

**ADVANCE Ministry Preparation**  
Sponsored by Gateway Seminary  
CLS 1114 Old Testament Survey – 3 Hours  
Fall Semester - 2022  
Online Class meets Tuesday, 6:30 - 9:30 CST  
**Classes begin August 30, 2022 (Aug 30 - Dec 6)**  
SWIST (Southwest Illinois School of Theology)  
Instructor - Pastor Wilson Wickiser  
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This class meets for fifteen weeks for periods of two hours and fifty minutes including two 10-minute breaks.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a foundational introduction to the content, background, interpretation, and critical studies of the Old Testament, with a survey and study of each of the books of the Old Testament.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course the student should have a conceptual foundation out of which to begin to understand the Old Testament as well as a basic grasp of the issues, methods, tools, and contexts of the interpretive enterprise.

**Cognitive Objectives.** At the end of the course, the student should demonstrate...

1. An enhanced love for the OT, and respect for its authority as Scripture.
2. An understanding of the OT's content, structure, message, and interpretation.
3. A basic knowledge of literary, theological, historical, cultural, and geographical setting.
4. An adequate foundation for continued study including familiarity with all valid interpretation tools, ability to evaluate and utilize current periodical literature, reference materials and commentaries related to OT study.

**Affective Objectives.** When the course is completed, each should should...

1. Have new insights for studying and accurately interpreting the Scriptures.
2. Have renewed desire for Christians to clearly understand biblical truths and apply them in their lives.

## **FORMAT**

- The basic teaching method will be interactive lecture, allowing for questions and answers. Other formats will be utilized as well, including video and class discussion periods. The classroom is designed to be a "safe" environment of mutual respect for ideas and interpretations.
- Each student is expected to be on time for class and absences should be avoided. Electronic devices are allowed but must muted during class.
- Each student is expected to prepare for each class period by reading the assigned material.

## REQUIRED RESOURCES

- The Bible. A literal word-for-word translation is best for this class, such as the NASB, ESV, CSB, KJV, NKJV. The instructor uses the ESV, but refers to the others as well.
- Hill, Andrew and John Walton, A Survey of the Old Testament. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009. ISBN: 0310280958. (Amazon: new - \$37.29; used, like new, \$26.64. Christianbook.com: new - \$43.99).

## GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Over the course of the semester, the following evaluation exercises will be used to determine the level of mastery of course content achieved by each class participant:

### ***1. Class attendance and participation*** (10%)

Participation in class activities is essential to the learning process. Both the participation of the student on each class day and the degree to which the student has completed assignments in preparation for class will be factored into the participation grade.

### ***2. Student Reports*** (20% -- 10% each for two reports)

Each student will pick two of the following reading assignments and prepare a 10-15 minute report on the selected passages or a thematic outline of the book.

- Genesis 1-3, 7, 9, 12, 15-17, 21-22, 25, 35, 37, 39, 41, 45-46, 50
- Exodus 11-14, 16, 19-20, 24-30, 32
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges 1-2
- 1 Samuel 8-10, 12-13, 15-16, 31
- 2 Samuel 1-2, 5, 7, 11-12
- 1 Kings 1-3, 6-8, 11-12, 14, 17-19
  - Also re. 1 Kings, in general, peruse this book and look for each king of Israel and Judah, their good characteristics and their evil deeds, and God's characterization of each
- 2 Kings 2, 4-6, 17, 31
  - Also, in general, peruse this book and look for each king of Israel and Judah, their good characteristics and their evil deeds, and God's characterization of each
- Ezra: Peruse this book and read about the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem
- Nehemiah: Peruse this book and read about the rebuilding of the walls around Jerusalem
- Job 1-3, 38-42
- Psalm 1-2, 22-23, 31-32, 51, 119
- Proverbs 1-3
- Isaiah: Peruse this book and read about God's calling Isaiah to be a prophet, the prophecies of the Christ, and prophecies of Judah's fall

- Jeremiah: Peruse this book and read about God's calling Jeremiah to be a prophet, the characterization of the nation's false prophets, Jeremiah's preaching to the nation of Judah, and God's judgment of the nations
- Ezekiel: Peruse this book and read about God's calling Ezekiel to be a prophet, the prophecies of Christ, the prophecies of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, the prophet's preaching to the nation of Judah, and God's judgment of the nations
- Daniel, chapters 1-12
- Hosea: Peruse this book and look for pictures of God's warning of punishment for Israel unless they repented and returned to the Lord in faithfulness
- Amos: Peruse this book and look for the sin that developed in both Israel and Judah during times of political stability and prosperity
- Obadiah: Read this one-chapter book and look for God's anger toward those who helped Babylon in their conquest of Judah
- Jonah: Read the entire book
- Micah: Peruse this book and look for the dual messages of judgment and hope
- Habakkuk: Peruse this book and look for how God used a pagan nation to punish His people in Judah
- Zephaniah: Peruse this book and look for the dual messages of judgment and God's plan to restore Judah
- Haggai: Look for the correlation to Ezra and the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem; find God's rebuke of people's self-centeredness instead of a God-centeredness
- Zechariah: Peruse this book and look for God's promise to continue His covenant with Israel; look for the Messianic hope
- Malachi: Peruse this book and look for the sins that Israel was repeating, the sins that led to their captivity years earlier

**3. Quizzes** (40% -- four quizzes 10% each)

**4. Final exam** (30%)

The final exam will be a comprehensive exam, focusing on the material presented in the class lectures, biblical books, and discussion throughout the entire semester.

**GRADING SCALE**

<b>A 94-100</b>	<b>B+ 87-89</b>	<b>C+ 77-79</b>	<b>D 65-69</b>
<b>A- 90-93</b>	<b>B 83-86</b>	<b>C 73-76</b>	<b>F 0-64</b>
	<b>B- 80-82</b>	<b>C- 70-72</b>	

<b>SCHEDULE</b>		<b>Textbook Reading</b>	<b>Bible Reading</b>
Week 1	Course Introduction Approaching the Old Testament Geography of the Old Testament	Ch. 1 Ch. 2	
Week 2	Genesis	Ch. 4	Genesis
Week 3	Exodus	Ch. 5	Exodus
Week 4	Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy Quiz 1	Ch. 6 Ch. 7 Ch. 8	Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy
Week 5	Joshua Judges Ruth	Ch. 11 Ch. 12 Ch. 13	Joshua Judges Ruth
Week 6	1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles	Ch. 14 Ch. 14 Ch. 15 Ch. 15 Ch. 16 Ch. 16	1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles
Week 7	Ezra Nehemiah Esther Quiz 2	Ch. 17 Ch. 17 Ch. 18	Ezra Nehemiah Esther
Week 8	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Ch. 21 Ch. 22 Ch. 23 Ch. 24 Ch. 25	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon
Week 9	Isaiah	Ch. 28	Isaiah
Week 10	Jeremiah Lamentations Quiz 3	Ch. 29 Ch. 30	Jeremiah Lamentations
Week 11	Ezekiel Student Reports	Ch. 31	Ezekiel

Week 12	Daniel Student Reports	Ch. 32	Daniel
Week 13	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	Ch. 33 Ch. 34 Ch. 35 Ch. 36 Ch. 37 Ch. 38	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah
Week 14	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi Quiz 4	Ch. 39 Ch. 40 Ch. 41 Ch. 42 Ch. 43 Ch. 44	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Week 15	Final Exam Class Wrap-up		

## Additional Helpful Books for Basic Old Testament Study

### GENERAL ASPECTS OF OT STUDY

- Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. Boulder, Col.: Basic Books, 1981.  
Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Boulder, Col.: Basic Books, 1985.  
Childs, B. S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.  
Crenshaw, J. L. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.  
Long, V. P. *The Art of Biblical History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.  
Sailhamer, J. *The Pentateuch as Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.  
Wilson, R. R. *Prophecy and Society in Ancient Israel*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.  
Yancey, P. *The Bible Jesus Read*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1999.

### OT BACKGROUNDS

- Mazar, A. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000-586 B.C.E.* New York: Doubleday, 1990.  
Bright, J. *A History of Israel*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Westminster, 2000.  
Hoerth, A. J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.  
Hoerth, A. J., G. L. Mattingly, and E. Yamauchi, eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.  
King, P. J., and L. E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.  
Matthews, V. H. and D. C. Benjamin. *Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York/Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1997.  
Merrill, E. H. *A Kingdom of Priests*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.  
Provan, I., V. P. Long, and T. Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.  
Walton, J. H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006  
Wegner, *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*. Baker, 1999.  
Wiseman, D. J., ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1973.

### OT SURVEYS

- Arnold, B. T., and B. E. Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Encountering Biblical Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.  
LaSor, W. S., D. A. Hubbard, and F. W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.  
Longman, T., and R. B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

### OT HERMENEUTICS

- Baker, D. W., and B. T. Arnold. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*. Grand Rapids: Appolos/Baker Academic, 1999.  
Bartholomew, C., C. S. Evans, M. Healy, and M. Rae, eds. *“Behind” the Text: History and Biblical Interpretation*. Scripture and Hermeneutics Series, ed. Craig Bartholomew, vol. 4. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.  
Bray, G. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1996.  
Dockery, D. S., K. A. Matthews, R. B. Sloan, eds. *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation: A Complete Library of Tools and Resources*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.  
Fee, G. D., and D. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.  
Stuart, D. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2009.