



THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

20200: Intro to Old Testament I Sample Syllabus

School of Theology, NRT 146

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce the student to the Pentateuch and historiographic writings of the Old Testament (Genesis-Esther) in the English Bible, entailing a biblical-theological approach and including an examination of critical, historical, and hermeneutical issues.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain a general knowledge of the biblical texts from Genesis to Esther.
2. To consider issues of canon and textual transmission foundational to the study of the Old Testament.
3. To gain a general understanding of the world of the Old Testament and to develop skill in the interpretation of Hebrew literature and the appropriate use of secondary literature in the process of interpretation.
4. To be introduced to modern critical approaches to the study of biblical texts, such as source, form, literary, and rhetorical criticism.

Required Textbooks:

Hill, Andrew E. and John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*. 3rd Edition, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987, 2008.

Bimson, J. J., J. P. Kane, J. H. Paterson, and D. J. Wiseman, eds. *New Bible Atlas*. Tyndale, 1985; Inter-Varsity Press, 1996.

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

1. *Quizzes and Examinations.* Ten quizzes will be given during the semester at the beginning of Class Meetings. These quizzes are designed to test basic comprehension of the readings in the primary and secondary texts. There will also be quizzes that will require students to identify locations on a map of ancient Israel, including geographical regions.
2. *Written Assignments*
 1. Review article. Students will write a critical review of contemporary issues in Pentateuchal Source Criticism.
 2. ANE Comparisons. Students will compare and contrast the biblical text with various assigned ancient Near Eastern texts (e.g. Creation Accounts, Treaty texts, Historiography, etc.)
 3. Exegetical paper. Students will write a 15-page exegetical paper on a select passage of Scripture.

GRADING SCALE

A	100-95	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	59-
A-	95-90	B	84-86	C	74-76	D	64-66		
		B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	60-63		

Week	Lecture Topics
1	Introduction, The ancient Near East
2	Hebrew Canon, A Survey of Methods of Biblical Interpretation
3	Introduction to the Pentateuch
4	Genesis and Exodus
5	Chronology of the ancient Near East
6	Leviticus and Numbers
7	Covenants in ANE Context
8	Deuteronomy
9	Introduction to the Historical Books

10	Joshua
11	The Archaeology of the Holy Land
12	Judges
13	Ruth
14	Introduction to 1–2 Samuel
15	Introduction to 1–2 Kings
16	Introduction to 1–2 Chronicles
17	Understanding biblical Historiography
18	Economics and Social Structures in Israel
19	Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah
20	Israelite Religion

DISABLED STUDENTS

Students with special needs or disabilities should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss these issues.

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is provisional. The Professor retains the right to change any requirement for the class or for individual(s) as necessary. Grades are discretionary. Professor retains the right to give an oral exam over the phone or an exam in person to determine if the student is truly doing the work. Attitude is a very important matter for students going into the ministry. A grade may be greatly affected by a poor attitude toward another student or professor. Students are requested to refrain from bringing food or drink (except water) into the classroom in respect of institutional policy.