

Syllabus for  
**GBIB 657—Old Testament History**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to examine ancient Israel in its historical and cultural milieu. Focuses on the period from the Patriarchs to the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. Includes the origin and development of Israel's political and religious institutions.

Prerequisite: GBIB 551.

II. COURSE GOALS

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

- A. Learn to relate the history of Israel to the larger Near Eastern context.
- B. Learn to synthesize the particular facts in an overall perspective of "Holy History."
- C. Learn to interpret the formative role of political, economic, cultural, and theological factors in Israel's development.
- D. Learn to relate the historical insights to a contemporary understanding of God and man in redemptive history.

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. Present an integrated overview of the course of Israelite history from its pre-history to the close of the Old Testament period. The major divisions of this history are outlined in the lecture schedule in this syllabus.
- B. Discuss the political and religious movements that gave Israel its distinctive character. Special attention is given to the rise in Israel of the amphictyony, theocratic ideal, monarchy, covenant, law, prophetism, messianism, and apocalyptic.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Textbooks

1. Textbooks

Miller, J. H. and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. 2nd ed.  
Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.  
ISBN: 9780664223588

Aharoni, Yohanan, and Michael Avi-Yonah. *The Carta Bible Atlas*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.  
ISBN: 9789652208149

2. Other

None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks  
None
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 Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA 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. 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:
- b. Research paper                      60%
- Take Home Final Exam    40%
- Total                                100%

- c. 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:  
None

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

- a. The reading schedule is as follows:

Week 1	Miller, pp. 1-60
Week 2	Miller, pp. 61-118
Week 3	Miller, pp. 119-147
Week 4	Miller, pp. 148-185
Week 5	Miller, pp. 186-258
Week 6	Miller, pp. 259-285
Week 7	Miller, pp. 289-326
Week 8	Miller, pp. 327-359
Week 9	Miller, pp. 360-391
Week 10	Miller, pp. 392-436
Week 11	Miller, pp. 437-475
Week 12	Miller, pp. 478-496
Week 13,14	Miller, pp. 498-538

Additional readings:

The books of Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, and I & II Chronicles

- b. Each student is responsible for the content of the lectures.
- c. This research paper is due the last week of the semester calendar. The length of the paper should be 8-10 pages. This research paper must:
  - (1) Be in Courier New font, 12 point.
  - (2) Give evidence of careful research and organization.
  - (3) Be in accepted thesis form. Turabian is the accepted style.
  - (4) Show a reasonable competence in English composition.

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

**Master of Arts Biblical Literature**

**GBIB 657 Old Testament History      Dr. William McDonald, Instructor**

**Fall 2015**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Biblical Literature degree 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>1</b>	<b>Translation, Biblical Language</b>			
Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament			<b>X</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Critical Methods of Exegesis</b>			
Display ability to employ critical methods of exegesis from an informed theological-hermeneutical perspective using biblical languages.	<b>X</b>			
<b>3</b>	<b>Major Old Testament Themes</b>			
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.	<b>X</b>			
<b>4</b>	<b>Major New Testament Themes</b>			
Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.			<b>X</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Scripture in Cultural Context</b>			
Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural contexts to selected contemporary contexts.		<b>X</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Tools/Methods of Research</b>			
Write an advanced research MA thesis in Old Testament/New Testament using biblical critical tools and methods.		<b>X</b>		