Introduction to the Old Testament
Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Course Description: A survey of the setting, history and literature of the Old Testament. Emphasis is given to major Old Testament themes including covenant, salvation, worship, wisdom, justice and righteousness, and messianic hope.

Objectives: By the end of the course, the student should be able to do the following:
1. Summarize the basic content of the Old Testament books, including important chapters which will be emphasized in class
2. Discuss the major message(s) and themes of the Old Testament
3. Place the main events in the history of Israel within the larger Ancient Near East context
4. Describe the various methods used in Old Testament Criticism
5. Identify the various literary genres used in the Old Testament

Required Textbooks:
3. Prof. Massouh's printed lectures on Criticism.
4. Recommended Bibliography: See the attached; consult the textbook by Hill and Walton.

Exams:
1. Test #1 will be given during the 1st hour of class meeting #6. It will cover the Pentateuch. a. Class lectures #1-5.
   b. Hill & Walton, chs. 3-8.
   c. Gignilliat, chs. 1-3.
2. Test #2 will be given during the 1st hour of class meeting #11. It will cover “Poetry and Wisdom Literature” and Israel's history from Joshua to Hezekiah.
   a. Class lectures #6-10.
   c. Gignilliat, chs. 4-5.
   d. Massouh's notes on Form Criticism and Redaction Criticism
3. Test #3 will be given on Monday of Final Exams week. It will cover Israel's history from Manasseh to Malachi.
   a. Class lectures # 11-14
   b. Hill & Walton, chs. 16-18, 27-44, Appendix A.
   c. Gignilliat, chs. 6-7.
   d. Massouh's notes on Modern Literary Theories
Grading: There are three exams, each worth 33.3 points, for a total of 100 points. The instructor will assign letter grades, including “+” and “-”, using this scale:

“A” = 95%
“B” = 85%
“C” = 75%
“D” = 65%

Class Meetings:
Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30
Oct.  7, 14, 21, 28
Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25
Dec.  2, 9.  16=Final Exam.

Study Guide #1
The Pentateuch

Class Lectures

1. The main themes in Exodus
2. The outline of the covenant Treaty
3. The content of the covenant Treaty
4. The ethical teachings of the Law
5. The design of the Tabernacle
6. The Holy Days
7. The various sacrifices and offerings
8. The journey in the wilderness
9. The relationship between Genesis and Exodus

Important Chapters

Genesis 1, 2, 3, 12, 15, 22
Exod 3, 6, 12, 19, 20
Numbers 10, 11, 14, 20

Important Names

Adam, Eve
Abraham
Isaac
Jacob
Joseph
Moses
Aaron
Miriam
Korah
Balaam
Joshua
Study Guide #2A
Poetry and Wisdom Books

Job
1. The contest between God and Satan
2. The view of the wife
3. The view of the three friends
4. Going to court
5. The view of Elihu
6. The view of the Lord

Psalms
1. Classifying psalms according to type
2. Hebrew parallelism
3. Ways of worship, in Ps 95
4. Reasons for worship, in Ps 95
5. A lesson from history, in Ps. 95

Proverbs
1. The 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. Various interpretations of the Song
2. The two-persons hypothesis
3. The three-person hypothesis
4. The translation difficulty
5. The message of the Song
Study Guide #2B
From Joshua to Hezekiah

Class Lectures and Required Readings

1. Joshua and the conquest
2. The history of the ancient Near East, 1450-1000 BC
3. The period of the Judges
4. The message of Ruth
5. Israel and the Philistines
6. The rule of King Saul

Important Names
1. Joshua
2. Eli
3. Samuel
4. Saul
5. "Ichabod"
6. "Ebenezer"
7. Akhenaton
8. Amarna
9. Merneptah
10. Philistines

Important Years
5. 1446
6. 1406
7. 1050
8. 1010

Class Lectures and Required Readings

9. The political accomplishments of David
10. The religious significance of David's rule
11. The sins and troubles of David
12. The rule of Solomon
13. Rehoboam, Jeroboam and the divided kingdom
14. Jehoshaphat, Ahab and the Battle of Qarqar
15. The conflict between Elijah and Jezebel
16. The reigns of Uzziah and Jeroboam II
17. The reign of Ahaz
18. The reign of Hezekiah
19. The messages of Hosea and Amos
20. The message of Jonah
21. The message of Isaiah
22. The message of Micah
Important Names

1. The Jewish leaders under "Class Lectures and Required Readings" above
2. Abner
3. Amnon
4. Tamar
5. Absalom
6. Adonijah
7. Joab
8. Abiathar
9. Shishak
10. Qarqar
11. Adad-nirari
12. Tigleth-pileser
13. Sennacherib

Important Years

966
931
925
853
801
745
732
721
701

Study Guide #3
From Manasseh to Nehemiah

Important Jewish Leaders

1. Manasseh
2. Josiah
3. Jehoiakim
4. Zerubbabel
5. Ezra
6. Nehemiah
7. Esther

The Prophets

2. Nahum
3. Habakkuk
4. Zephaniah
5. Ezekiel 34, 36, 37, 38-39, 40-48
6. Daniel 2, 6, 9
7. Haggai
8. Zechariah 4, 9:9-10
9. Malachi 2:1, 3:1-3, 4:4-6

Important Foreign Rulers

10. Nebuchadnezzar
11. Necho
12. Cyrus
13. Darius
14. Xerxes
15. Artaxerxes

Important Years

16. 627
17. 622
18. 612
19. 609
20. 605
A Basic Bibliography

Sections of the Old Testament
Derek Kidner, *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*, IVP.

History of Israel
Walter Kaiser, Jr., *A History of Israel*, Broadman & Holman.

Old Testament Criticism
Kenneth Kitchen, *Ancient Orient and Old Testament*, IVP.
______, *The Reliability of the Old Testament*, IVP.

Old Testament Message
William Dyrness, *Themes in Old Testament Theology*, IVP.
Elmer Martens, *God's Design*, Baker
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  