



OT 501: Old Testament I

Fall A 2010

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Office Hours: M, T, TH 9:00–5:00

I. Course Description

A survey of the Old Testament from Genesis through Chronicles which includes an examination of background issues, history, content, major themes, and theological and critical issues relative to the selected books.

II. Course Objectives

KNOWLEDGE	RESEARCH SKILLS
At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have gained a general understanding of the content of the Old Testament materials from Genesis to 2 Chronicles. • Be introduced to modern critical approaches to the study of biblical texts, especially source, form literary, and rhetorical analysis. 	At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have prepared and presented an exegetical paper on an Old Testament narrative passage.
SPIRITUAL FORMATION	MINISTRY PREPARATION
At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate the importance of the Old Testament to a personal walk with Christ. 	At the end of this course, students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to exegete a passage for a scholarly or homiletical presentation. • Be competent in reflecting on the theology and message of major Old Testament passages.

III. Required Texts

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3170-0.

Curtis, Adrian, ed. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN: 0-19-100158-9.

Matthews, Victor H. *Studying the Ancient Israelites: A Guide to Sources and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007. ISBN: 0-8010-3197-4.

A modern translation of the Bible.

IV. Course Requirements and Expectations

1. Each student is required to read the textbooks according to the schedule in the syllabus. A statement of on time completion will be submitted to the professor on the last day of class.
2. Each student is required to complete either **Option A** or **Option B**.

Option A. Exegetical Paper. Each student will choose one passage and prepare a 9-12 page,

typed, double-spaced (3 typed lines per inch) exposition. The professor MUST approve the passage. The following guidelines should help the student in preparing the exposition.

- A. Read and compare the translation of the passage in 3 or 4 translations (e.g. NRSV, NEB, REB, JB, NIV, NASV, KJV, etc.). Do not rely on paraphrases (GNB/TEV, Living Bible, etc.). One may use Hebrew, Greek, Latin, or a foreign language Bible as long as it is not a paraphrase.
- B. Note any major differences between the translations and attempt to explain these differences in the exposition.
- C. Determine the literary form of the passage and other critical matters such as date, source, authorship, type, etc.
- D. Study the passage and its exegesis in 2 or 3 major scholarly commentaries (e.g. Interpreters Bible, International Critical Commentary, Old Testament Library, Anchor Bible, New International Commentary on the Old Testament, Word Biblical Commentary, New Century Bible, Hermeneia, Interpretation, etc.). The choice of a good commentary is more important than the use of a large number of commentaries.
- E. Consult a Bible dictionary or theological wordbook for the meaning of important terms and key words, and for the identification of persons and places.
- F. Determine if the passage is quoted or referred to elsewhere in the Bible. If so, how is it interpreted?
- G. Now you are ready to write your exposition. Be a good investigative reporter and ask (and answer) the questions: who, what, when, where, why, how. To whom is the passage addressed? Where are the ones addressed located and what is their situation? When was the passage written? What would the original readers (or hearers) have understood as the central message of the text? What is the main thrust of the passage to us? What contribution does the passage make to the understanding of its subject matter? What does the text teach about God, the people of God, and their relationship?
After an introductory paragraph, the student may want to deal with the passage verse-by-verse, in blocks of verses, or as a unit. Note that the exposition is not a sermon or a sermon outline, but the study could well be the first step toward a sermon on the passage. In general, the exposition will include discussion of the translation of the passage, a critical analysis and context, explanation of content, message/meaning then and now. An excellent outline for expositions is found in Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis*, 4th edition.
- H. Use good form and style in writing and carefully proofread the exposition. One should use footnotes or endnotes when using material from another source. Include a bibliography of works actually consulted.
- I. Passage list. Choose one of the following passages:
Genesis 1:1-5; 1:26-31; 2:4b-7; 2:18-24; 3:1-7; 4:8-16; 6:1-4; 9:8-15; 11:1-9; 11:29-12:3; 12:10-20; 15:1-6; 17:1-8; 22:1-14; 25:19-26; 32:22-32; 37:1-4; 37:5-11. Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-6; 7:1-5; 12:1-12; 15:1-18; 19:1-6; 24:1-11; 33:7-11; 33:12-23; 34:29-34. Leviticus 12:1-8; 13:9-17; 16:29-34; 25:8-17; 27:1-13. Numbers 6:1-8; 6:22-27; 10:29-35; 13:17-33; 14:26-38; 20:1-13. Deuteronomy 4:15-24; 4:25-31; 6:4-9; 12:1-14; 26:1-11; 30:15-20. Joshua 3:14-17; 4:19-24; 10:5-14; 24:1-15. Judges 2:11-19; 5:24-31; 12:1-6; 13:1-7; 17:1-6; 21:13-23. 1 Samuel 3:1-14; 4:10-22; 8:4-20; 10:5-13; 21:1-6; 28:3-19. 2 Samuel 6:1-11; 7:1-17; 21:1-15; 24:1-25. 1 Kings 1:32-40; 3:3-14; 4:29-33; 11:1-13; 12:25-33; 17:1-7; 18:20-40; 19:4-18; 21:1-19; 22:1-28. 2 Kings 2:1-15; 6:1-7; 6:11-23; 9:1-13. 1 Chronicles 21:1-14; 22:2-19. 2 Chronicles 5:2-14; 7:11-22; 10:6-19; 26:16-21.

Option B. Topical Research Paper. You may choose to write a research paper of 9-12 pages instead of the exposition. Potential topics include: "Chosenness in the Old Testament Historical Narratives," "Moses the Deliverer," "David the Warrior," "David the King," "The Role of Solomon's Temple in Israelite Worship," "The Near East in the Time of the Judges," "Israel's

connection to the Land (Palestine),” and “Israelite Worship Outside Jerusalem.” Other topics require approval of the professor. If you chose to write a topical paper, see the professor for additional instructions.

3. **Exams.** There will be one scheduled exam and a Final Exam.
4. **Grading** will follow the seminary scale and be as follows:
 - Exposition or Topical Paper 30%
 - Scheduled Exam 30%
 - Final Exam 30%
 - Attendance, Participation, Assigned Reading 10%

V. **Policies.**

1. **Attendance.** Each student must attend class and participate in discussion. One absence without penalty will be allowed during the semester. Other absences, except in extreme emergencies, will result in a reduction of grade at the end of the semester. The professor must be notified before the class in case of an emergency. Three tardies equals one absence.
2. **Tardiness.** Classes will begin at the announced time. Because tardiness is disruptive and deprives the professor of valuable teaching time, three (3) late arrivals will be considered an absence and will lower the student’s final grade for the course.
3. **Plagiarism.** For written work to demonstrate scholarship and integrity, documentation must be given for all ideas, paraphrasing, and quotations. Failure to do so is viewed as a very serious offense. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will be graded “F” and placed in the student’s file. A future occurrence, if determined to be deliberate, will result in dismissal from the divinity school. Cheating in any form will be treated in the same manner as plagiarism.
4. **Written Assignments.** Students are required to use the latest edition of Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* and the *CEDS Research Paper Handbook*. Professors will not accept papers that do not comply with this policy. Proper format, grammar, and spelling will factor into the grade the student receives for the paper. Papers are expected to be submitted on-time, as scheduled by the course professor. All papers are expected to be new work and cannot be submitted twice at CEDS.
5. **Late Work.** All work must be submitted by the due date stated on the SCHEDULE. The professor will not accept late work. All written work must be submitted before the final week of the half-semester. Assignments can be emailed to the professor who will grade them but not print them out and return them. If you must miss class, make arrangements to have your work turned in early. Examinations can not be taken if all course requirements have not been satisfied.
6. **Examinations.** Examinations must be taken at the times scheduled in the syllabus. Postponement of an examination must be requested in writing within two days of the scheduled date of the exam. The request will be considered only in the case of a major emergency (i.e., death in the family or an illness for which you can produce a doctor’s statement).
7. **Incomplete.** Students have thirty (30) days from the end of the half-semester to complete work for which they were given an extension by the professor and Director of Student Records. When course requirements are not met in that thirty (30) day period the final grade will be converted to an “F” and counted as hours attempted in computing the grade point average for the half-semester. The request for an extension must be made in writing and include the reasons for which additional time is needed. Requests will not be considered after the seventh week of class. A fee will be charged for the extension if granted.
8. **Withdrawal.** Students must complete the appropriate form when dropping a course. The withdrawal is not official until the professor and the Director of Student Records have signed the form. Courses may not be dropped after the fourth week of classes.

VI. Course Schedule

EOT = *Encountering the Old Testament*; **OBA** = *Oxford Bible Atlas*

Read the *Studying the Ancient Israelites* book within the first three weeks of class.

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments*
Aug 16	Introduction, Genesis 1-11, Primeval History	Introduction, Genesis 1-11. EOT: 21-88; OBA 3-44, 65-72, and 99-102.	
Aug 23	Genesis 12-50 Patriarchal Narratives	Genesis 21-50. EOT: 89-102; OBA 73-76.	
Aug 30	Deliverance and Covenant; Israelite Religion, Deuteronomy and Deuteronomistic History	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. EOT: 103-154; OBA 77-82.	
Sep 6	Conquest and Settlement	Joshua, Judges. EOT: 155-187; OBA 83-90.	
Sep 13	The Samuel Narratives	1 Samuel. EOT: 195-207.	Midterm Exam
Sep 20	David Narratives	2 Samuel. EOT: 209-220; OBA 91-98.	
Sep 27	Chronicles and Solomon	1 and 2 Chronicles (scan). 1 Kings 1-11. EOT: 221-228, 251-261.	
Oct 4	The Succession Narratives and Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12-2 Kings. EOT: 228-249; OBA 103-126.	Paper due
Oct 11	Wrap up		Final Exam

Schedule subject to change according to course requirements.

*Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. The professor does not have to accept late work. Any accepted late assignments will be penalized.

VII. Selected Bibliography

Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation

Armerding, Carl E. *The Old Testament and Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

Beckwith, Roger. *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

Bright, John. *The Authority of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Reverberations of Faith: A Theological Handbook of Old Testament Themes*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Goldingay, John. *Approaches to Old Testament Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1990.

House, Paul. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1998.

Kaiser, Walter, ed. *Classical Evangelical Essays in Old Testament Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1972.

Keyser, B. Donald, and H. Wayne Ballard. *From Jerusalem to Gaza: An Old Testament Theology*. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys, 2003.

Knierim, Rolf P. *The Task of Old Testament Theology: Method and Cases*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Mays, James L., David L. Petersen, and Kent H. Richards. *Old Testament Interpretation: Past, Present, and Future*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

McComiskey, Thomas. *The Covenants of Promise*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.

McKenzie, Steven L., and Stephen R. Hayes. *To Each Its Own Meaning: An Introduction to Biblical Criticisms and Their Application*. Revised and expanded ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1999.

Pratt, Richard L., Jr. *He Gave Us Stories*. Brentwood, TN: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1990.

Sandy, D. Brent, and Ronald L. Giese, Jr. *Cracking Old Testament Codes*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 4th ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009.

Von Rad, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 Vols. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.

Waltke, Bruce K., with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Old Testament History

Aharoni, Yohanan, and Michael Avi-Yonah. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. London: Macmillan, 1986.

Ahlstrom, Gosta W. *The History of Ancient Palestine*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2000.

Bruce, F. F. *Israel and the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

Cate, Robert L. *These Sought a Country*. Nashville: Broadman, 1985.

Chavalas, Mark W., and K. Lawson Younger, Jr. *Mesopotamia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Coogan, Michael D., ed. *The Oxford History of the Biblical World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Davies, Philip R., and John Rogerson. *The Old Testament World*. 2nd ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2006.

- De Blois, L., and R. J. Van Der Spek. *An Introduction to the Ancient World*. Trans. by Susan Mellor. New York: Routledge, 1997.
- Edersheim, Alfred. *The Bible History*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.
- Harrison, R. K. *Old Testament Times*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- Matthews, Victor H. *A Brief History of Ancient Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Mieroop, Marc Van De. *A History of the Ancient Near East*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004.
- Miller, J. Maxwell, and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. 2nd ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2006.
- Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
- Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992.
- Shanks, Hershel, ed. *Ancient Israel*. Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeological Society, 1988.
- Wood, Leon J. *A Survey of Israel's History*. Revised by Daniel O'Brien. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.

Old Testament Introductions and Surveys

- Anderson, Bernhard W., and Katheryn Pfisterer Darr. *Understanding the Old Testament*, abridged and updated, 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- Archer, Gleason L., Jr. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Revised and expanded ed. Chicago: Moody, 1994.
- Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2009.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
- Dick, Michael B. *Reading the Old Testament: An Inductive Introduction*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.

Dillard, Raymond, and Tremper Longman. *An Introduction of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994.

Frick, Frank S. *A Journey through the Hebrew Scriptures*. 2nd ed. Belmont, CA: Thompson and Wadsworth, 2003.

Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1975.

Lasor, William, David Hubbard, and Frederick Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Matthews, Victor H., and James C. Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*. 2nd ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.

Tullock, John H. *The Old Testament Story*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2002.

Varughese, Alex, ed. *Discovering the Old Testament: Story and Faith*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2003.

Commentaries and Book Series

Anchor Bible Commentary by Doubleday

Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament, Keil and Delitzsch, by Eerdmans

Blackwell Bible Commentary by Blackwell

Broadman Bible Commentary by Broadman

Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible by Brazos

Continental Commentary by Augsburg Fortress

Encountering Biblical Studies Series by Baker

Exploring the Old Testament Series by InterVarsity Press

Hermeneia by Augsburg/Fortress

Holman Old Testament Commentary by Broadman & Holman

International Critical Commentary by T & T Clark

International Theological Commentary by Eerdmans

Interpretation by John Knox

Interpreters Bible by Abingdon

IVP Bible Background Commentary by InterVarsity Press

JPS Torah Commentary by Jewish Publication Society

Mercer Commentary on the Bible by Mercer University Press

New American Commentary by Broadman

New Cambridge Bible Commentary by Cambridge University Press

New Century Bible Commentary by Eerdmans

New International Biblical Commentary by Hendrickson

New International Commentary on the Old Testament by Eerdmans

NIV Application Commentary by Zondervan

Old Testament Library by Westminster/John Knox

Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary by Smyth and Helwys

Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary by Eerdmans

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary by InterVarsity Press

Word Biblical Commentary by Word Books

Word Biblical Themes by Word Books

Misc. Books

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Curtis, Adrian, ed. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Freedman, David Noel, ed. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Matthews, Victor H., and Don C. Benjamin. *Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East*. Revised and Expanded 2nd ed. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1997.

Mills, Watson, ed. *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1990.

Pritchard, James B., ed. *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures*. 2 Vols. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1958.

Sparks, Kenton L. *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to Background Literature*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.

Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Historical Geography

I. Cities of Old Testament Times

A. Canaan

Ai	Bethel	Hebron	Lachish
Ashdod	Bethshan	Jericho	Megiddo
Askelon	Dan	Jerusalem	Samaria
Beersheba	Hazor	Joppa	Shiloh

B. Elsewhere in the Near East

Asshur	Carchemish	Haran	Sidon	Tyre
Babylon	Damascus	Nineveh	Thebes (No Amon)	Ur

II. Mountains or Mountain Ranges

Carmel	Gerizim	Nebo
Ebal	Hermon	Tabor

III. Streams, Lakes, and Seas

Arnon River	Gulf of Suez	Nile River	Salt Sea (Dead Sea)
Euphrates River	Jabbok River	Persian Gulf	Tigris River
Galilee (Sea of)	Jordan River	Red Sea	Zered River
Gulf of Aqaba	Mediterranean Sea		

IV. Deserts

Negev	Syrian
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V. Countries (or People Groups)

Ammon	Egypt	Media	Philistines
Assyria	Hittites (Hatti)	Midian	Phoenicia
Babylonia	Israel	Moab	Syria (Aram)
Edom	Judah	Persia	

VI. Location of the 12 Tribes of Israel

Asher	Ephraim	Judah	Reuben
Benjamin	Gad	Manasseh	Simeon
Dan	Issachar	Naphtali	Zebulun