



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Biblical Backgrounds: LCBS2310

Fall 2021 (221)

Dr. Derek Kitterlin

Online Format

Adjunct Instructor

Mobile Number: 318.481.2254

redeemeddk@gmail.com

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the geographical, historical, social, and cultural backgrounds of the Old and New Testament periods. Additionally, students will examine relevant biblical, extra-biblical, and archaeological data of these periods in order to understand the context of the biblical books. *Prerequisite: None*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will

1. be familiar with the geography of the land in Old and New Testament times;
2. understand the social and historical background of the biblical times, particularly the intertestamental period; and
3. discern the importance of understanding the background information in order to interpret the Scriptures properly.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are **required**:

Brisco, Thomas, ed. *Holman Bible Atlas: A Complete Guide to the Expansive Geography of Biblical History*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2014.

Available here:

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/holman-bible-atlas-P005613473>

Richards, E. Randolph and Richard James. *Misreading Scripture with Individualist Eyes: Patronage, Honor, and Shame in the Biblical World*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020.

Available here:

https://smile.amazon.com/Misreading-Scripture-Individualist-Eyes-Patronage/dp/0830852751/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1IUJABLZYNCXW&keywords=mi

[sreading+scripture+with+individualist+eyes&qid=1626188312&sprefix=misreading+scrip
ture%2Caps%2C194&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Holman-Book-Biblical-Charts-Reconstructions/dp/1558193596)

The following textbook is **optional**:

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

Hard Copy:

<https://www.amazon.com/Holman-Book-Biblical-Charts-Reconstructions/dp/1558193596>

Digital Copy:

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/holman-book-of-biblical-charts-maps-and-reconstructions-P005325195>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The student will complete the following course work. Part of the grade for the written assignments will be based upon proper grammar, writing style, and format of the assignment.

Please note: Each assignment is found outside of the Units. The assignments are scattered throughout the semester. You must complete the work inside the Course Units along with the Assignments. The Course Units and Assignments are listed separately in Blackboard.

1. **Class Participation (20%).** Since we are not meeting in a traditional classroom setting, your participation is extremely important. Your participation grade will be determined by completing the **Reading Log** for the Textbook **and** completing the **Twelve Units** in the course. A separate discussion board will be open for the required textbook *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes*. This discussion board will be a part of your 20% and participation is required.
 - o **Reading Log**— Read the assigned chapters in the textbook (*Holman Bible Atlas*) and turn in a completed reading log at the end of the course according to the Assignment Schedule. Submit the assignment through the Assignments section on Blackboard.
 - o **Twelve Units**— You are to view the class notes including all PowerPoint slides, read all articles, and Beginning in Unit 2, you will find a short item entitled “Completion of Unit.” Select this assignment and answer the questions related to this assignment.
2. **Maps (15%)** of Palestine. The instructions for the maps are located on Blackboard. 7 maps overall.
3. **Josephus (15%).** Read the assigned passages from Josephus and turn in the Reading Log. The links for the assigned reading are listed on Blackboard.
4. **Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha (15%).** Read the assigned books/sections of books from the Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha and turn in the Reading Log. The links for the assigned reading are listed on Blackboard.
5. **Paper (15%):** Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Empires. The student will prepare a 5-7 page double-spaced paper which will summarize Bible dictionary or Bible encyclopedia articles concerning the Neo-Assyrian (9th and 8th C. BC) and the Neo-Babylonian (7th and 6th C. BC) empires. The paper should devote at least 2-3 pages to each of the relevant empires. For each empire the student should determine:

- a. how the empire affected the OT history of Israel,
 - b. which of the kings and/or prophets interacted with the empire
 - c. cite a list of biblical references relating to the empire.
6. **Final Exam (20%).** This exam will be a synthesis of all of the material presented in class and posted on Blackboard, your textbook readings, and class assignments (maps, readings, and essays). **The study guide with questions and requirements for the final exam will be posted in the Assignments section and will be available on the first day of class.

GRADING SCALE

- A: 93 – 100
- B: 85 – 92
- C: 77 – 84
- D: 70 – 76
- F: below 70

COURSE EVALUATION

- 20% -- Class participation and reading log
- 15% -- Maps: 7 Total
- 15% -- Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha
- 15% -- Josephus
- 15% -- Paper: Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Empires
- 20% -- Final Exam

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit Dates	Units to Be Studied	Additional Assignments
8/16–8/25	Units 1 and 2	
8/23–9/1	Unit 3	
8/30–9/8	Unit 4	
9/6–9/15	Unit 5	Maps Assignment is Due: 9/19
9/13–9/22	Unit 6	
9/20–9/29	Unit 7	Assyria/Babylon Paper Due: 6/26
9/27–10/13	Unit 8	
10/4–10/8	Fall Break	
10/1–10/20		Josephus, and Apoc. & Pseud. Reading Due: 10/20
10/18–10/27	Unit 9	
10/25–11/3	Unit 10	
11/1–11/10	Unit 11	
11/8–11/17	Unit 12	
11/15–12/1	Discussion Board	Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes
11/29–12/2		Bible Atlas Reading Log Due: 12/2

12/2–12/7	Final Exam	
-----------	------------	--

PLEASE NOTE: All Units will be open as the course begins. Each unit will be closed on the dates noted above. The student is responsible for completing each Unit before it closes on the Blackboard site. Some units are scheduled for more than one week, usually due to another assignment that is due during that period. If an additional assignment is listed, it is due according to the date given on the Assignment Schedule above. If the assignment is submitted after that date, a penalty will be incurred.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: Three points per day will be deducted for late submissions. Late submissions must be turned in within two weeks of the due date. Any submissions after two weeks from the due date will not be accepted.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College 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 committing 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.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

8. *Style Guide*: A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. 2d ed. Translated by Anson F. Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.
- Aharoni, Yohanan, Michael Avi-Yonah, Anson F. Rainey, and Ze'ev Safrai. Rev. 3d ed. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1993.
- 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, eds. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3d ed. London: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Carpocino, Jerome. *Daily Life in Ancient Rome: The People and the City at the Height of the Empire*. 2nd ed. Edited by Henry T. Rowell. Translated by E.O. Lorimer. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1940
- 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*. 4th Ed. Oxford: University Press, 2007.
- deSilva, David Arthur. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000
- Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *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.

MacMullen, Ramsay. *Roman Social Relations: 50 B.C. to A.D. 284*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1974.

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.

Additional resources are listed at the course site on NOBTS-Blackboard.