wk. 16, 5/8	<b>Study, Study</b>		<b>Take Final by 5/12</b>

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## Bibliography: General References

(Note a fuller bibliography is being updated regularly in BB under Information)

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### Competency Assessment Rubric for BBBW5300 Exploring the Old Testament

#### Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

1. The Student	<p>demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research</p> <p>reflected an awareness of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize those resources adequately</p> <p>reflected an awareness of some of the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research but did not utilize many of the resources</p> <p>was unable to identify or explain the resources for Biblical Backgrounds research</p>
2. The Student	<p>demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the physical world of the Bible</p> <p>reflected an awareness of the process of the physical world of the Bible but did not adequately relate it to Biblical interpretation</p> <p>reflected an awareness of some of the issues related to the Biblical geography but did not utilize them fully in Biblical interpretation</p> <p>was unable to identify or explain the geography of the Bible</p>

#### Application Assessment

1. The Student	<p>demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible</p> <p>reflected an awareness of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not explain them adequately</p> <p>reflected an awareness of some of the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to interpreting the Bible but did not address them fully</p> <p>was unable to identify or explain the principles of applying Biblical Backgrounds to the process of interpreting the Bible</p>
2. The Student	<p>demonstrated a valuing of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world</p> <p>reflected a general appreciation of the necessity of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world</p> <p>reflected a lack of appreciation for the need of bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world</p> <p>rejected the need for bridging the temporal and cultural gaps between contemporary society and the Biblical world</p>

#### Communicative Assessment

1. The Student	<p>fully interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials</p> <p>interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing some Biblical background materials but did not relate the meaning fully</p> <p>inadequately interpreted and communicated the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials</p> <p>was unable to interpret and communicate the Bible teaching utilizing Biblical background materials</p>
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