
BIBLE HISTORY AND INTERPRETATION OLD TESTAMENT

RL 1113 B — May 2008

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I. Course Catalog Description

A study of the historical background and literature of the Old Testament.

II. Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the College's "Academic Honesty Policy" (*Catalog*). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

III. Course Objectives

The following seven objectives will serve as a summary for the content of the course. The Learning Activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the "Institutional Academic Goals" of Williams Baptist College (*Catalog*).

1. The student will understand the importance of the study of the Old Testament, the origins of the writings of the Old Testament, and how the books of the Old Testament were adopted by the church.
2. The student will understand the basic historical, geographical, and cultural backgrounds of the Mediterranean world.
3. The student will gain a knowledge of the major events and teachings of the following Biblical books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, and Hosea.

4. The student will be able to describe and discuss the following Old Testament Individuals including their lives and primary teachings: Abraham, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam I, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea, Ezra, and Nehemiah.
5. The student will be able to discuss the primary ways that the Old Testament is interpreted in and for the local church.
6. The student will be able to discuss how the Old Testament can be used in the making of personal moral, ethical, and spiritual decisions.
7. The student will be able to communicate the basic Hebrew narrative from creation to the prophets.

IV. Learning Activities and Grading Scale

25 points	Attendance and Participation
100 points	Quizzes and Worksheets
50 points	Bible Reading
300 points	Three Exams (100 points each)

475 Total Points Possible

A 100-90%; **B** 89-80%; **C** 79-70%; **D** 69-60%; **F** 59-0%

A. Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Students are expected to attend every class session. Two absences may be incurred without penalty. The third and following absences will result in a loss of five points. Absences incurred because of participation in school functions or illness (doctor's note required) will be excused without penalty when the student submits a note to the professor including the date and reason for the absence.

2. Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class period. Any student who is tardy should check in with the professor at the end of the class period to be counted present. The third and following late arrivals will result in the loss of two points. Leaving class before the class is over will be treated as a tardy.
3. If a student loses all twenty-five points, then points will continue to be subtracted from the points earned on other learning activities. The student will also be required to visit with the professor before he/she is allowed to continue in the class.

B. Late Assignments/Make-Up Exams

Assignments and exams may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where otherwise noted. The grade received on any regular assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 5% for each class session it is late. Example: A exam taken one class late will receive no more than 95% of its graded value. Assignments more than eight class periods late will receive zeros.

C. Quizzes and Worksheets (100 points)

1. Quizzes will cover material which is being discussed in class as well as reading assignments. No make-up quizzes will be given.
2. Several worksheets will be given. Worksheets may be made-up according to the late assignment policy above.
3. Quizzes are usually worth 10 points. Three to five quizzes are generally given during the course of the semester. One quiz grade will be dropped. The remaining points from quizzes and worksheets will be added together and divided by the total possible to generate a score for this composite grade. For example, a student takes nine quizzes and/or worksheets during the course of the semester as scores: 10, 8, 10, 9, 2, 10, 0, 10, and 9. The 0 and the 2 would be dropped and the remaining scored totaled (66). This total, 66, would then be divided by 70 (total possible). The student would receive 94 points of the 100 points possible for quizzes and worksheets in the class.

D. Biblical Readings (50 points)

Each student is required to read the Old Testament reading assignments in the syllabus and to verify at the end of the semester that they have completed the readings. Students will be asked to keep a log of their readings and to confirm that they have completed their reading on the last day of class.

E. Exams (300 points)

Exams will cover both the lecture and reading material. The exams will be unit specific, not comprehensive.

V. Required Texts

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Brisco, Thomas, ed. *Holman Bible Atlas*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998.

A modern translation of the Old Testament such as NIV, NASB, NRSV, NKJV or NLT.

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, content outline, course objectives, grading criteria, activities to be evaluated, major exam dates, policy on absences, course bibliography and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the semester the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that change during the semester.

READING AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

A&B = Arnold and Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament*

HBA = Brisco, *Holman Bible Atlas*

Biblical abbreviations are found on page 18 of the Arnold and Beyer text.

Assignments are to be completed before attending class.

MAY	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
5	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus
	Where Did the Bible Come From?	A&B 17-59
6	BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS: The Pentateuch, Adam	Gn 1-5:5 A&B 63-82
6	BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS: Noah, Babel	Gn 5:28-9:28 A&B 82-88
7	THE PATRIARCHS: The Land of the Israel	Dt 8:7-10; 11:8-12 HBA 2-40
7	THE PATRIARCHS: Abraham	Gn 11:27-13:18; 17:1-27; 22:1-19 A&B 89-97 HBA 41-48
8	THE PATRIARCHS: Isaac, Jacob, The Twelve Tribes	Gn 25:19-34; 27:1-46; 35:1-29 A&B 97-98 HBA 48-49
8	THE PATRIARCHS: Joseph, Slavery in Egypt	Gn 37:1-36; 39:1-50:26 A&B 98-102 HBA 49-62
9	BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY	
9	BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY	
12	THE EXODUS: Moses, Aaron, Miriam	Ex 5:1-13:22 A&B 103-116 HBA 63-72

MAY	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
12	THE EXODUS: The Law	Ex 19:1-23:33 A&B 117-126
13	THE EXODUS: The Wilderness, Tabernacle	Ex 25:1-31:18 A&B 127-139
13		FIRST EXAM
14	CONQUEST/SETTLEMENT: Joshua, Tribal Allotments	Jos 6-9 A&B 157-180 HBA 72-89
14	CONQUEST/SETTLEMENT: Judges (Deborah, Gideon), Samuel	Jgs 1:-3:6; 4:1-8:35; 21:25 1 Sm 3:1-21 A&B 181-186; 192-193 HBA 89-90
15	UNITED KINGDOM: Samuel, Saul	1 Sm 9:1-10:27; 15:1-35; 24:1-22 A&B 195-208 HBA 91-101
15	UNITED KINGDOM: David	2 Sm 5-10 A&B 209-220 HBA 102-114
16	UNITED KINGDOM: Solomon, Temple	1 Kgs 1-11 A&B 221-236 HBA 107-114
16	UNITED KINGDOM: OT Poetry (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes)	Ps 1, 3, 8, 22, 51, 110 Prv 1:20-33; Eccl 12 A&B 281-288; 303-338
19		SECOND EXAM
19	DIVIDED KINGDOM: Israel, Jeroboam I, Ahab, Omri, Jeroboam II	A&B 237-250 HBA 115-131
20	DIVIDED KINGDOM: Judah, Rehoboam	
20	DIVIDED KINGDOM: Isaiah	Is 1:1-31 A&B 353-382 HBA 141

MAY	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
21	DIVIDED KINGDOM: Jeremiah, Captivity/Exile	Jer 28:1–31:22 A&B 383-406 HBA 142-147; 154-162
21	DIVIDED KINGDOM: The Return Ezra, Nehemiah	Ezr 1:1-11; Neh 1–2 A&B 263-280 HBA 164-173
22	THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD: From the Persians to the Seleucids	HBA 174-188
22	Discussion and Review	READING LOG AND REPORT DUE
23		FINAL EXAM