

Syllabus for  
**BIB 222 — Old Testament Introduction**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Summer 2010

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general introduction to the various books of the Old Testament dealing with the problems of canon, authorship, composition, date of writing, and providing some background in the cultural, historical, geographical, and archaeological setting in which the Bible events occurred.

Prerequisite: None

II. COURSE GOALS

The course is designed to acquaint the student with the data currently included in an introduction to the Old Testament and the basic critical problems involved in serious Old Testament study. The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Learn how the biblical feasts affected the people and events of the Old Testament.
- B. Understand the critical problems dealing with canon, text, authority, and composition.
- C. Develop a scholarly methodology and the means for applying such to Old Testament study.
- D. Become aware of some of the more prominent scholars engaged in critical Old Testament study.
- E. Study some of the problems confronting the believing critic and his faith, together with some possible solutions.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Identify the various peoples and events in Old Testament history.
- B. Place a given period, i.e., Patriarchal, Monarchial, Exilic, etc., within the overall frame of reference of the Near East.
- C. Give evidence, orally or in writing, of familiarity with the literature of the Old Testament in relation to the literature of contemporary Near Eastern cultures.
- D. Interpret, orally or in writing, the formative role of political, cultural, economic, and religious factors in Israel's development.
- E. Demonstrate, either orally or in writing, a knowledge of the Biblical Feasts.
- F. Interpret the Old Testament view of Revelation and Inspiration.
- G. Define the concept of God as Creator and its implications for a biblical concept of

humankind.

- H. Define and trace the development of the ideas of covenant and community in Israel's history.
- I. Trace the theme of salvation and redemption as holy history in relation to sin and atonement, sin and redemption, sacrifice and cult, and eschatology.
- J. Describe and relate the attributes of God—Holiness, Righteousness, Faithfulness, Love, and Judgment—to the prophetic ethical norms.
- K. Discuss orally or in writing, by literary analysis, the structure and composition of the Pentateuch.
- L. Demonstrate orally a familiarity with methods of biblical criticism, techniques of literary analysis, and form criticism.
- M. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the history of the text and canon of the Hebrew Bible through classroom discussion.
- N. Relate the data concerning authorship, date, and purpose of the individual books to the unfolding of the history and faith of the Hebrew people.
- O. Discuss the super intention of God's Spirit over the canonical process, and relate how this process has direct ramifications for our principles of interpreting the message of the Old Testament.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

##### A. Required Material

- 1. Textbooks  
The Old Testament (any contemporary version)

LaSor, William., David Hubbard, and Frederic Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. (ISBN:0-8028-3788-3) Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Booker, Richard. *Celebrating Jesus in the Biblical Feasts: Discovering Their Significance to You as a Christian*. (ISBN:10-7684-2737-1) Shippensburg, PA: Destiny, 2009.

- 2. Other  
None

##### B. Optional Materials

- 1. Textbooks  
None
- 2. Other  
None

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
4. Final Exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

### B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
  - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
  - b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
2. Incompletes
  - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
  - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
- b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
- d. **All exams will be given as scheduled.** It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.

4. Attendance

- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
  - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
  - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
  - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
- b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- 1. Evaluation Procedures: Each report should be double spaced with footnotes. Use at least 5 sources (text books may be used as sources).
  - a. Assignment one: [Part 1] Complete a Research Paper that describes the historical and theological significance of the Torah (describe the historical importance and theological message of each (Genesis through Deuteronomy) book [5-7 pages]. [Part 2] Complete a Research Paper that describes the historical and theological significance of the Major

- Prophets (describe the historical importance and theological message of each book) [8-10 pages]. Use LaSor's book as a guide for both.
- b. Assignment two: Complete a Research Paper (8-10) that describes the cultural, historical and theological significance of the Festivals (include in your study historical background, important persons, and cultural factors as necessary). Use Booker's book to guide this paper.
  - c. Assignment three: [Part 1] As a take home final, complete a Research Paper (5-7 pages) that describes the historical and theological significance of the books that make up the Wisdom writings (Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes). At this time (week 3) the next assignment is due as well (see # 5), along with the completion of the posttest (see #1).
  - e. Whole Person Assessment: Assignment three: [Part 2] Also, due at the final is an essay that follows the following scenario: *You are meeting with person who argues that the Old Testament is not relevant and that the God of the Old Testament is not the same God that we find in the New Testament. He wants you show him where he is wrong by preaching the Christian gospel by using only Old Testament texts.* The paper is to be 5-6 pages in length and should be written in narrative form (i.e., like a dialogue). [This assignment requires at least 20 verses, placed within a logical framework] Note: this assignment fulfills the Whole Person Assessment aspect of this course. If you are currently subject to Whole Person Assessment requirements, then in addition to emailing this portion [part 2] at the due date, it must be sent via Whole Person Assessment to Cheryle Holeman for assessment as well. The electronic submission is as follows: Portfolio—General Education, Outcome—Spiritually Alive, Competency—Evangelistic Capability (1C), Rubric—BIB 222/Preaching the Gospel Using the OT, Assessor—Cheryle Holeman.

- 2. Whole Person Assessment compliance (0% or one letter grade reduction for noncompliance)  
To be “compliant” the student will have correctly submitted the research paper electronically as an artifact for assessment. To be “noncompliant” the student has either not submitted or incorrectly submitted the research paper electronically. Noncompliance will result in a one letter grade reduction of the final grade for the course.

[It is the student's responsibility to ensure that he/she is in compliance. Compliance is verified by checking for the assessment results in one's Whole Person Assessment. If there is a problem you may receive notification by the professor/assessor through one's **ORU Group Wise e-mail address.**]

## VI COURSE CALENDAR

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Assignment Due on Friday of each week</u>
1	Assignment one due
2	Assignment two due
3	Final: Assignment three due

Email each finished assignment by Friday at Midnight of the week due to [choleman@oru.edu](mailto:choleman@oru.edu)

and also to [shalom@haydid.org](mailto:shalom@haydid.org)

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes  
BIB 222 — Old Testament Introduction  
Summer 2010**

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; Proficiencies/Capacities</b>	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior		X		

<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		

<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X

<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
4A	Communication skills			X	
4B	Interpersonal skills		X		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			X	
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	