

OT 5000

Introduction to the Old Testament

Professor: James K. Hoffmeier
Office Phone: 847-317-8064
Email: jhoffmei@tiu.edu

OT Departmental Course Descriptions Statement:

Old Testament and Semitic Language courses acquaint students with the content and teaching of the Old Testament Scriptures and introduce them to the tools needed for a lifetime of effective independent study of these Scriptures. Attention is given to problems of Old Testament history and criticism. The value of the Old Testament for preaching and for understanding the New Testament is stressed. The courses also serve to introduce students to the historical and cultural backgrounds of biblical literature, provide an understanding of ancient Near Eastern cultures, shed light on the interpretation of the Bible in its historical setting, and support the biblical record and the Israelites in their interrelationship with the peoples of the ancient world.

Catalogue Description for OT 5000:

An introduction to the literature of the Old Testament, the history of Israel, critical issues of Old Testament formation, method in Old Testament study, and the theology of the Old Testament. This course meets the OT General Comprehensive requirement for MA students and the English Bible competency requirement for MDiv students, who must meet the SBCT requirement. Not for credit in the MA/NT or MA/OT programs. Elective credit in MDiv program. Auditors are not permitted in General Comp courses unless they have taken previous undergraduate course work in the subject or are not intending to complete the MA program. Offered fall. *Four hours*

Course Goals:

1. To learn the basic *content* of the Old Testament books, how they relate to each other, and their place in the OT canon
2. To understand and appreciate how God has worked through history for his redemptive purposes, and thereby begin to develop a *theology of the Old Testament*.
3. To become familiar with the *historical outline* found in the Old Testament, and its relationship with the world of the ancient Near East.
4. To become acquainted with the various kinds (i.e. genres) of *literature* in the Old Testament, be able to recognize their distinguishing features, and learn to read and interpret them appropriately.

Course outcomes:

1. The student will meet the OT General Comprehensive requirement for various Master's programs.

2. The student will be able to identify and describe the major *people, places, and events* in the Old Testament.
3. The student will gain an appreciation the value of using archaeological data and some of the ways ancient Near Eastern literature provides background and interpretive information.
4. The student will have grasp of major theological themes in the Old Testament.

Text Books:

W.S. LaSor, D.A. Hubbard, and F.W. Bush, *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996) = **OTS**.

James K. Hoffmeier, *The Archaeology of the Bible* (Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2008) = **AB**.

Course Requirements:

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Given the modular nature of this class, to miss a day is to miss the equivalence of 3 weeks of classes! Class attendance and participation may influence borderline grades at the professor's discretion.

Readings:

The student will read the assigned readings from the OT and the texts for each class period. Readings should be completed prior to class time. This is most essential, since the lectures will not be merely an oral review of the text. The lectures will provide additional material for which the student will be responsible. Tests will be based upon information from lectures, handouts, and the readings.

Tests: two equally weighted exams (50%) will be taken on Moodle

GRADE SCALE:

- A 95-100
- A- 90-94
- B+ 88-89
- B 85-86
- B- 80-84
- C+ 78-79
- C 75-76
- C- 70-74
- D 60-69
- F 0-59

Course Outline

First Class

Introduction: Canonization, Versions, Inspiration and Inerrancy

Literary criticism of the OT

Principles for Interpreting the Bible (**OTS chaps. 44-47; AB 11-32**)

Intro to Genesis, Literary Structure, Creation & Fall (**Gen. 1-4; OTS chaps. 1-2; AB 33-39.**
The Flood (**Gen. 5-9**); the Patriarchs (**Gen. 12-35; OTS Chap. 3; AB 39-45**);
Joseph (**Gen. 37-50; AB 45-48**)

Second Class

Exodus (**Exod. 1-24; Lev. 26; OTS chap. 4-5; AB 49-63**); Leviticus (**OTS chap. 6**);

Numbers, Deuteronomy (**Num. 9-14 & Deut 4-7; OTS chap 7-8**)

Joshua, Judges & Ruth (**Josh. 1-11 & 24; Judges 1-3; OTS chaps. 9-11; AB 65-76**)

Eli, Samuel & Saul (**1 Sam. 1-11; 15-17; OTS chap 12; AB 77-86**)

Third Class

Special public lecture: “The Quest for the first kings of Israel: Saul, David & Solomon”

David and Solomon (**2 Sam. 2-7; 1 Kings 1-6; 2 Chron. 5-7; OTS chap 13; AB 87-98**)

(All the above material will be covered on the first exam)

First exam is available to be taken on Feb. 7-9 on Moodle

(All the material will be covered on the second exam)

The Divided Kingdom (**1 Kings 11-22; 2 Kings 1-25; 2 Chron. 17-20; OTS chaps 14-15, 41; AB 99-114**)

The Exilic Period (**Daniel; OTS 43**); The Post-exilic period (**Ezra 1-7**) Esther (**OTS chap 40**); Ezra & Nehemiah (**Ezra 7-10; OTS chap 42**)

Fourth Class

Introduction to Prophecy and Prophets (**OTS chap 16; AB 115-123**)

Hosea (**Hos. 1-4; OTS chap. 19**); Amos (**Amos 1-3; OTS chap. 18**);

Jonah (**Jon.; OTS chap. 27**)

Micah (**Mic. 1-3; OTS chap. 20**); Isaiah (**Isa. 1-11 & 34-66; OTS chaps 21-22**) Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Nahum (**Read all four; OTS chap. 23**);

Fifth Class

Jeremiah (**Jer. 1-7; 30-33; OTS chap. 24**);

Ezekiel (**Ezk. 1-11, 34, 36-37; OTS chap 25**)

Joel (**Joel; OTS chap 26**); Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi (**Hag., Zech. 1-7, Mal.; OTS 28, 29, 30; skim AB 125-136**).

Poetic Books - Psalms (**OTS chap. 17, 32**); Son of Songs (**OTS chap. 37**)

Wisdom Literature (**OTS chap. 33**); Proverbs (**Prov. 1-10; OTS chap. 34**); Job (**Job 1-14; OTS chap. 35**); Ecclesiastes (**Eccles.; OTS chap 36**)

Second exam is available to be taken Mar. 6-8.