

BSCM2310 OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Course Description

The purpose of Old Testament Survey is to prepare the student for more intensive studies in the Old Testament. Emphasis is placed upon gaining an overview of the Old Testament through a survey of geographical and historical backgrounds and a book by book study. Attention is given to the structure of each biblical book, significant interpretative problems, and major theological themes. *This course is a prerequisite to all Old Testament Interpretation courses.*

Course Objectives

This course will emphasize the ministerial competency of Biblical Exposition. It will also strengthen the Life Skills of reading and computer skills. In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Comprehend the introductory issues of the Old Testament.
2. Value the Old Testament as the revelation of God to people.
3. Read the Old Testament more critically through an appropriate understanding of introductory matters and the central themes.

Course Textbooks

The Bible. (NASB, NASB 1995 Update, KJV, NKJV, RSV, NRSV, ESV, NIV, HCSB, or NLT)

Hill, Andrew E. and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009. (Hereafter referred to as H&W3)

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

Course Methodology

The principal means of instruction will be through Blackboard: including Discussion Boards, audiovisual presentations, and individual student assignments. Individual reading assignments in the Bible and the textbooks will provide an integral part of the learning environment.

Course Requirements

1. CLASS PARTICIPATION.

a. Your participation will be an important element in your success (what you learn and what grade you earn) of Old Testament Survey this semester.

i. A significant portion of the course grade will come from your participation.

ii. So be prepared to spend the time necessary to complete the required assignments.

b. The class participation grade will include the following assignments:

i. [WEBLIOGRAPHY](#).

(1) Each student will locate one website specifically related to the study of the Old Testament.

- (a) The site may be written from a Christian or Jewish perspective.
- (b) The student will write a 3-paragraph summary and critical evaluation of the website—from a content perspective and the aesthetics of the site (is it easy to navigate? Could you find what you were looking for? etc.).
 - (i) The summary should list the web address.
 - (ii) It should also list the main points of the website.
 - (iii) The evaluation should evaluate the qualifications of the author.
 - (iv) The evaluation should also include a critical evaluation of the site itself, not merely a summary of the contents, i.e., author's purpose, did he/she accomplish that purpose, strengths and weaknesses of the website, etc.
 - (v) The Webliography critical evaluation by each student must be submitted to the Discussion Board between March 28 and April 10, 2011 (by 11 pm eastern time, 10 pm central time).

(2) Each student will also critique one classmate's website, using the same guidelines as above. You must choose one site that has not been evaluated by a second student (only two evaluations per website).

- (a) The critique of another student's website evaluation must be submitted between April 11 and April 17, 2011 (by 11 pm eastern time, 10 pm central time).
 - (b) The original critique of the website should be posted as a new thread under the Webliography heading on the Content Discussion Board.
 - (c) The critique by a second student should be posted under this new thread. Thus, each threaded discussion will deal with one website.
- (3) Each student will also
- (a) Skim all of the posted websites and
 - (b) Read all of the critical evaluations of each website.
- (4) When the webliography is complete, we will have one website per student and two critical evaluations for each website.

ii. DISCUSSION BOARDS. We will use several discussion boards for this class.

(1) **NOTE:** there are no dumb questions. Please ask what's on your mind. You are probably not the only one who's wondering. I also need to know if my instructions/comments are not as clear as I think they are.

(2) PRAYER REQUESTS.

- (a) This discussion board is not a course requirement.
- (b) It is available for us to share prayer requests and commit to praying for each other and our families, and any other prayer requests.

(3) ASK THE PROFESSOR.

- (a) Any question or request that you have related to the course should be posted on this discussion board, not sent by individual email.
- (b) I will answer the questions/requests on this discussion board so that all students will be able to see the response.
- (c) We should treat this board and these questions as if we are in class; the questions and answers are for the benefit of all of the students.
- (d) Of course, if you have any private or personal questions/requests, use my email address to contact me (fkimmitt@nobts.edu) and I will respond only to you.

(4) ASK OTHER STUDENTS.

- (a) This board is for technical questions/answers related to Blackboard or other technical issues for this online course.
- (b) If you have a technical question, perhaps another student has the answer.
- (c) If you need to ask our ITC people a question, the email address is blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu.
- (d) Also, if any student has discovered useful technical info for the entire class, this board is the place to post that information.

(5) CONTENT DISCUSSION BOARD.

- (a) I will use this discussion board to post Old Testament content questions related to the OT materials we are studying.
- (b) I may choose to transfer some of the “Ask the Professor” questions to this discussion board for the benefit of the entire class.
- (c) I will post a certain number of questions that are specifically related to the unit we’re studying.
 - (i) Your assignment is to check the board at least 3 times each week.
 - (ii) You will need to respond to the questions/comments when you have an appropriate response.
 - 1) For example, I am not expecting you to post “yes, I agree with Susie’s comment.”
 - 2) If you have a response (or a related question/thought) that contributes to the discussion, I want you to post your response.
 - (iii) Since you have time to process the question and think about your answer(s), I do require a minimum of one substantive response from each student to each discussion question.
- (d) Please read the Discussion Board guidelines posted in the Assignments section on Blackboard for further information on expectations, grading, etc.

2. READING ASSIGNMENTS. Students are required to read according to the class schedule below:

- a. The entire Old Testament
- b. The assigned chapters in H&W3
- c. The additional assigned readings
- d. *To receive full credit, the assigned readings must be completed NO LATER THAN the assigned date on the schedule. Any reading that you do after --- will count for the required readings.*
- e. As they complete the daily reading assignments, students should complete the Reading Log attached to this syllabus.
- f. The Reading Log must be submitted via the Assignments section on ---, by 11 pm eastern time (10 pm central time). **Reading Logs submitted after this date/time will be penalized 5 points per day.**

3. CLASS NOTES.

- a. The class lecture notes are posted on Blackboard (in Course Documents).
- b. Students should download the notes and use them, along with the textbook, to create the Critical Introductions for each biblical book.

4. CRITICAL INTRODUCTION FOR EACH BIBLICAL BOOK.

a. Each student will electronically submit (using the Assignments section) a Critical Introduction for each of the 35 books in the OT

i. This number considers 1 and 2 Samuel as one book, 1 and 2 Kings as one book, Ezra and Nehemiah as one book, and 1 and 2 Chronicles as one book.

ii. Even though the “Book of the Twelve” is one book in the Hebrew Bible, you should do one Introduction for each prophet.

iii. Even though the *Megillot* is one book in the Hebrew Bible, you should do one Introduction for each of the five books.

b. The sources of this information are the class notes and the textbook (you may also use any of the other Introduction to the Old Testament textbooks listed in the Selected Bibliography).

i. **Do not copy either my notes or the textbook or any other resource word for word.**

ii. **Paraphrase the information (i.e., write the information in your own words).**

c. Each Critical Introduction will consist of 1-2 pages maximum (**single-spaced and typed in a 12-point font of your choice**) that contains the following information, with explanation or description:

i. Title of the Book

ii. Authorship

iii. Date of Composition

iv. Date of the Events of the Book

v. Broad Outline

vi. Purpose and Message of the Book

vii. Theme(s) of the Book

viii. Any Other Important/Significant Information for Understanding the Book

d. All of the Critical Introductions in one unit should be submitted as one file, using the Assignments section.

i. For example, for Unit 1, each student will submit one file consisting of Critical Introductions of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

ii. The file should be submitted with the following heading: **Your name.OTS.Unit 1.**

iii. You may submit the file in Word, WordPerfect, or pdf formats.

e. Helpful information for the Critical Introductions will be posted on Blackboard in the Assignments section.

f. **Late Critical Introductions will be penalized 5 points per day!**

5. EXAMINATIONS. Two exams will be given: a midterm and final exam. Each exam will be self-contained. The midterm will cover Units 1-3 and the final will cover Units 4 & 5. Each exam will cover the material presented in class lectures, class notes posted on NOBTS-Blackboard, and all of the reading assignments. The exams will be administered through Blackboard.

NOTE: Students may use their notes and the textbook on the exams. However, the exams will be timed so that the use of notes will be limited. Students will need to study beforehand to finish the exams in a timely manner.

Course Evaluation

Class Participation – 25%

Critical Introductions – 25%

Reading the OT – 20%

Reading the Textbook and Additional Readings – 15%

Exams – 15%

Netiquette Statement on 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 will be expected at all times in the online environment.

Selected Bibliography—Other Old Testament introductions and surveys

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids:

Baker Books, 2008.

Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. 3d ed.

Belmont, CA:

Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2004.

Benware, Paul N. *Survey of the Old Testament*. Revised. Chicago: Moody Press, 1993.

Brueggemann, Walter. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville:

Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.

Cate, Robert L. *An Introduction to the Old Testament and Its Study*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987.

Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.

Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible with CD-ROM*. Fortress Press, 2004.

Coogan, Michael D. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. New

York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Dillard, Raymond B. and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids:

Zondervan Publishing House, 2006.

Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*. Grand

Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.

Drane, John. *Introducing the Old Testament*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1987.

Dumbrell, Wm. J. *The Faith of Israel: A Theological Survey of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker

Academic, 2002.

Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

Hays, J. Daniel. *The Message of the Prophets: A Survey of the Prophetic and Apocalyptic Books of the Old*

Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. (This book presents introductory information on the Prophets only)

.H ouse, Paul R. and Eric Mitchell. *Old Testament Survey*. 2d ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 2007.

LaSor, William S., David A. Hubbard, and Frederic W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.

Matthews, Victor H. and James C. Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1997.

Merrill, Eugene H. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

Ryken, Leland and Tremper Longman III. *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.

Schnittjer, Gary Edward. *The Torah Story: An Apprenticeship on the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. (This book is a survey of the Torah only)

Stanley, Christopher D. *The Hebrew Bible: A Comparative Approach*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

Walton, John H. and Andrew E. Hill. *Old Testament Today: A Journey from Original Meaning to Contemporary Significance*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.