Trinity International University  
Elmbrook Christian Study Center  
Graduate Students

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Fall Semester, 2015  
Monday, 6:30-9:15 PM

Introduction to the Old Testament

Course Description: A survey of the setting, history, literature, theology and criticism of the Old Testament. Emphasis is given to major Old Testament themes including creation, fall, redemption, covenant, worship, wisdom, justice and righteousness, and messianic hope. *Free hours.*

This course is designed to give the student a competent knowledge of the Old Testament and to start to develop a biblical worldview.

Objectives: These objectives are listed in descending order. By the end of the semester, the student is expected to do the following:

• Discuss, in some detail, the storyline of Creation-Fall-Redemption-Consummation.
• Describe, in some detail, the Old Testament central themes of God’s Covenant, God’s Kingdom, God’s Presence and God’s Redemption.
• Identify the basic content of each book of the Old Testament, including chapters which will be emphasized in class.
• Recognize the main events in the history of ancient Israel.
• Place main events of Israel's history within the context of the Ancient Near East.

Textbook:  

Grading: The instructor will use this scale in assigning grades:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99-100</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>94-98</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Tests:  
The material of this course is divided into three units: 1) The Pentateuch, 2) Joshua-Solomon and Job-Song of Solomon, and 3) The Divided Monarchy-Nehemiah and the Latter Prophets. Each unit will be covered by a test worth 33.33%.

Test #1 will be given during the 1st hour of **Monday, October 12th, 2015**. It will cover:  
Hill & Walton, chs. 3-8.
Class lectures on the Pentateuch.

Study Guide #1.

**Test #2** will be given on **Monday, November 16\(^{th}\), 2015**. It will cover:
- Class lectures on Joshua-Solomon.
- Class lectures on Job-Song of Solomon.
- Study Guides # 2.1 & 2.2.

**Test #3** will be due on **Monday December 14\(^{th}\), 2015**. It will cover:
- Hill & Walton, chs. 15-19, and 27-44, and Appendix A, B.
- Class lectures on the history of Israel from Solomon to Nehemiah.
- Class lectures on the prophets of Israel.
- Study Guides #3.1 and 3.2

**Notice Well:** The questions on the test will be specific, detailed and concrete, not vague and general. It will do you no good to have a general impression of the material, for you will fail the test. Master what I listed in the study guides and you should do well.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is defined as using another person’s work or words as if they were one’s own without identifying the source. Paraphrasing the written work of another author is a form plagiarism and should be scrupulously avoided. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. This includes in written papers, exams or oral presentations.

Cheating is defined as any form of fraud or deception that results in a better grade or even a better impression of the student’s performance than he/she is actually earns or deserves. Aiding or treating a fellow student with either favoritism or unfairness by another student in the class is also considered to be cheating. One or both parties may be held responsible. Cheating will not be tolerated in any form.

Incidents of Plagiarism or cheating will be dealt severely by the instructor. The penalty will include, at least, failure of the assignment(s) involved and possibly failure of the course. All incidents of plagiarism and cheating will be reported in writing to the Academic Dean who has the authority to undertake further disciplinary measures in accordance with TIU policy on community standards violations.

**Class Attendance.** Since each class meeting at ECSC covers a week of work at Deerfield, it is important to attend class consistently.

**Deadline.** Tests shall be taken on the assigned dates. In case of a conflict, the student shall inform the instructor ahead of time to work out an alternative plan.
Study Guide #1: The Pentateuch

Based on Class Lectures and the assigned readings in Hill & Walton:
Be able to state the main themes of every book in the Pentateuch.

Creation:
- What do the words Elohim and Yahweh refer to?
- What does “The Framework Hypothesis” teach?
- What are the options for understanding human nature?
- What are the options for understanding the expression “Image & likeness”?

What are the major ways of understanding the Fall?

The Covenant with Abraham:
  a. What does walking between the divided animals mean?
  b. Why is the covenant with Abraham so important?

What are the four main themes in Exodus?

The Covenant Treaty
  c. Give the outline of the covenant.
  d. State the purpose or function of each section of the covenant.

The ethical teachings of the Law
  a. What are the most important commandments?
  b. What are the two greatest commandments, according to Jesus?
  c. What is the one commandment that covers everything?
  d. What are various images that describe the believer’s relationship to God?

The tabernacle:
  e. Know the purpose of the tabernacle.
  f. Know the design of the tabernacle.

Know the purposes of the Holy Days.

Know the purpose of the sacrifices.

Learn well the chapters which are emphasized in class.
Study Gui #2.1
Poetry and Wisdom Books

Be able to state in 1-2 sentences the main specific information about these items:

**Job**
1. The contest between God and Satan
2. The view of the wife
3. The view of the three friends
4. Job losing his case against God in court
5. The view of Elihu
6. The view of the Lord

**Psalms**
1. Classify the psalms according to type
2. Ways of worship, in Ps 95
3. Reasons for worship, in Ps 95
4. A lesson from history, in Ps. 95
5. Application of Psalm 95 to today

**Proverbs**
1. The three type of statements in Proverbs
2. The audience of Proverbs
3. The task of Proverbs
4. The main commandment in Proverbs

**Ecclesiastes**
1. The audience of Ecc
2. The task of Ecc
3. The strategy of Ecc
4. The main things that people seek
5. The four obstacles
6. Other causes of futility
7. The conclusion of Ecc

**The Song of Solomon**
1. The Jewish allegorical interpretations of the Song
2. The Christian allegorical interpretations of the Song
3. The two-persons hypothesis
4. The three-person hypothesis
5. The translation difficulty
6. The message of the Song about human love
Study Guide #2.2
From Joshua to Solomon

Be able to state in 1-2 sentences the specific information about these items:

Class Lectures

1. The main points of Joshua
2. The main points of Judges
3. The main points of Ruth
4. The main events in 1 Samuel
   a. Ichabod
   b. Ebenezer
5. The positive political accomplishments of King David
6. The ways 1 Chronicles portrays Kings David and Solomon
7. The main points that 2 Samuel emphasizes about King David
8. The competition for the throne of King David
9. The positive accomplishments of King Solomon
10. The negative blunders of King Solomon.

Important Names

1. Abner
2. Amnon
3. Absalom
4. Adonijah
5. Abiathar
6. Joab
7. Rehoboam
8. Jeroboam

Important Years

1446 The exodus from Egypt under Moses
1406 The conquest of the land under Joshua
1010 David became king
970 Solomon became King
966 Beginning building the temple of God
931 Solomon’s death and the split of the kingdom into two

History of the Ancient Near East

Amarna Letters  Akhenaton
The Habiru     Merneptah Stela
The “Sea People”
Study Guide #3.1
From Solomon to Nehemiah

Israel’s History

931 The death of Solomon and the division of the kingdom
925 The Egyptian Pharaoh Shishak captures Jerusalem
853 The Battle of Qarqar

Jezebel, Elijah and the worship of Baal
Jehu’s massacre of the family of Jezebel and Ahab

801 Adad nirari and the fall of Damascus
932 Ahaz’ sins at the time of the Assyrian invasion
721 The fall of the Northern Kingdom

Hezekiah’s great Passover celebration

701 The defeat of Sennacherib

Manasseh’s long, evil rule

622 Josiah’s great religious reforms

587/6 The fall of the Southern Kingdom; going to exile

538 King Cyrus defeats Babylon; Zerubbabel leads the captives back from exile

516 Repairing the Temple

King Xerxes, Queen Esther and the plot to kill the Jews

Ezra, the great teacher of the Law; 2nd return of exiles to Jerusalem

445 King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah and rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem

433 Nehemiah’s second term as governor is the last event which the Old Testament records.
Study Guide # 3.2

The Prophets of Israel

Identify the major themes of the writing prophets, according to Roberts, pp. 89-104.
Identify the main message(s) of each prophet
Identify the content of the main passages/subject listed below:

Hosea: The meaning of the names of the children
Israel as a spiritual prostitute
ch. 4:1
Amos: The four abuses in 5:18- 6:8
ch. 5:24
Isaiah: The theme “The Lord is holy” in chs 1-39
The theme “The Lord is holy” in chs 40-66
The theme “The Lord is the King” in chs 1-39
The theme “The Lord is the King” in chs 40-66
The names of Messiah

Micah: ch. 5:2
ch. 6:6-8

Jeremiah: His conflict with Hananiah
ch. 7:3-15
ch. 31:31-34
The provisions of the New Covenant

Nahum: chs 1:15
3:18-19
Habakkuk: His two complaints
ch. 2:4
Zephaniah: The Day of the Lord

Daniel: His message(s) to the Jews
His message to the gentiles
The five kingdoms

Ezekiel: The New Testament development of Ezekiel’s themes

Haggai: His message to the workers
His message to Zerubbabel

Zechariah: 4: 6-9
9:9-19

Malachi 2:1,
3:1-3,
4:4-6
A Basic Bibliography

Sections of the Old Testament
David Howard, Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books, Moody.
Derek Kidner, The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes, IVP.
Ernest Lucas, A Guide to the Psalms and Wisdom Literature, (Exploring the OT, vol. 3), IVP.
J. Gordon McConville, A Guide to the Prophets (Exploring the OT, vol. 4), IVP.
Philip E. Satterthwaite and J. Gordon McConville, A Guide to the Historical Books (Exploring the OT, vol. 2), IVP.
John Wenham, A Guide to the Pentateuch, (Exploring the OT, vol. 1), IVP.

History of Israel
John Bright, The Kingdom of God, Abingdon.
Walter Kaiser, Jr., A History of Israel, Broadman & Holman.
Eugene Merrill, Kingdom of Priests, Baker.
Ivan Provan, Philips Long and Tremper Longman, III, A Biblical History of Israel, WJK.

Old Testament Criticism
Carl Armerding, The Old Testament and Criticism, Eerdmans.
John Barton, Reading the Old Testament, revised and enlarged, Westminster John Knox.
Kenneth Kitchen, Ancient Orient and Old Testament, IVP.
______, The Reliability of the Old Testament, IVP.

Old Testament Message
Craig G. Bartholomew and Michael W. Goheen, The Drama of Scripture, Baker.
W. J. Dumbrell, Covenant and Creation, Nelson.
William Dyrness, Themes in Old Testament Theology, IVP.
John Goldingay, Israel’s Gospel (Old Testament Theology, vol. 1), IVP
Elmer Martens, God's Design, Baker
Sandra L. Richter, The Epic of Eden, IVP Academic.
Christopher J. H. Wright, The Mission of God, IVP.
Old Testament Ethics
Christopher Wright, *An Eye for an Eye*, IVP.

Biblical Archeology
Charles Pfeiffer and Howard Vos, *The Wycliff Historical Geography of Bible Lands*, Moody.
J. A. Thompson, *The Bible and Archeology*, Eerdmans.

The Biblical World
Frank Gaebelien, ed., *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, Zondervan.
Ralph Gower, *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*, Moody.
Alan Millard, *Treasures from Bible Times*, Lion.
J. A. Thompson, *Handbook of Life in Bible Times*, IVP.

Ancient History

Biblical Geography

Interpretation/Bible Study
Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, Zondervan.

Dictionaries/Word Studies