

Syllabus for
BIB 222—Old Testament Introduction
3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2014

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

This 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 geographical setting affected the people and events of the Old Testament.
- B. Understand the critical problems dealing with canon, text, authority, and composition.
- C. Suggest 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. Discover 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 by means of maps a knowledge of the geography of Palestine, and indicate how geography affected the events of the Old Testament economically, militarily, demographically, religiously, etc.
- 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 through classroom discussion 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

Borowski, Oded. *Daily Life in Biblical Times*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003. (ISBN: 9781589830424)

Coogan, Michael D., ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (ISBN: 9780195289602)

Longman, Tremper III, and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2006. (ISBN: 9780310263418)

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Revised and Expanded ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. (ISBN: 9780310481614)

V. 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, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper; d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

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. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

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

Final Evaluation will consist of the following:

(1)	Quizzes	20%
(2)	Mid-term Exam	25%
(3)	Final Exam	25%
(4)	Essays (2)	30%
	TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale: A = 100 -90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 59 and below

2. Quizzes

The last of the week will usually begin with a short quiz on the readings for that week. Quizzes cannot be “made-up” due to tardiness or absence.

3. Essays

Two required essays

a. Topics presented in class.

Essay #1 Guidelines:

1. Essays are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Carefully consider the following as you prepare your essay. Essays should be 3–4 pages long, typed and double-spaced (2.50 pages is not acceptable). The font size must be 12 points. The margins must be one inch on all sides. Number each page, and print out only on white paper. Staple them in the upper left corner; no binders of any kind.
2. Part of the essay grade will include grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. Do not use slang or colloquialisms. Proofread your essays carefully before turning them in during class.
3. *This is not a research paper.* Do not use secondary sources. The purpose of each essay is to offer an opportunity for the student to read and analyze a variety of literary materials, construct an argument, and write clearly and persuasively by citing evidence and specific examples from the relevant primary texts.
4. Attach a cover sheet to your essay with the following information: Your name, class name and number, instructor’s name, date.

b. Whole Person Assessment Essay (*see below*).

4. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

All students will write an essay on the gospel of Jesus Christ as presented in the Old Testament. This is an e-portfolio artifact. A hard copy will be submitted to the professor for grading and a copy will be submitted electronically for assessment. The electronic submission path is Portfolio—General Education, Outcome #1—Spiritually Alive, Competency—Evangelistic Capability (1C), Rubric—BIB 222/Preaching the Gospel Using the OT, Assessor—William Lyons.

Whole Person Assessment compliance (zero for the assignment)

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 zero for the assignment.

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 e-portfolio. 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

Week One: Introduction and *Pretest*

Week One (cont.): Introduction

8/19: Introduction to Study of the OT; Longman & Dillard (hereafter LD) 7–37

8/21: Introducing the OT: People and Land; Borowski (hereafter OB) ix–12

Week Two: Creation; Primeval History

8/26: Genesis 1:1–3:24; LD 38–62

8/28: Genesis 4–11; OB 13–24

Week Three: Patriarchal Narratives; Exodus

9/2: Genesis 12–50; OB 25–35

9/4: Exodus 1–18; LD 63–80

Week Four: The Covenant; Law; Joshua; Conquest

9/9: Exodus 19–20; 32–34

9/11: Deuteronomy 1–5; 27–28; LD 81–119

Week Five: Judges; Samuel

9/16: Joshua 1–7; 23–24; LD 120–43

Judges 1; 4; 13–16; 19–21; OB 35–41

9/18: 1 Samuel 1–3; 8–18; 28; 31; LD 151–66; **Essay #1 due**

Week Six: Samuel; Saul; David; Solomon

9/23: 2 Samuel 1–2:4; 5–8; 11–18; 19; 23–24; OB 43–61

9/25: 1 Kings 1–3; 5; 8–11; LD 167–81

Week Seven: Division of the Kingdom; Early Prophecy

9/30: 1 Kings 12–22; OB 63–86

10/2: 2 Kings 1–2; 5–7; 9–10; 17; LD 181–89

Week Eight: Early Prophecy cont.; the Fall of Israel and Judah

10/7: 2 Kings 18–25; study for Mid-term exam

10/9: **Mid-term exam**

Fall Break!!!

Week Nine: Prophecy in the 8th Century

10/21: Introduction to the Classical Prophets;

Amos; LD 420–34

10/23: **No class (Fall Revival Meetings!)**

Week Ten: Prophecy Before and During the Exile

10/28: Hosea; LD 397–408

10/30: Isaiah 1–2; 6; 9; 30–31; 40; 44–45; 56; 65:17–25; LD 301–20

Week Eleven: Prophecy During and After the Exile

11/4: Jeremiah 1–2; 7; 20–21; 26; 27–29; 31:27–34; 39; 321–41

11/6: Ezekiel 1–4; 16; 18; 22; 37; LD 354–70

Week Twelve: The Return

11/11: Ezra 1; 3–7; 9–10;

Nehemiah 1–6; 8–11; 13; LD 202–12

11/13: Haggai; Zechariah 1–8; LD 477–95

Week Thirteen:

11/18: Psalms 2; 10; 23; 74; 137; 150; LD 237–64; OB 87–98

11/20: Proverbs 1; 8–9; 25; 31; LD 265–77; OB–99–108; *Essay #2 due*

Week Fourteen: Psalms and Wisdom

11/25: *No class (National Biblical & Religious Studies Conference)*

11/27: *No class: Thanksgiving!*

Week Fifteen: Wisdom cont.; Daniel

12/2: Job 1–4; 8; 11; 13; 21; 38–42; LD 224–36

Ecclesiastes 1–4; 9; 12; LD 278–88

12/4: Daniel 1–7; 10; 12; LD 371–96

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
BIB 222 — Old Testament Introduction
Fall 2014

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.

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

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

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

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