COURSE SYLLABUS

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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: 8 weeks.

Course ID: BIOT 1433

Course Title: Old Testament and it's Interpretation

College: College of Ministry and Theology

Prerequisites: None

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

This course is SEU's introductory course for Old Testament study. It focuses on exploring the literary, theological, and historical aspects of the Old Testament. The course is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of the Old Testament that will hopefully lead the student to further evaluation and greater insight.

Course Overview

This course will follow the Hebrew divisions of the Old Testament: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. Following the Hebrew order of the Old Testament demonstrates the unity of the Old Testament, tells the events of Israel's story from creation to the fall of Jerusalem, and calls attention to the theological witness of the Old Testament. The course uses videos, art, and readings from Scripture and the textbook to provide students with an overview of the Old Testament.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is **8.6 hours per week.**

Course Materials

House, Paul R. and Eric Mitchell. *Old Testament Survey*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2007. ISBN: 978-0805440362. Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through SEU's bookstore.

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

- Torah
- Pentateuch
- Creation
- Covenant
- Exodus
- Holiness
- Former Prophets
- Latter Prophets
- Writings

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the canon, including its formation, transmission, and reliability as Scripture.
2. Explain the process of OT interpretation and how to employ basic research tools.
3. Identify the ancient Near Eastern cultural, historical, and geographic contexts that inform biblical interpretation.
4. Recognize genres of the OT and how they inform interpretation.
5. Identify key themes, unique characteristics, and theological constructs of the OT that inform the Christian faith.

Late Work

None Accepted

Extra Credit

None Accepted

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.

SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS

Aim

When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn

When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply

 When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1:
10/18/23 – 10/24/23

 **Aim**

- Identify the books of the Torah
- Know the divisions of the Hebrew Bible
- Explain the literary and historical aspects of the study of the Old Testament
- Describe the plots, major characters, major events, and themes of the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus.

 **Learn**

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 1 - 70
- **View:** Videos and learning resources

 **Apply**

- Discussion for Module 1
  - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
  - Points: 100

MODULE 2:
10/25/23 – 10/31/23



Aim

- Know the plot, main characters, major events, and themes of Numbers and Deuteronomy
- Explain how Numbers and Deuteronomy continue the story of the Torah
- Identify the literary shape of Numbers and Deuteronomy



Learn

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 78 - 88
- **View:** Videos and learning resources



Apply

- Discussion for Module 2
    - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
    - Points: 100

MODULE 3:
11/1/23 – 11/7/23

Aim

- Identify the books of the Former Prophets
- Know the plot, major characters, significant events, and themes of Joshua and Judges
- Describe the theological factors involved in Israel's history

Learn

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 89 - 118
- **View:** Videos and learning resources

Apply

- Discussion for Module 3
    - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
    - Points: 100

MODULE 4:
11/8/23 – 11/14/23

 **Aim**

- Identify the major characters, main events, key themes, and literary design of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings
- Describe the theological function of the books of Samuel and Kings
- Know the theological basis for the destruction of the temple and Israel's exile from the Promised Land.

 **Learn**

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 119 - 171
- **View:** Videos and learning resources

 **Apply**

- Discussion for Module 4
  - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
  - Points: 100
- Assignment for Module 4: Critical Introduction
  - Due: Saturday
  - Points: 100

MODULE 5:

11/15/23 – 11/21/23

Aim

- Define biblical prophecy
- Know how to read and interpret the Old Testament prophetic books
- Identify the plot, major characters, main events, significant themes, and literary shape of the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah
- Discuss the theological messages of Isaiah and Jeremiah

Learn

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 173 - 219
- **View:** Videos and learning resources

Apply

- Discussion for Module 5
    - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
    - Points: 100

MODULE 6:
11/22/23 – 11/28/23

Aim

- Identify the plot, major characters, main events, significant themes, and literary shape of the books of Ezekiel and the Twelve
- Know the theological themes of the books of Ezekiel and the Twelve
- Understand the parallel between Israel's exile to Babylon and all of humanity's exile from Eden.

Learn

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 220 - 266
- **View:** Videos and learning resources

Apply

- Discussion for Module 6
    - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
    - Points: 30
- Assignment for Module 6: Old Testament Biblical Character Study
    - Due: Tuesday
    - Points: 100

MODULE 7:

11/29/23 – 12/5/23

Aim

- Know the books of The Writings
- Describe the major themes of The Writings
- Identify the literary types of Psalms
- Know how to properly interpret the book of Proverbs
- Recognize the books of the Wisdom Literature

Learn

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 267-279; 292 - 303
- **View:** Videos and learning resources

Apply

- Discussion for Module 7
    - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
    - Points: 100

MODULE 8:
12/6/23 – 12/12/23

Aim

- Define apocalyptic literature
- Recognize the major plot, main characters, significant events, important themes, genre, and literary shape of Daniel

Learn

- **Read:** Textbook pp. 332 - 340
- **View:** Videos and learning resources

Apply

- Discussion for Module 8
  - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
  - Points: 100
- Assignment for Module 8: Spiritual Formation Essay
  - Due: Tuesday
  - Points: 25

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Discussion Forum

Description

Each week, students will participate in a class discussion. The discussion topics will relate to the weekly readings and videos and will encourage the student to apply what they have learned during the week as they engage with their fellow students. Each week students will be required to respond to the given discussion questions with a substantial post (at least 300 words) that demonstrates depth of understanding and is supported by a minimum of one cited and referenced source. This initial post should be posted each week by Saturday at 11:59 p.m. EST.

In addition to the initial post, students must respond substantially to a minimum of two of their peers' initial posts (100 words minimum for each reply). These posts must add breadth and depth to the discussion, continue to build on the initial post, and add additional insights and questions. These posts should be made each week by Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Total Possible Points

800

Grade Weight

25%

Critical Introduction Paper

Description

Students will choose a book of the Old Testament (1 and 2 Samuel as one book, 1 and 2 Kings as one book, 1 and 2 Chronicles as one book) and submit a critical introduction for the Old Testament book of their choice.

Total Possible Points

100

Grade Weight

25%

Old Testament Biblical Character Study

Description

Students will choose **one** Old Testament biblical character to study and write a 5-page, double-spaced reflection on the character. Students will need to look up and read the passages that the character is found in.

Total Possible Points

100

Grade Weight

25%

Spiritual Formation Essay

Description

Each student should write a 1,000-word essay on how the course has helped to develop further her or his spiritual formation.

Total Possible Points

100

Grade Weight

25%

Appendix A

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 GenesisMalachi. 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).

House, 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.