

Old Testament Survey

Syllabus

Redeemer School of Ministry
Fall 2019
Mike Webster, Instructor

Course Objectives:

1. Instill a love for the Old Testament scriptures.
2. Be able to articulate the purpose and message of each book of the Old Testament.
3. Know the major people and events of Old Testament times.
4. Become familiar with the historical, cultural, and geographical context of Old Testament books, people, and events.
5. Acquaint students with essential revelation about God's nature and character in the Old Testament.
6. Grasp the development of God's relationship with man throughout the Old Testament.
7. Be able to discuss the major theological themes of the Old Testament.
8. Be able to communicate the "big picture" of the Old Testament and relate the parts to the whole.
9. Be able to explain the significance of the Old Testament or any of its parts for a contemporary believer.
10. Be able to address the foundational significance of the Old Testament for the understanding of the New Testament.
11. Prepare students for further study, especially for teaching and preaching out of the Old Testament.
12. Establish a forum for questions relevant to the material covered in class.

Course Contents:

1. Introduce the Old Testament as canonical scripture.
2. Establish an overview of the places, times, and peoples of the Old Testament.
3. Study the themes and key emphases in each book of the Old Testament.
4. Devotional and ministerial application of the material.

Course Requirements:

1. Preparation for and attendance at classes.

Biblical sections and textbook chapters for each class are to be read prior to class. More than two absences may result in failure. Please keep the instructor informed of illness or other issues affecting your participation.

2. Reading of the Old Testament scriptures.

With a few exceptions that are noted below, you will read the entire Old Testament for this course. The revelation God has inspired and given to us is more important than any comments or supplements. Read consistently to stay with the material presented in class. You will read about 55 chapters or about 90 pages of the Bible each week. Use a readable Bible: a translation like the NIV, ESV, HCSB, or NLT; no references or footnotes; and single column if possible. This reading should take approximately four hours each week. Your reading will be assessed for completeness in four sections: the Pentateuch on 10/7/19; the Historical books on 11/4/19; the Poetical books on 11/18/19; and the Prophets on 12/16/19. On each of these days, you will sign a statement indicating how much of this reading assignment you have completed.

3. Reading of the “Encountering the Old Testament” textbook.

You will read the entire “Encountering the Old Testament” textbook for this course. This text will offer basic introductory and explanatory material. Read consistently to stay with the material presented in class. You will read about 3 chapters or about 30 pages of the text each week. As you work through a chapter, you may find extra help by using the supplemental material provided at: www.bakeracademic.com/EOTsources . This reading should take approximately one and one half hours each week. Your reading will be assessed by taking unit tests on the four parts indicated in the text: the Pentateuch on 10/7/19; the Historical books on 11/4/19; the Poetical books on 11/18/19; and the Prophets on 12/16/19. On each of these days, you will take an examination that will indicate your understanding of the material in the textbook for that part.

4. Study of the Old Testament.

You will study the Old Testament in multiple ways for this course. You will learn from class lectures and discussions. You will glean from handouts. You will do supplemental studies and reading as necessary. This is your opportunity to integrate the various sources you are exposed to for the formulation of your grasp of the Old Testament.

5. A final examination.

This is a combined test. First you will report on your Bible reading for the current section. Second you will take an exam on the final part of the textbook. Third you will write an exam on the material covered in class. The test will be given 12/16/19.

6. Class participation.

Course Grading:

Final course grades will be determined by approximately equal weight for course requirements of total Bible reading, four unit tests, and the final essay exam with plus and minus adjustments for class participation. This means that each reading assessment will be worth about 4% of your final grade, each unit test will be worth about 16% of your final grade, and the final essay exam will be worth about 16% of your final grade.

Course Texts:

1. The Bible – a readable version.
2. Arnold, Bill T, and Bryan E. Beyer, Encountering the Old Testament, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, Third Edition, 2015.

Extra Credit:

For extra credit, compensation for a low grade, or for people who already have deep interaction with the Old Testament, you can complete this assignment. Write a paper on one of these topics: the impact on God's people of the qualities of the land they lived on; the character of God as seen in Deuteronomy, or the Trinity as presented in the Old Testament.

Classroom Decorum:

We will be completing a three-unit college-level course together this semester. Because it has been structured to accommodate busy adult learners, we will need focus and cooperation for this to be successful. Plan to arrive on time because class will begin promptly. Avoid private discussion during class time. Be prepared for material to be given at a rapid pace. Take personal responsibility to receive any materials handed out during class. Hand in assignments promptly when required. Be sure you are seated where you can clearly see all projected material (class lecture ideas and videos will be used). Wait for appropriate discussion points to raise questions and concerns. Be considerate of your fellow students.

Contacting the Instructor:

Your interaction is invited. Often just before class and just after class are not appropriate occasions for time with the instructor. You can set up an appointment during office hours if you need extended discussion. Please feel free to call or visit.

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Old Testament Survey

Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topic	Assignment Due
1	9/9/19	Syllabus, Introduction, Texts	Registration; Plan Semester *
2	9/16/19	Genesis; Joseph	Read Genesis; ch 1-4
3	9/23/19	Exodus; Wilderness	Read – Leviticus; ch 5-7
4	9/30/19	Numbers, Deuteronomy; Law	Read – Deuteronomy; ch 8-9
5	10/7/19	Josh, Judges, Ruth; Conquest	Read-Ruth; ch 10-12 Exam Part 1*
6	10/14/19	I, II Samuel; Samuel's Office	Read – II Samuel; ch 13-14
7	10/21/19	I, II Kings; Saul	Read – II Kings; ch 15-16
8	10/28/19	Finish history; David, Temple	(Skim-Chron)Read-Esth; ch 17-18
9	11/4/19	Job, Psalms; Hebrew Poetry	Skim - Ps ch 19-21; Exam Part 2 *
10	11/11/19	Proverbs; Wisdom Literature	Read – Song of Sol; ch 22-23
11	11/18/19	Isaiah; the Prophetic	Read-Isa.; ch 24-26; Exam Part 3*
12	11/25/19	Jeremiah, Ezekiel; the Exile	Skim-Ezekiel; ch 27-30
13	12/2/19	Daniel; the Kingdoms	Read – Amos; ch 31-32
14	12/9/19	Minor Prophets; Review	Review Read – Malachi; ch 33-Epi
15	12/16/19	Final Exam	Final Exam *

Assignment Due shows the Bible reading portion and the chapters in the textbook.

Note Well: a dash means from the previous point through the stated book

Note Well: three sections are to be skimmed, that is, read openings, closings, key chapters, follow the logic, etc.

✱ = Major assignment due.

Old Testament Reading Guide

Book	Chapters	Verses	Words
Genesis	50	1,533	32,267
Exodus	40	1,213	32,692
Leviticus	27	859	24,546
Numbers	36	1,288	32,902
Deuteronomy	34	958	28,461
Joshua	24	658	18,858
Judges	21	618	18,976
Ruth	4	85	2,578
1 Samuel	31	810	25,061
2 Samuel	24	695	20,612
1 Kings	22	816	24,524
2 Kings	25	719	23,532
1 Chronicles	29	941	20,369
2 Chronicles	36	822	26,074
Ezra	10	280	7,441
Nehemiah	13	406	10,483
Esther	10	167	5,637
Job	42	1,070	10,102
Psalms	150	2,461	43,743
Proverbs	31	915	15,043
Ecclesiastes	12	222	5,584
Song of Solomon	8	117	2,661
Isaiah	66	1,292	37,044
Jeremiah	52	1,364	42,659
Lamentations	5	154	3,415
Ezekiel	48	1,273	39,407
Daniel	12	357	11,606
Hosea	14	197	5,175
Joel	3	73	2,034
Amos	9	146	4,217

Obadiah	1	21	670
Jonah	4	48	1,321
Micah	7	105	3,153
Nahum	3	47	1,285
Habakkuk	3	56	1,476
Zephaniah	3	53	1,617
Haggai	2	38	1,131
Zechariah	14	211	6,444
Malachi	4	55	1,782