



BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus GA 31909

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE:

OT 510 Introduction to the Old Testament

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the content, organization and background of the Old Testament. The student is introduced to the major issues that are involved in Old Testament studies as well as an emphasis upon the unity of the Bible. This course is designed to not only familiarize the student with the Old Testament, but to utilize it in his/her life and ministry, as well.

III. COURSE RATIONALE:

A. Philosophical

1. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. The Hebrew Bible (Older 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:

Module	Dates	Assignments
Module 1	May 12 – 25	Video sessions 1-3, discussion forum 1, Bible & text readings
Module 2	May 26 – June 8	Video sessions 4-6, discussion forum 2, Bible & text readings
Module 3	June 9 – 22	Video sessions 7-9, discussion forum 3, Bible & text readings
Module 4	June 23 – July 6	Video session 10, discussion forum 4, Bible & text readings
Module 5	July 7 – 20	Video sessions 11-13, Brueggemann book review, discussion forum 5, Bible & text readings
Module 6	July 21 – Aug 3	Video sessions 14-16, discussion forum 6, Bible & text readings
Module 7	Aug 4 – 15	Video sessions 17-20, research paper, discussion forum 7, Bible & text readings

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:

- A. *The Holy Bible* (any translation)
- B. Brueggemann, Walter. *An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003).

IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. **Reading:** Read the assigned portions of the text of the Old Testament according to the following module schedule:
 - 1. Genesis
 - 2. Numbers, Deuteronomy
 - 3. Joshua, Judges, Ruth
 - 4. 1 & 2 Samuel
 - 5. Nehemiah, Esther
 - 6. Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
 - 7. Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Micah, Malachi
- B. **Reading:** Read Brueggemann's *An Introduction to the Old Testament* in its entirety according to the assigned schedule. A "reading report" will be included with both the mid-term and the final exams.
 - 1. Chapters 1-4
 - 2. Chapters 5-8
 - 3. Chapters 10-11
 - 4. Chapters 12-13
 - 5. Chapters 26-27
 - 6. Chapters 20-24, 28
 - 7. Chapters 9, 14-19, 25, 29
- C. **Discussion:** Each module will include a discussion forum question posed by the instructor. Every student is required to post two responses to the questions and to respond to at least two other student responses. Forum

participation will be graded according to the quality of critical thinking and the correctness of language usage.

- D. Writing:** Write a “book review” of the text by Brueggemann using the guide provided.
1. The review should be typewritten, double-spaced, and 1,000 words long.
 2. The review should be prepared according to Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed.
 3. The review will be due July 20.
- E. Research & Writing:** Write a research paper -
1. The topic must be on introductory issues concerning one of the Old Testament books or a section of the Old Testament. Issues such as title, authorship and date (including all major opinions), historical background, and major theological teachings must be covered. This is not an exegesis paper. Therefore discussion of specific passages should be limited to their affinity to introductory matters.
 2. The research paper must be typewritten, double-spaced, and 2,000 words in length.
 3. A minimum of six (6) sources should be cited in the body of your paper.
 4. The research paper should be prepared according to Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed.
 5. The research paper will be due August 15.

X. COURSE EVALUATION:

- A. Grade:**
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Bible Reading | 15 % |
| Text Reading | 15 % |
| Discussion Forums | 20% |
| Book Review | 15 % |
| Research Paper | <u>35 %</u> |
| | 100 % |
- B. Attendance & Late Grades:** Regular, successful and punctual attendance is expected of all students enrolled. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for an absence will be given an opportunity to make up the work. 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 assignment/exam will be reduced by one

letter grade. A student with more than 20% absences may be assigned a grade of "F."

- 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

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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.

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Fortress Press, 1979.

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York: Harper & Row, 1965.

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- 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.
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- 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*. 3rd Edition. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.
- Millard. *Treasures from Bible Times*. Oxford: Lion, 1985.
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- Unger, Merrill. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing, 1954.

History

- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959.
- Edersheim, Alfred. *The Bible History of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans' Pub. 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, 182.
- 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

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