



# NEW ORLEANS

## BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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### **OTEN5300-36, 38: Exploring the Old Testament**

Fall 2016/17 Mondays, 8x Hybrid Class

(CIV from PCG to JVG); 2-3:50 PM CST

Dates: 8/29, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/28, 12/12

Term 171

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Instructor Name: Dr. Dennis Brunet  
Instructor Title: Adjunct Professor  
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Phone number: 850-932-6549 Administrative Assistant Roya Roberts

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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.*

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#### **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.”

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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)

**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.

**Mandatory Attendance in the Hybrid Classes, No Exceptions!**

In order to receive on-campus credit for this course, your attendance at every class meeting is mandatory. The Dean will allow no exceptions to this rule. If you miss a class meeting for any reason, you will be required to transfer to the online section, pay the additional internet fee, and you will not receive on-campus credit for this course. Why? Missing one class will disqualify the Seminary from receiving your SBC Cooperative Program stipend for your attendance in this on-campus course.

**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.

**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.

## Course Requirements and Grading

### Class Grading

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

<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Research Paper Rubric</u>
<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> </ol>

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|  | 6. Key sub-points substantiate your premise, sound reasoning,<br>7. And just plain reads well☺ |
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**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."

## Course Outline

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### ▪ **Additional Information**

#### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

#### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

#### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/student-services/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

#### **Classroom Parameters**

Please arrive on time.  
Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.  
Respect the professor and other members of the class.  
Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.  
Participate in class and group discussions.

#### **Blackboard and ITC Technical Support**

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here

are other helpful links to ITC assistance. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support request for help with the site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.) [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard System. For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#). [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) -for general technical questions/support requests. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Academic Policies**

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog](#).

### **Policy for Graduating Seniors**

Graduating Seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

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## **Selected Bibliography**

### **Bibliography: General References**

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

### **Bibliography: General References**

#### **Introductions to the OT**

- Bentzen, A. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Copenhagen, 1948.  
Childs, B. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia, 1979.  
Craigie, P. *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville, Tenn., 1986.  
Dillard, R., and T. Longman. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, 1994.  
Driver, S. *Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*. 9th ed.; repr. Magnolia, Mass., 1973.  
Eissfeldt, O. *The Old Testament: An Introduction*. Trans. P. Ackroyd. New York, 1965.  
Fohrer, G. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Trans. D. Green. New York, 1968.  
Gottwald, N. *The Hebrew Bible—A Socio-Literary Introduction*. Philadelphia, 1985.  
Harrison, R. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, 1979.  
Rendtorff, R. *The Old Testament. An Introduction*. Trans. J. Bowden. Philadelphia, 1986.  
Soggin, A. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. 3rd ed. Trans. J. Bowden. OTL, Louisville, Ky., 1989

#### **Dictionaries, etc.**

- Freedman, David N., ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.  
Craig Evans & Stanley Porter., eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.  
Gerald F. Hawthorne, et. al. eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.  
Gralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids ed., *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. 1997.  
Joel B. Green, et. al. eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Leicester: Intervarsity Press, 1992.  
Master, D., ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2013.  
Meyers, Eric M., ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East*. 5 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.  
Negev, Avraham, and S. Gibson. *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land*. New York: Continuum, 2001.  
Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton

University Press, 1955.

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Redford, Donald B. ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. 3 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Sasson, J.M., ed. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. 2 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2000.

Stern, Ephraim, ed. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. 4 vols. Jerusalem: The Israel Exploration Society, 1993.

1975.

## **Atlases**

Aharoni, Y., et. al *The Macmillan Bible Atlas* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993

Bimson, J.J. et.al., *New Bible Atlas*. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1985.

Cleave, Richard. Pictorial Archive: ANE History; *Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.

Rasmussen, C. *Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

## **Historical Geography**

Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.

Baly, Dennis. *The Geography of the Bible*. NY: Harper, 1957.

Bimson, John J. (ed.), *Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World*. Nashville: Nelson, 1985.

Smith, George Adam. *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1931.

## **Bible Handbooks, etc.**

Hoerth, A., G. Mattingly, and E. Yamauchi (eds.). *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.

Matthews, Victor. *Manners and Customs in the Bible*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.

Matthews, Victor and Don C. Benjamin. *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.

*The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. NY, London: Tyndale Publishers, 1980, 1986.

Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. *The World of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Walton, John, et. al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000

Wiseman, Donald J. ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: University Press, 1973.

## **Old Testament Theology**

Albertz. *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period*. Two Volumes. Trans., Bowden. WJK, 1994.

Block. *The Gods of the Nations*, 2nd ed. Baker, 1988, 2000.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Genesis: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1981.

\_\_\_\_\_. *In Man We Trust: The Neglected Side of Biblical Faith*. Richmond: John Knox, 1973.

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## **Archaeology**

- Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.
- Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.
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- Galor, Katharina, and Hanswulf Bloedhorn. *The Archaeology of Jerusalem: From the Origins to the Ottomans*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013.
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## **History**

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- Chavalas, M. W., and K. L. Younger Jr., eds. *Mesopotamia and the Bible: Comparative Explorations*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
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#### Ancient Palestine

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## Competency Assessment Rubric for OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament

### Cognitive/Understanding Assessment

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

### Application Assessment

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

### Communicative Assessment

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