

Syllabus for
**BLIT 111 – Christian Life Through Biblical Engagement I:
Old Testament**
2.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2021

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The redemptive story of the Bible from Genesis to Malachi, providing the foundation and context for the New Testament revelation of Jesus Christ as God's Son and Savior of the world. The Old Testament will be seen as vital to Christian living—with Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and God's people providing our standards, our empowerment, and our life-sharing fellowship. Special attention will be given to major events, themes, and characters of the Old Testament.

Prerequisite: None

II. COURSE GOALS

To familiarize students with the contents of the Old Testament—its overall historical narrative and other literary forms (prophecy, poetry, etc.) that together make up God's message to us. Cultural, historical, and geographical background will be outlined sufficiently to provide a solid basis for life-long study of Scripture.

Selected portions of the Old Testament will be part of the required reading, aimed at seeing the transformative power of Scripture as well as its informative function. The various covenants of the Old Testament will be seen in historical context and for their importance to our present New Testament relationship with God as his people.

Personal interaction with Scripture will be encouraged through exercises from the textbooks, focusing on selected Bible passages and specific personal responses.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Produce an outline of the thematic content of the Old Testament reflecting the overall narrative.
- B. Prepare a basic chronological outline of major Old Testament events.
- C. Interpret selected Old Testament passages using appropriate principles of interpretation and showing the practical and personal relevance of Scripture to one's own life.

- D. Describe the essential geographical setting of the Biblical narrative.
- E. Discuss the relationship of the Old and New Testaments, especially seen in the faithfulness of God to fulfill his covenant promises to Abraham, David, and other major figures of the Old Testament.
- F. Show the relationship of God to the people of ancient Israel and with the Church today.
- G. Describe the work of the Holy Spirit throughout ancient Israel's history and the Spirit's activity in the lives of Christians today.
- H. Discuss God's guidance and principles for Christian living through a study of the Old Testament.
- I. Engage in meaningful spiritual disciplines that can help a person hear God's voice.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks (Bible and two books)

The Bible (Modern versions recommended, such as NIV, ESV, NASB.)

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays, *Living God's Word: Discovering Our Place in the Great Story of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

ISBN: 978-0-310-29210-4 (hardcover, also available as Zondervan ebook)

Duvall, J. Scott., and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping Gods Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

ISBN: 9780310492573 (hardcover, also available as ebook)

B. Optional Materials

1. Reference

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. ISBN 0-310-21118-2 (paperback)

2. Other

None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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. Department Policies and Procedures

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 (e.g., 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.
- 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.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

- a. Final evaluation will consist of the following:

Unit Exams (3)	450 points
Discussion Post (10) from Duvall & Hays (LGW)	100 points
Reading quizzes (10) from Duvall & Hays (LGW)	200 points
Reflections (5) from Duvall & Hays (GGW)	200 points
Final WPA Synthesis Essay	50 points
Total	1000 points

- b. Grading Scale:

A= 1000-900; B = 899-800; C = 799-700; D = 699-600; F = 599-0

- c. **Unit Examinations (450 points/ 150 per):** Three examinations will be given: all exams will be comprehensive.
- d. **Reading Quizzes (200 points/20 per):** Quizzes will be given each Thursday. They will pertain to the particular lecture/readings being focused upon that week.
- e. **Discussion Posts (100 points/ 10 per) =** Discussion Posts will open up every Tuesday. They will pertain to the discussion portion of Tuesday's class. The discussion portion is taken from the Duvall & Hays chapters that should be read by the time class starts. Each post will open at the end of class Tuesday and will be due at 11:59 PM
- f. **Reflections (200 points/40 per):** Each reflection will be a written response paper pertaining to the assigned reading (GGW). Reflections are designed to help the student engage with the Bible and go deeper in his/her journey.
- g. **Final WPA Synthesis Essay (50 points):** (See #2).

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirement (SEE NEXT PAGE!!!)

The WPA requirement will be for the student to write a synthesis essay responding to the prompt: Apply the concept “Jesus is THE Thesis” to the content in this course. For full credit, the student **MUST** fill the entire back page of the LARGE scantron test sheet.