

CHRI 1313-04 OLD TESTAMENT
Summer 2014 (June Fastterm: June 2-13)
Department of Theology

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to introduce the student to the Old Testament and to provide an understanding of the history, institutions, and theological insights of the Hebrew people.

Old Testament (CHRI 1313) is a freshman level course required for graduation from Houston Baptist University. This course is a prerequisite for all Christianity courses except 1323.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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LEARNING RESOURCES

Course Text(s):

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. [EOT] ISBN: 978-0-8010-3170-0

Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV). Classic Pew & Worship Edition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002. ISBN 1-58134-379-5

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Overview/ Purpose of the course

The course will view the Old Testament from historical, theological, textual, and social perspectives. Because of the volume of the material in the Old Testament, the materials to be covered in more detail will be selective. Pivotal events and passages will be given more attention. The instructor intends to guide the student toward achieving an overall grasp of the Old Testament as well as a greater understanding of the pivotal events and teachings of the Old Testament material. The course aims to instill an appreciation for Old Testament history and theology and encourage students to continue reading and study of the Old Testament beyond the course requirements. It is hoped that the theology encountered in the study will help students as they plan to live in a manner to benefit themselves and others.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recognize and list essential facts related to the geographical, historical, archeological, and religious background of the Old Testament.
2. Discuss the concepts of inspiration and revelation, as well as the role of the Old Testament scriptures in molding Jewish and Christian cultural values.

3. Explain the development of the text and canon of the Old Testament.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the background, literary genre, content, interpretation, and central theological themes of the assigned Old Testament writings.
5. Evaluate the various expressions of Old Testament religion as manifested in the prophetic, wisdom, and apocalyptic movements and the literature they produced.

RELATION TO THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Mission statement: The mission of Houston Baptist University is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual, and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

This course seeks to provide an educational atmosphere which fosters academic excellence, freedom of thought, moral and spiritual development of students, and the enrichment of life through the Christian faith and message.

RELATION TO THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT GOALS

The mission of the School of Christian Thought is to serve and equip the Church; to provide students with foundational knowledge in philosophy, theology, and apologetics through reading and engagement with the ideas and languages of classic and biblical texts; to challenge students to display sound reasoning, to communicate clearly, and to demonstrate effective research skills; and to foster both intellectual and spiritual growth as students and faculty alike seek to glorify God in all things.

This course is designed to support the mission of the School of Christian Thought by teaching students how to read ancient texts literarily, historically, socially, and theologically.

RELATION TO DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND PURPOSES

The mission of the Department of Theology is to provide students with a foundation in the classical theological disciplines, facilitate intellectual and spiritual growth, and equip individuals in skills essential to Christian ministry.

In line with the mission of the Department of Theology, this course serves as a basic introductory course, a literary and interpretative survey of the Old Testament, necessary for all of the other studies in the department major. The course gives the students opportunity to grow in the Christian faith and to develop in service to community and church.

ATTENDANCE

Please see the official Attendance Policy in the HBU Classroom Policy on Blackboard. Students missing more than 25% of the class will be given a failing grade.

See also below under "Course Requirements" for the Professor's attendance requirements for this particular course.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students needing learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately and consult the Academic Accommodations section of the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADE SCALE

Course Requirements

1. The student is expected to attend all class meetings, participate in class discussions, take notes on lecture, and meet the requirements of the course as indicated by the professor or instructor, this syllabus, and the assignments given. You are permitted to be absent 2 times without penalty. After that, each absence will result in reducing the final grade by one-third of a letter grade.
2. Evaluation will be made from daily quizzes primarily covering basic factual knowledge of the Biblical texts assigned (from ESV), and some questions from the textbook (EOT). Please note: *students are required to bring their own Scan-Tron sheets and pencils to class for the weekly quizzes; any quizzes not taken in the proper format will receive no credit.* The lowest quiz will be dropped in determining the final grade. The quiz score average will constitute 60% of the final grade.
3. A midterm examination and a final examination will each constitute 20% of the final grade. See "Topical Outline" for examination dates.

Grading Standards

The grade scale for the Department of Theology is: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (59 and below).

LATE WORK & TEST POLICY

Late work will only be allowed with the permission of the instructor.

Make-up exams will be given in the event of illness, death in the immediate family, official participation in events representing the university or with prior permission from the professor. The make-up exam period will be announced and the make-up exams will be given in Atwood 2. The student must present an I.D. card to take the test. **Make-up tests for quizzes will not be given, since the three lowest quizzes will be dropped anyway.**

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Note: The actual chapters to be read from each of the assigned biblical books of the ESV Bible below may be found in the documents entitled "Reading Assignments for . . ." found at my BiblicalLanguages website page here:

<http://biblicallanguages.net/biblical-studies-courses-i-teach/old-testament-survey/>

Class Mtg		Lecture Topics	Reading Schedule (to be Completed by Class Meeting)	Assessment
M	2-Jun	Syllabus & Course Intro; Introduction to the OT: Inspiration, Canon, & Transmission of the OT; Geography and History of the OT	EOT Chs. 1-3 (21-75)	Quiz #1 (only on EOT 1-3) June 2: Last date to drop without a "W"
Tu	3-Jun	Introduction to Pentateuch: Survey of Pentateuch; Authorship of Pentateuch, Documentary Hypothesis	Genesis 1-11 (ESV) EOT Ch. 4 (77-87) Genesis 12-50 (ESV) EOT Ch. 5 (89-101)	Quiz #2
W	4-Jun	Pentateuch	Exodus (ESV) EOT Ch. 6 (103-115)	Quiz #3
Th	5-Jun	Pentateuch	Leviticus (ESV) EOT Ch.7 (117-126) Numbers (ESV) EOT Ch.8 (127-139)	Quiz #4
F	6-Jun	Pentateuch	Deuteronomy (ESV) EOT Ch.9-10 (141-166) Joshua, Judges & Ruth (ESV) EOT Chs.11-12 (167-193)	Quiz #5
M	9-Jun	Pentateuch Historical Books	1-2 Samuel (ESV) EOT Ch. 13-14 (195-220)	Quiz #6 (first hour) MIDTERM EXAM (last hour)
Tu	10-Jun	Historical Books Poetic/Wisdom Books	1-2 Kings (ESV) EOT Ch. 15-16 (221-249)	Quiz #7
W	11-Jun	Poetic/Wisdom Books	1-2 Chron, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther (ESV) EOT Ch.17-18 (251-277)	Quiz #8 June 11: Last date to drop with a "W"
Th	12-Jun	Poetic/Wisdom Books Prophets	Job, Proverbs, Psalms (ESV) EOT Ch.19-23 (281-335)	Quiz #9
F	13-Jun	Prophets	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah (ESV) EOT Ch. 24-28 (339-405); EOT Ch.33 (454-456)	Quiz #10 (first hour)
F	13-Jun		Friday, June 13 1:15- 3:15 PM	FINAL EXAM (last 2 hours)

The content of this outline and the attached schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Student Signature – I have read and understand the syllabus for this class. I understand that the content of this syllabus and the topical outline are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. I have read and understand the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Black Board. **I promise to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity at Houston Baptist University and will not tolerate its violation by others.**