

Syllabus for  
**GBIB 551—Old Testament Synthesis**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the critical areas of Old Testament study. Includes some background in history and geography.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Have the opportunity to study a textual-centered approach to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (HB/OT) as a whole.
- B. Study the literary genres of the HB/OT including law, narration, poetry, and prophecy.
- C. Learn how geography has affected the people of the HB/OT.
- D. Become aware of relevant finds in archaeology.
- E. Study some of the more prominent scholars engaged in critical HB/OT study.
- F. Delineate some of the problems confronting the faith of the believing critic, 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. Discuss the superintention of God's Spirit over the canonical process, and relate how this process has direct ramifications for the principles of interpreting the message of the HB/OT.
- B. Identify and discuss the various peoples and events in Old Testament history.
- C. Place, either orally or in writing, a given period, such as Patriarchal, Monarchial, Exilic, within the overall frame of reference of the Near East.
- D. Present evidence, either orally or in writing, of familiarity with the literature of the HB/OT in relation to the literature of contemporary Near Eastern cultures.
- E. Interpret and discuss the formative role of political, cultural, economic, and religious factors in Israel's development.
- F. Explain how geography affected the events of the Old Testament economically, militarily, demographically, religiously, etc.
- G. Interpret and discuss the HB/OT in view of revelation and inspiration.

- H. Define and discuss the concept of God as Creator and the implications of this concept as it relates to humankind.
- I. Define and trace the development of the ideas of covenant and community in Israel's history.
- J. Trace the theme of salvation and redemption as holy history in relation to sin and atonement, sin and redemption, sacrifice and cult, and eschatology.
- K. Describe and relate the attributes of God—holiness, righteousness, faithfulness, love and judgment—to the various books of the Hebrew Old Testament, and especially the books of the prophets.
- L. Trace the structure and composition of the Pentateuch.
- M. Discuss and explain methods of biblical criticism, techniques of literary analysis, and form criticism.
- N. Demonstrate, either orally or in writing, a basic knowledge of the history of the text and canon of the Hebrew Bible.
- O. Explain in writing the data concerning authorship, date, and purpose of the individual books to the unfolding of the history and faith of the Hebrew people.
- P. Articulate a foundational knowledge of the context of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to contemporary situations.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

##### A. Required Materials

###### 1. Textbooks

Hester, H. I. *Heart of Hebrew History*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1980. ISBN: 9780805412178

Wilson, Marvin R. *Our Father Abraham*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1990. ISBN: 9780802804235

Youngblood, Ronald. *The Heart of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998. ISBN: 978-0801021725

###### 2. Other None

##### B. Optional Materials

###### 1. Textbooks

Coogan, Michael D. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0195378405

Miller, J. Maxwell and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*.  
2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.  
ISBN: 978-0664223588

Youngblood, Ronald. *The Heart of the Old Testament: A Survey of Key  
Theologica Themes*. ISBN: 9781585586042

2. Other  
None

## 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 the 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 artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **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 academic committee by written petition that student's 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 are 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 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 academic committee of the School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:

- a. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
- b. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.
- c. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- d. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
- e. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.

- f. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- g. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to [www.studentresources.oru.edu](http://www.studentresources.oru.edu).

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

- a. Grading:
 

Research Paper	40%
Book Critique	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	30%

- b. Grading scale:
  - A=90-100%
  - B=80-89%
  - C=70-79%
  - D=60-69%
  - F=59% and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- b. WPA requirements for this course:
  - (1) All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the Research Paper for GBIB 551 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
  - (2) Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

- a. A research paper is required. The paper should be written on an approved subject that deals with the issues raised in the readings, lectures, or word study related to reading, lectures, and class discussion. The paper must adequately deal with the theme of the class and should be 5-8 pages in length. The approved ORU format is required with documentation and bibliography. The paper must be uploaded to ePortfolio.
- b. A book critique on Wilson's *Our Father Abraham* must be written following the above policies and procedures. The critique should be three to five pages in length.
- c. A midterm and final exam are given.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
1	Introduction	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	1-4
3-4	From Creation	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	5-6
4	<b>Book Critique Due</b>		
5	To Captivity	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	7
6	From Egypt	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	8
7	To Canaan	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	8
	<b>Midterm Exam will be the Thursday before or after Fall Break</b>		
8	From Jordan	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	8
9	To the United Monarchy	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	9
10	The Kingdom of Israel: 1052-931 B.C.	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	10
11	The Divided Kingdom: 931-586 B.C.	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	10
12	The Fall of Israel and Judah	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	11-12
13	Contemporary Literature	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	13
14	Restoration of the Remnant 536-400 B.C.	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	14
	<b>Research Paper Due</b>		
15	The Inter-Biblical Period	<i>The Heart of Hebrew History</i>	15
	<b>Final Exam</b> (university schedule)		

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

**Master of Divinity  
M.A. Christian Counseling  
M.A. Christian Education  
M.A. Missions  
M. A. Practical Theology**

**GBIB 505 Introduction to Old Testament Literature, William McDonald, Instructor  
GBIB 506 Introduction to New Testament Literature, Dr. Trevor Grizzle, Instructor  
GBIB 551 Old Testament Synthesis, Dr. William McDonald, Instructor  
GBIB 571 New Testament Synthesis, Dr. Robert Mansfield**

**Fall 2015**

These courses contribute to student learning outcomes for the degree programs listed 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.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context</b>				
Demonstrate foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations.	X			