



# BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus GA 31909

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## COURSE SYLLABUS / DISTANCE EDUCATION

### I. COURSE TITLE:

**BIB 101 Old Testament Survey**

### II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A course designed to give the student an overview of the historical, political and social contexts of the Old Testament books; the essential events, individuals, institutions and places of each, with their historical and doctrinal significance; the structure of each and its relation to the rest of the canon.

### III. COURSE RATIONALE:

#### A. Philosophical

1. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) was Scripture for the New Testament Church.
3. The Old Testament is profitable, both as the word of God to us and a word from God for us.

#### B. Practical

1. This course will help students develop a respect for the Old Testament and its relationship with the rest of the Bible.
2. The course will help students understand how the Old Testament was divinely ordained as preparatory for the coming of Christ and is foundational to understanding the eternal, incarnational truth of the work of God in and with His people.
3. The course will assist the student in developing knowledge of scripture that can be used devotionally in his/her personal life, and in his/her ministry vocation in preaching and teaching.

### IV. PREREQUISITES:

None

## **V. COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:**

### **A. Cognitive**

1. The student will be able to demonstrate and explain a working knowledge of each section of the Old Testament and its impact to other parts of the Bible.
2. The student will be able to understand the theological significance and historical setting of each part of the Old Testament.
3. The student will be able to identify the basic types of literature contained in the Old Testament along with the appropriate special principles of interpretation.
4. The student will be able to identify and discuss important critical issues such as authorship and date of the various sections and relate their conclusions with the overall study of the Old Testament.
5. The student will be able to discuss the relationship between the knowledge gained in this class and his or her own theological/spiritual development.

### **B. Affective**

1. The student will become aware of and familiar with the various critical issues that confront Christians as they are introduced to Old Testament studies and thus be ready to answer those who would deny the divine inspiration of the Old Testament.
2. The student will gain an ability to arrange the knowledge gained in such a way that he or she will be able to confidently share his or her informed opinions with others.
3. The student will become comfortable with his or her ability to integrate studies from the various parts of the Old Testament in a way that will assist in his or her overall theological and spiritual development.
4. The student will practice listening to the voice of the Lord in the reading and study of the Old Testament scriptures.

### **C. Skills**

1. The ability to conceive of and talk about the Older Testament, both by itself and in relation to the New Testament, including the background information.
2. The ability to give a brief explanation of every section of the Old Testament.
3. The ability to read the Old Testament devotionally, i.e. for personal, spiritual formation.
4. The ability to exhort, teach and preach from the Old Testament.

## **VI. COURSE OUTLINE:**

### **A. Video Presentations**

1. *Introduction to Old Testament Studies*
2. *Introduction to the Pentateuch & Genesis 1-9*

3. *Genesis 10-50*
4. *Exodus (part one)*
5. *Exodus (part two)*
6. *Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*
7. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*
8. *1 Samuel and Chronicles*
9. *2 Samuel and Chronicles*
10. *1 Kings and Chronicles*
11. *2 Kings and Chronicles*
12. *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*
13. *Wisdom Literature*
14. *Psalms*
15. *Proverbs and Song of Solomon*
16. *Ecclesiastes, Obadiah, Joel*
17. *Amos, Hosea, Isaiah*
18. *Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Daniel*
19. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*
20. *Introduction to Old Testament Theology*

**B. Online Module Dates and Assignments:**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Module 1	Aug 25 – Sept 7	Video sessions 1-3, discussion forum 1, Bible readings
Module 2	Sept 8 – 21	Video sessions 4-6, discussion forum 2, Bible readings
Module 3	Sept 22 – Oct 5	Video sessions 7-9, discussion forum 3, Bible readings
Module 4	Oct 6 – 19	Video session 10, discussion forum 4, Bible readings, and mid-term exam
Module 5	Oct 20 – Nov 2	Video sessions 11-13, discussion forum 5, Bible readings, and Geisler book review
Module 6	Nov 3 – Nov 16	Video sessions 14-16, discussion forum 6, Bible readings, and expository paper
Module 7	Nov 17 – 30	Video sessions 17-19, discussion forum 7, Bible readings
Module 8	Dec 1 – 12	Video session 20, discussion forum 8, Bible readings, Bible reading report, and final exam

**VII. COURSE METHOD:**

- A. General Method: Class sessions will include the presentation of lecture material as video presentations. There will also be an opportunity to discuss issues of introduction and key portions of Scripture on the online discussion forums. Work outside of class will focus on reading assignments, brief written responses to those reading assignments, and an opportunity to reflectively expound on a chosen passage of Old Testament Scripture.
- B. Online Method: The uniqueness of distance learning necessitates unique learning experiences and methods. The power of an online course management system like Moodle makes unique assessment methods possible. As a result, this online

course will follow the module schedule above. Grades will be given for the viewing of video sessions, participation in discussion forums, the completion of written assignments, and exams. In each case, the deadline will be midnight on the last day of the module.

## VIII. COURSE TEXTS:

Geisler, Norman L. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1977.

## IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Reading:** A report of the reading of the Old Testament will be due at the end of Module 4 (Oct. 19) and at the conclusion of the course (Dec. 12). Read these assigned portions of the text of the Old Testament according to the following module schedule:
1. Gen. 1-15, Ex. 1-20
  2. Num. 1-14, Deut. 1-6
  3. Josh. 1-7, Jud. 1-10, Ruth
  4. 1 Sam. 1-16, 2 Sam. 1-12, 1 Kings 1-9
  5. Ezra, Neh. 1-6, Esther
  6. Job 1-2, 41-42, Ps. 1-3, 120-124, Pro. 1-8
  7. Isa. 1-6, Jer. 1-12, Eze. 1, 18, Daniel
  8. Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Haggai, Malachi.
- B. Discussion:** Each module will include a discussion forum question posed by the instructor. Every student is required to post a response to the questions and to respond to at least one other student response. Forum participation will be graded according to the quality of critical thinking and the correctness of language usage. At grade will be posted the week following the Module assignment.
- C. Writing:** Read the text by Geisler in its entirety and write a “Book Report” using the guide provided. It must be at least 750 words in length, typewritten and double-spaced. The book review will be due no later than Nov. 2.
- D. Research & Writing:**
1. Write an expository paper on any small portion of Scripture from the Old Testament.
  2. The body of the paper should reflect the elements of *observation*, *interpretation*, and *application*.
  3. The paper must be a minimum of 1,250 words, typewritten and double-spaced.
  4. It must use a minimum of 3 sources and 2 different translations.
  5. The research paper should be prepared according to Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.
  6. The paper will be due no later than Nov. 16.

**F. Testing:** Course exams will be a review of the contents of class lectures. There will be two exams:

1. A midterm examination will be taken no later than October 19.
2. A final examination will be taken no later than December 12.

## **X. COURSE EVALUATION:**

**A. Grade:**

Bible Reading	10%
Book Review	15 %
Discussion Forums	15%
Expository Paper	20 %
Mid-Term Exam	20 %
Final Exam	<u>20 %</u>
	100 %

**B. Attendance & Late Grades for Distance Learners:** Success as a distance learner requires regular attendance to the course management system and to email. Students who do not log in to their Moodle course site by the drop/add deadline will be automatically withdrawn from the course. Every aspect of student participation on the Moodle site is reported by Moodle. Assignments must be completed by the due dates. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for late work will be given an opportunity to make it up. Adequate reasons involve circumstances beyond the student's control. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to make up missed assignments, including exams. If an adequate reason is not given and/or arrangements are not made, the grade for the assignment/exam may be reduced.

**C. Beacon University Plagiarism Policy:** According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using "as one's own the writings or ideas of another." Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include letting another person compose or rewrite a student's written assignment. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to a range of penalties up to, and including, dismissal from the University. All incidents of academic dishonesty are to be reported by the faculty member to the Academic Vice President.

## **XI. COURSE PROFESSOR:**

**Name:** Larry Asplund

**Degrees:**

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies  
M.A., Biblical Literature  
D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation  
**Faculty Rank:** Assistant Professor  
**Office Phone:** 706.323.5364. ex. 256  
**E-Mail:** larry.asplund@beacon.edu; lkageorgia@gmail.com  
**Office Hours on Campus:** 8-5, Monday through Friday

## **XII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

### **Introductions and Surveys**

- Anderson, G. W. *A Critical Introduction to the Old Testament*. London: Duckworth, 1974.
- Archer, Gleason. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1964.
- Bruce, F. F. *Israel and the Nations*. London: Paternoster Press, 1963.
- Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
- Eissfeldt, Otto. *The Old Testament: an Introduction*. Trans. P. R. Ackroyd. New York: Harper & Row, 1965.
- Francisco, Clyde T. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1977.
- Geisler, Norman. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977.
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1969.
- Jenson, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1981.
- Kitchen, K. A. *Ancient Orient and the Old Testament*. Chicago: Inter-Varsity Press, 1966.
- Merril, Eugene. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. Nunley, NJ: Craig Press, 1966.
- Payne, J. Barton. *An Outline of Hebrew History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1954.
- Young, Edward J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1949.
- Watts, J. Wash. *Old Testament Teaching*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1967.

### **Archaeology**

- Albright, W. F. *Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.
- Millard. *Treasures from Bible Times*. Oxford: Lion, 1985.
- Thompson, J.A. *The Bible and Archaeology*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1962.
- Unger, Merrill. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing, 1954.

### **History**

- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959.

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Bible History of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1972.

Harrison, R.K. *A History of Old Testament Times*. London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1957.

Isserlin, B. S. J. *The Israelites*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1998.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel from the Bronze Age through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.

Schultz, Samuel. *Old Testament Speaks*. New York: Harper & Bros., 1960.

Unger, Merrill F. *Israel and the Aramaeans of Damascus*. London: James Clarke & Co., 1957.

Wood, Leon. *Survey of Israel's History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970.

### **Other Helpful Books for Old Testament Study.**

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

Archer, Gleason. *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

Botterweck, G. Johannes and Ringgren, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 11 vols. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans.

Cate, Robert L. *Old Testament Roots for New Testament Faith*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1982.

Dyrness, William. *Themes in Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993.

### **Videos**

Vanderlann, Ray. *That The World May Know*. Colorado Springs, CO: Focus On the Family, 1998.