Core Value
The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity**: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.

2. **Spiritual Vitality**: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.

3. **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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.

4. **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. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.

5. **Servant Leadership**: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Spiritual Vitality**.

Course Description
This course familiarizes the student with the geographical, historical, social, and cultural backgrounds of the Old and New Testament periods. The emphasis is on examination of relevant
biblical, extra-biblical, and archaeological data of these periods in order to understand the context of the biblical books.

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**General Education Competencies (GECs)**
Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GEC #1.

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**Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM SLOs)**
Leavell College has identified three program Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Biblical Interpretation
2. Service and Leadership
3. Historical and Theological Interpretation

This course addresses BACM SLOs 1 and 3.

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**Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)**

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will be able to:

1. Appreciate the geography of the Old and New Testament times;
2. Understand the historical background of the biblical times;
3. Discuss the social background of the biblical times;
4. Recognize the value of understanding the religions, cults, and philosophies prevalent during the biblical times;
5. Understand a basic chronology of the biblical times; and
6. Discern the importance of understanding the background information in order to interpret Scripture properly.

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**Course Texts**


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**Recommended Texts**


**Course Requirements and Grading**

1. **Weekly Textbook Reading Guide**: 10% of total grade. *This assignment relates to GEC 1, BACM SLO 3, and CSLO 1, 4, 5*. The student will read a chapter each week from Wilson’s *Our Father Abraham*. Questions will be provided.

2. **Article Reading Guide**: 10% of total grade. *This assignment relates to GEC 1, BACM SLO 3, and CSLO 1, 5*. The student will read several articles or essays throughout the semester as assigned by the professor. Questions will be provided.

3. **Background Studies**: 40% of total grade. *This assignment relates to GEC 1, BACM SLO 1, and CSLO 1-5*. Each student will:
   (1) Examine four (4) assigned biblical texts,
   (2) Identify the background components of the passage,
   (3) Determine the interpretative significance which the background components provide,
   (4) Develop a detailed teaching outline for the passage which intentionally highlights the background material as essential to understanding and applying the biblical text to a contemporary audience.

   **Background components** to consider include, but are not limited to, the following: Jewish cultural and religious customs; geography notations, time notations, meanings of personal and geographical names, specific historical references, and historical flashbacks and/or flash-forwards in Jewish history.

   *The assignment* will include (1) a title page, (2) 1-2 pages of expositional outline, and (3) a select bibliography. All background material noted in the outline will be footnoted.

   **Due date**: Thursday in Weeks 5, 8, 13, and 17.

   **Suggested resources**: (a) *IVP Bible Background Commentary: OT*; (b) *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary*; (c) *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*; (d) *Anchor Bible Dictionary*.

4. **Exams**: 40% of total grade. The student will complete a mid-term and final exam.

5. **Course Evaluation**:
   a. Weekly Reading Reviews – 20%
   b. Background Studies – 40%
   c. Mid-Term Exam – 20%
   d. Final Exam – 20%

   **Total – 100%**
6. Grading Scale: As outlined in the Leavell College catalog will be utilized:

A = 93-100  
B = 85-92  
C = 77-84  
D = 70-76  
F =  69 and below

Additional Course Information

Plagiarism Policy: 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.

Technology Assistance: 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.

Course Outline

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<td>2</td>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>September 5</td>
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<td>Our Father Abraham – Preface &amp; 1</td>
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<td>Dever – Archaeology &amp; Ideology</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Our Father Abraham – 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Davies, “What separates a Minimalist from a Maximalist? Not Much</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td><strong>Background Study 2: 1 Samuel 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kitchen, “The Patriarchal Age: Myth or History?”</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Conceptions of the Divine</td>
<td><strong>Our Father Abraham – 12</strong>&lt;br&gt;Krahmalkov, “Exodus Itinerary Confirmed by Egyptian Evidence.”</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Sacred Geography</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
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<td><strong>Thanksgiving Break – No Assignments!</strong></td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td><strong>Our Father Abraham – 15</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Background Study 4: Revelation 3:14-22</em></td>
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<td>December 12</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam– Thursday, December 12 @ 6:00 pm</strong></td>
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Selected Bibliography


**Archaeological Encyclopedias**
