

Course Syllabus
CHRI 1313 Old Testament
Fall 2009
School 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.

COURSE SEQUENCE IN CURRICULUM AND PREREQUISITE INFORMATION

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 and 1333.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Phillip Marshall
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Office Location: Atwood 1, #234
Office Hours: MWF 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; T,TH 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (otherwise, by appointment)
Web Page Addresses: HBU http://www.hbu.edu/hbu/Phillip_Marshall.asp?SnID=497864236
Personal <http://biblicallanguages.wordpress.com/>

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
Zondervan TNIV Study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. [TNIV] ISBN: 0-310-93481-8

RELATION TO THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

In relation to the stated goals and purpose of the university, it 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 COLLEGE GOALS AND PURPOSES

In accordance with the goals of the College of Arts and Humanities, this course fosters intellectual inquiry and broadens the student's interest and knowledge.

RELATION TO DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND PURPOSES

In line with the purpose and goals of the Department of Christianity and Philosophy, it is 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.

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.

Technology, writing, or oral objectives **Not all colleges have this part of the template. We show these objectives in other ways.**

As regards reading competency, this course encourages development of reading skills through reading assignments and testing of reading comprehension by means of quizzes and sectional tests; writing competency may be enhanced by taking notes on lectures, and essay components in assignments and testing when utilized.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

Class Mtg	Lecture Topics	Reading Schedule (to be Completed by Class Meeting)	Assessment
Aug 25	Syllabus; Introduction to the OT Course		
Aug 27	Introduction to OT: Inspiration,	EOT Chs. 1-3 (21-75)	

	Canon, & Transmission of the OT		
Sept 1	Introduction to the Pentateuch	Genesis 1-11 (TNIV, 1-25) EOT Ch. 4 (77-87) (89-101)	Quiz #1 (only on EOT 1-3)
Sept 3	Pentateuch	Genesis 12-50 (TNIV, 25-86) EOT Ch. 5 (89-101)	Quiz #2
Sept 8	Pentateuch	EOT Ch. 6 (103-115)	
Sept 10	Pentateuch	Exodus (TNIV, 87-148)	Quiz #3
Sept 15	Pentateuch	EOT Ch.7 (117-126)	
Sept 17	Pentateuch	Leviticus (TNIV, 149-187)	Quiz #4
Sept 22	Historical Books	EOT Ch.8 (127-139)	
Sept 24	Historical Books	Numbers (TNIV, 188-246)	Quiz #5
Sept 29	Historical Books	EOT Ch.9 (141-154)	
Oct 1	Historical Books	Deuteronomy (TNIV, 247-293)	Quiz #6
Oct 6	Historical Books	EOT Chs.10-11 (157-179)	
Oct 8	Historical Books	Joshua (TNIV, 294-332)	Quiz #7
Oct 13	Historical Books	EOT Ch.12 (181-193)	
Oct 15	Historical Books	Judges & Ruth (TNIV, 333-380)	Quiz #8
Oct 20	Historical Books	TBA	
Oct 22	Poetic/Wisdom Books	TBA	Quiz #9
Oct 27	Poetic/Wisdom Books	TBA	
Oct 29	Poetic/Wisdom Books	TBA	No Quiz (spring brk)
Nov 3	Poetic/Wisdom Books	TBA	
Nov 5	Poetic/Wisdom Books	TBA	Quiz #10
Nov 10	Poetic/Wisdom Books	TBA	
Nov 12	Poetic/Wisdom Books	TBA	Quiz #11
Nov 17	Prophets	TBA	
Nov 19	Prophets	TBA	Quiz #12
Nov 24	Prophets	TBA	
Nov 5	Prophets	TBA	Quiz #13
Dec 1	Prophets	TBA	
Dec 2	Prophets	TBA	Quiz #14
Dec 8-11	Finals Days		Final Exam date TBA

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

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Various teaching strategies, including lecture, discussion, map study, projects, visual aids, quizzes and tests, and handouts will be used when appropriate as the professor deems best.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

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 3 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 weekly quizzes primarily covering basic factual knowledge of the Biblical texts assigned (from TNIV), and some questions from the textbook (EOT). Generally, the quizzes will be on Thursdays and will cover the content assigned to be completed for that week. 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 three lowest quizzes (out of 15 quizzes) will be dropped in determining the final grade. The quiz score average will constitute 70% of the final grade.
3. A comprehensive final examination will be given during finals week, constituting 30% of the final grade.
4. Tests may include an essay component to determine the student's comprehension of the material and assess the ability to formulate and communicate ideas.

Grading standards

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

Student appraisal

The course and course content will be evaluated and reviewed at the preparation of each new syllabus. Comments from students completing the university evaluation will be taken into consideration.

CLASS POLICIES

Absence and Tardy Policies

Attendance in class is important and it is university policy that students must attend class and that faculty will require attendance with penalties for non-compliance. Please see the catalog currently in use for the university's policy on classroom absences caused in the course of student representation of the university, such as athletics, chorale, and mock trial activities.

Apart from the absences caused when students represent the university, students might need to miss class and/or lab sessions from time to time due to illness or other reasons. Instructors will permit students to be absent from a maximum of three class meetings that are scheduled in this syllabus for MWF and for TTH courses during the Fall and Spring semesters. Upon the fourth absence, faculty will begin to penalize a student's grade in the course as the professor deems appropriate. For summer session courses that meet throughout the week, instructors will permit students to be absent a maximum of 2 class meetings. For courses that meet once a week, whether regular semesters or in the summer, instructors will permit students to be absent a maximum of one or two class meetings (upon

the discretion of the instructor) before penalties are applied. Students are advised to use the allowed absences for illnesses and significant events beyond their control. Regular attendance in class is important for student success.

Academic Honesty

Please refer to the current catalog for the university's policy and procedures regarding academic honesty. Note that the university utilizes "Turn-It-In" and other programs to investigate possible plagiarism activities. All major papers for this course will be submitted to the plagiarism prevention software, **Turnitin.com** on or before a paper's due date. No paper will be graded without meeting this requirement beforehand. A separate handout will be provided to give detailed instructions on this process which must include the class identification number and class password.

In accordance with FERPA, and to best protect the students' privacy, no personal identification (e.g., name, social security number, H number) should be uploaded with the text of student papers. However, Turnitin will ask for the student's name and e-mail address when setting up a personal account. This identifying information will be used by the professor to evaluate the student's paper and cannot be viewed by other faculty or students. To further increase confidentiality, the student may choose to use a pseudonym (false name) when setting up his or her personal Turnitin account.

If a pseudonym is used for Turnitin, the student must provide this identifier next to his/her typed name on the paper copy which is submitted to the professor. Five (5) points will be deducted if the professor is unable to easily match the paper copy to the Turnitin submission of the student's paper.

Children in Classroom

In almost all instances, children are not allowed in the classroom nor are they allowed to be on campus unattended. Class sessions are for enrolled students only unless other arrangements are approved by the instructor in advance.

Classroom Behavior Expectations

The classroom environment is to be conducive to learning and is under the authority of the instructor. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from the time spent in class, students are expected to demonstrate civil behavior in the classroom and show appropriate respect for the instructor and other students. Inappropriate behavior toward the instructor, in or out of the classroom, may result in a directive to the offending student to leave the classroom or the course entirely.

Classroom behaviors that disturb the teaching-learning experiences include the following behaviors: activated cellular phone or other device, demands for special treatment, frequent episodes of leaving and then returning to the class, excessive tardiness, leaving class early, making offensive remarks or disrespectful comments or gestures to the instructor or other students, missing deadlines, prolonged chattering, sleeping, arriving late to class, dominating discussions, shuffling backpacks or notebooks, disruption of group work, and overt inattentiveness. It is at the discretion of the instructor as to whether laptops will be allowed for use in the classroom.

Early Alert

As an instructor, I am committed to your success, not only in this class, but in all aspects of HBU life. To ensure that every student takes full advantage of the educational and learning opportunities, HBU has implemented an *Academic Early Alert Referral System (EARS)*. If I think you would benefit from some of these special programs or services available to you, I will make the appropriate referral. You, in turn, will be expected to take advantage of the help offered to you.

Email Policy

All university and class email communication will be sent to your HBU email account. You are responsible for checking this frequently. If you choose, you may reroute your HBU email to another email address. Your emails should be in a professional format with correct spelling, capitalization, and grammar.

Grievance Procedures

The Academic Grievance Policy may be found in the catalog currently in use, in the Academic section of the HBU Forms section of the HBU Portal, and on the Registrar's page on the HBU Website.

Late Work

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

Learning Disabilities/Academic Accommodations

Houston Baptist University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Any student who needs learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately at the beginning of the semester that he/she will be requesting accommodations. In order to request and establish academic accommodations, the student should contact the Coordinator for Learning Disability Services (Alison Childers) at 281-649-3274, Hinton Bldg #101, to schedule an appointment to discuss and request academic accommodation services. Academic Accommodations must be applied for and written each semester. If academic accommodations are approved, a Letter of Accommodations will then be sent to the professor(s).

Missed Tests

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.**

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING SYLLABUS

Dr. Phillip Marshall

Instructor's Signature

Date