

**OTEN 5300 Exploring the Old Testament:
Spring 2010**

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I. Course Description

An introduction to the literary, historical, and theological contents and contexts of the Old Testament. Students are challenged to develop an appreciation of the material as a whole and of the individual books along with their unique contributions. The significant interpretive issues and the major theological themes and their relevance for Christian living are central to the study.

II. Course Objectives

Knowledge

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- A. Know the basic historical background of the Old Testament as a whole and that of the individual books
- B. Be aware of the basic content and the broad thrust of the whole of the Old Testament
- C. Be conversant with the purposes/themes/major teachings of the books of the Old Testament

Attitudes

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- A. Recognize the importance of the Old Testament as part of the biblical canon
- B. Appreciate the significance of the theological truths of the Old Testament for Christian living
- C. See the importance of understanding the Old Testament for a proper reading and understanding of the New Testament and for a full appreciation of the person of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message

Skills

Students who successfully complete the course will:

- A. Be able to describe the basic historical time line of the Old Testament story
- B. With the use of basic resources, place individual books of the Old Testament in their proper settings and against their proper backgrounds
- C. Read the Old Testament with an appreciation of the texts' literary character (recognize basic genres and the forms and literary devices common in given genres)
- D. Demonstrate the ability to draw legitimate theological truths from Old Testament texts read and interpreted in their ancient contexts

III. Course Requirements

- A. Read all assignments from the Old Testament in a standard translation
- B. Reading the entire OT in the context of the course is *the* foundational requirement of this study
- C. Read all assignments in *An Introduction to the Old Testament* by Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman III (IOT), Zondervan, keep up with class schedule
- D. Prepare a 4 page paper on "The Value of the Old Testament"
- E. Prepare a 12-15 Research Paper

A Note on the Nature of the Course: A summary study of the entire Old Testament is a very rewarding experience, but it is also a difficult and challenging task. One of the factors that contribute to the challenge is the volume of material which must be covered. A continuous reading of the entire Old Testament is the foundational element in the course. In addition, a substantive textbook is required to expose you to information that cannot be treated fully within the class meetings. In order to benefit fully from the class experience, you must do the reading faithfully. **Weekly quizzes will be given on the reading assignments in IOT.**

IV. Course Grading

A. Value of the OT Paper	05%
B. Research Paper	25%
C. Quizzes	20%
D. Mid-Term	25%
E. Final Examination	25%

V. Course Exams

Students will be expected to pull together materials from required readings, and class lectures. The Final exam will be of the same nature as the Mid-term exam.

VI. Course Schedule:

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Topic/Assignments</i>
Jan 25	Introduction Assignments: <i>IOT</i> : Introduction
	<u>Pentateuch</u>
Feb 01	In the Beginning/ Patriarchs Bible Readings: <i>Genesis</i>
Feb 08	Moses: Out of Egypt Bible Readings: <i>Exodus, Leviticus</i>
Feb 15	Moses: Wanderings

Bible Readings: *Numbers, Deuteronomy*

Historical Books

- Feb 22 Conquests and Settlement
Bible Readings: *Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*
- Mar 01 Nomadism to Monarchy: Samuel and Saul
Bible Readings: *I and II Samuel*
- Mar 08 United and Divided Monarchies
Bible Readings: *1/2 Kings, 1/2 Chronicles*

Mar 15-19* **SPRING BREAK-NO CLASSES*

- Mar 22 Exile and Return
Bible Readings: *Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*
Midterm - due

Prophets

- Mar 29 Early Prophets
Bible Readings: *Isaiah, Jeremiah*
- Apr 05 Later Prophets
Bible Readings: *Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel*
- Apr 12 The "Minor" Prophets part 1
Bible Readings: *Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*
- Apr 19 The "Minor" Prophets part 2
Bible Readings: *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*
***** RESEARCH PROJECT DUE*******

Writings

- Apr 26 "Praise and Wisdom"
Bible Readings: *Psalms, Proverbs*
- May 03 "Ups and Downs of Life"
Bible Readings: *Job, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon*
***** 4 PAGE PAPER DUE *****
- May 10 Conclusion:
*****FINAL EXAM*****

VII. Guidelines for Assignment

Value of the Old Testament - Paper

1. The topic of this paper should be a task students contemplate throughout the course, including:
 - a. My view on beginning the course, as to the value of OT studies
 - b. What I've learned to confirm or challenge my view
 - c. My view on completing the course

- d. Implications for reading and study of the Old Testament in my ministry
2. The paper should be a minimum of 2400 words (4 pages @ about 600 words per page 12 point type)
3. The paper is due by May 3rd.

Research Paper

1. 10-15 pages, follow Turabian (6th ed.) for style.
2. Research paper must either: 1) address an issue in Old Testament Studies (e.g. Date of the Exodus), 2) discuss a theological concept (e.g. sacrifice), see topic suggestions below.
3. Minimum bibliography = 10 sources

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Sample Paper Topics

Ahab and Jezebel	Gilgamesh Epic	Patriarchs
Alexandria	Gleaning	Pentateuch
Alphabetic Acrostics	Habiru	Polytheism
Amorite	<i>Herem</i>	Predictive Prophecy
Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah,	<i>Hesed</i>	Primeval History
Micah, Zephaniah	Hexateuch	Prophecy
Amos' Vocation	Hezekiah's Tunnel	Prophet
Amphictyony	Historiography	Prophetic Model of
Ancient Versions	Hosea's Marriage	Inspiration
Apocalypse Writings	I Am Yahweh	Prophets and Prophecy,
Apocalyptic Eschatology	Imprecatory Writings	Proverb
Apocrypha	Inspiration	Proverbial Wisdom
Ashdod Crisis	Jeroboam	Purification Offering
Asherah/Asherim	Jeroboam II	Purim
Baal	Joshua's Conquest	Qohelet
Babylonian Job	Josiah	Rehoboam
Baruch	Jubilee Year	Remnant
Battle of Carchemish	Judge	Reparation Offering
Biblical Wisdom	Justice	Rest
Book of the Law	Kingdom and Kingdoms	Righteousness
Canaanite	Kosher	Sabbatical Year
Canon	Lamentations	Sacral Kingship
Centralized Monarchy	Latter Prophets	Samuel
Cities of Refuge	Levirate Marriage	Seer
City Gate	Levites	Sennacherib
Complaints	Literary Prophets	Sennacherib Crisis
Confessions of Jeremiah	Maccabean Period	Sheshbazzar
Co-regencies	Malachi	Solomon's Apostasy
Court History of David	Manasseh	Son of Man (Daniel)
Covenant	Marriage Alliance/Treaty	Son of Man (Ezekiel)
Covenant	Masoretes	Speculative
Cyrus	Megilloth	Suzerain-vassal Treaty
Date of the Exodus	Messiah	Syro-Ephraimitic Crisis
David's Census	Messianic Prophecy	Teleology
Davidic Covenant	Monarchy	Tetragrammaton
Day of Atonement	Monolatry	Tetrachord
Dead Sea Scrolls	Monotheism	Textual Criticism
Deuteronomistic History	Mt. Carmel	The Book of Kingdoms
Dialogue	Mt. Sinai	The Book of the Covenant
Diaspora	Nazarite	The Chronicler
Dirges	New Covenant	The Chronological Puzzle
Documentary Hypothesis	Nineveh	The Day of the Lord
<i>Ebenezer</i>	Old Testament Languages	The Holy One of Israel
Edom	Omri	The Lord's Anointed
Enacted Prophecy	Oracle	The Passover
Enuma Elish	Oral Prophets	The Satan
Faith	Oral Tradition	The Servant of the Lord
Fertility Religion	Oral Transmission	The Shema
Freedom of God	Parallelism	The Tabernacle

Theocracy
Toledoth
Torah
Uncover the feet

Woe Oracle
Yahweh of Hosts
Zedekiah
Zerubbabel

Zion Tradition