

U-BS115 Old Testament Survey I¹
A Survey of the Pentateuch and Historical Books

Midwestern Baptist College, SBC CLD SYLLABUS
FALL 2017– 3 CREDIT HOURS

Class Location: **Westside Church**
 15050 W Dodge Rd., Omaha, NE 68154

Class Meetings: **Class Hours: 6:00 - 9:00 PM Mondays**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Steve J Hicks, D. Min.
Office Phone: 402-292-4546 Cell: 402-297-2693
Office: LifeSpring Church 13904 South 36th St; Bellevue, NE 68123
Email: shicks@lifespringchurch.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An expositional survey of the Pentateuch and Historical Books of the Old Testament.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, the students will

1. Demonstrate their general knowledge of the background and content of the Pentateuch and Historical Books of the Old Testament (Genesis – Esther)
2. Demonstrate their knowledge of certain major motifs, themes, and critical issues in the Pentateuch and Historical Books.
3. Become familiar with certain theological beliefs and covenants based upon the content of the Pentateuch and Historical books.
4. Present a reliable outline of Genesis, Joshua, and 1 & 2 Samuel along with a reasonable justification for the presented outline.
5. The student will develop effective skills in reading, thinking and listening by exploring (individually) and discussing (cooperatively) major themes and messages of the Old Testament within its historical and cultural context (as assessed through participation in group discussion, outlines, quizzes, and exams).

¹ The information provided in this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the course instructor. Please be alert in class and check emails for any announcements of changes.

6. Through class lectures, readings, writing and discussion, the student will comprehend the significance of the Old Testament in shaping today's societies – religiously, historically, economically, politically and socially (as assessed through participation in group discussion, unannounced quizzes, in-class writings and a formal paper).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Weekly Quizzes [20% of the grade]:** Weekly quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class. The quizzes will also be used for recording attendance. The quiz questions will be taken from the assigned Bible reading, text book reading for the week, and the class presentation from the previous week. The lowest grade will be dropped if the student completes all 11 quizzes)
1. **Midterm Exam and Final Exam [40% of final grade; 20% each]:**
The midterm exam will be given on Monday, October 23. The final exam will be given on Monday, Dec 10. Further details on these exams will be announced during the course. These two exams will include each of the course requirements (see below) covered up to the dates of examination, respectively.
2. **Outlines of Genesis, Joshua, and 1 & 2 Samuel, and an Accompanying Justification for each [20% of final grade/ 10% for Genesis and Nehemiah; 10% for 1 & 2 Samuel]** Each student will team up with one or two (3 max to a team) other classmates and together will produce an outline of Genesis, Joshua, and 1 & 2 Samuel. Each outline must be accompanied by a justification for the overall outline. This justification must answer the question, “why did we write or choose this outline?” It is required that in the justification section, students will clearly address why or in what sense their understanding of the Biblical author's book's structure is more plausible, than other possible approaches. There is no limit to the length of the outline itself, but the justification section must be no longer than 500 words for a project. A longer outline will not guarantee a better grade. Quoting scholarly/pastoral authorities will not guarantee a better grade, although the students are encouraged to interact critically with academic books and articles in preparing their outline assignments. The students must include footnotes and a bibliography for the materials they consult. The outline section must be single-spaced, and the justification section must be double-spaced. If students have any questions concerning the nature and/or the format of the outline assignments, they should check directly with the instructor. The outlines will be due according to the course schedule. Specific guidelines for the format will provided by the professor in class. The outlines will be graded according to the following matrix:
 - Team Work and each person's name on the paper: 25%
 - Outline, single spaced: 25%
 - Justification, double-spaced 25%
 - Bibliography at the end of the paper: 25%

All assignments must be free of spelling and grammatical errors.

Since these outlines will be produced as a team effort, late papers will not be accepted.

3. **Reading Report [10% of final grade]:** The student will read a translation of the Old Testament (not a paraphrase): Genesis through Esther. The student will also read *A Survey of the Old Testament* by Andrew Hill and John Walton. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Jan 17, 2009, ISBN 13: 9780310280958.

All weekly reading assignments must be completed *prior to the beginning of each Monday class* in order to maximize the student's learning during the class presentations and in-class discussion. The student will submit his/her reading report at the beginning of class **December 4th**. The reading report is located at the end of this syllabus.

1. **Participation [10% of final grade]:** Active participation in class discussion, based upon a careful reading of the assigned materials, is mandatory for each student taking this course. The following are some sample questions, which the course instructor will use as criteria in evaluating each student's participation in class discussion:
 - 1) Is the student present? The seminary policy requires a student to attend at least 75% of class sessions to receive course credit. In a 15-week course, the maximum allowable absences: 3. If a student needs to make up a class session due to excusable circumstances, he/she can discuss this with the professor.
 - 2) Is the student punctual and attentive during the class session?
 - 3) Is the student articulate and logical in his/her statement(s)?
 - 4) Is the student accurate and directly relevant to the instructor's questions/topics?
 - 5) Does the student's statement give evidence of significant familiarity with the assigned readings?
 - 6) Does the student express himself/herself in a respectful and constructive manner?
 - 7) Is the student's comment to his/her classmates insightful and/or helpful in clarifying the given issues and furthering the discussion of those issues in class?

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

Hill Andrew E., Walton John H.. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009, ISBN 13: 9780310280958.

The Bible (A translation, not a paraphrase).

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Per the MBTS catalog, there is a minimum attendance requirement of 75% of total class sessions. This means that a student may miss only three class sessions. If you are not going to be able to attend a class session, please let the instructor know immediately. If a person registers for the class after the beginning course session, the classes missed will be counted as absences.
2. Students are responsible for reading the material assigned even if the professor does not include it in the presentation.
3. Plagiarism is a serious ethical and legal matter and instances of plagiarism will result in an "F" for the course. The same is true for copying or sharing information during quizzes and exams. Students are to read and abide by the section entitled "Integrity in Seminary Studies" found in the current MBTS Academic Catalog.

2. GRADING:

The grading scale is as follows:

Letter	Number Grade	GPA Point Value
A	100-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	88-89	3.3
B	83-87	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	78-79	2.3
C	73-77	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	68-69	1.3
D	63-67	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

COURSE OUTLINE

Week/Date OT Survey I Fall 2017	Weekly Quiz	Topic(s)	Reading Assignments: Hill and Walton <i>A Survey of the Old Testament</i>	Reading Assignments: The Bible	Reports Due at beginning of class
Week 1 (Aug 21)		Introduction and Approaching the OT			
Week 2 (Aug 28)	Quiz 1	Geography of the OT	Chapters 1 & 2		
Sept 4		No Class Labor Day			
Week 3 (Sept 11)	Quiz 2	Introduction to the Pentateuch	Chapter 3		
Week 4 (Sept 18)	Quiz 3	Genesis	Chapter 4	Genesis	
Week 5 (Sept 25)	Quiz 4	Exodus	Chapter 5	Exodus	Outline of Genesis
Week 6 (Oct 2)	Quiz 5	Leviticus	Chapter 6	Leviticus	
Oct 9 No class		No Class KNCSB Conference/Webster			
Week 7 (Oct 16)	Quiz 6	Numbers	Chapter 7	Numbers	
Week 8 (Oct 23)		Mid Term Exam			
Week 9 (Oct 30)	No Quiz	Deuteronomy	Chapter 8	Deuteronomy	
Week 10 (Nov 6)	Quiz 7	Historical Overview, Introduction to Historical Books, and Joshua	Chapter 9, 10, and 11	Joshua	
Week 11 (Nov 13)	Quiz 8	Judges and Ruth	Chapter 12, 13	Judges and Ruth	Outline of Joshua
Week 12 (Nov 20)	Quiz 9	1 & 2 Samuel	Chapter 14	1 & 2 Samuel	
Week 13 (Nov 27)	Quiz 10	1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles	Chapter 15, 16	1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles	
Week 14 (Dec 4)	Quiz 11	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	Chapter 17, 18	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	Outline of 1 & 2 Samuel Reading Report
Week 15 (Dec 11)		Final Exam			

Note: The Professor may invite guest speakers to present

READING REPORT

Week/Date OT Survey I Fall 2017	Topic(s)	Reading Assignments: Hill and Walton <i>A Survey of the Old Testament</i>	Date Reading Complete	Reading Assignments: The Bible	Date Reading Complete	Reports Due at beginning of class
Week 1 (Aug 21)	Introduction and Approaching the OT					
Week 2 (Aug 28)	Geography of the OT	Chapters 1 & 2				
Sept 4	No Class Labor Day					
Week 3 (Sept 11)	Introduction to the Pentateuch	Chapter 3				
Week 4 (Sept 18)	Genesis	Chapter 4		Genesis		
Week 5 (Sept 25)	Exodus	Chapter 5		Exodus		Outline of Genesis
Week 6 (Oct 2)	Leviticus	Chapter 6		Leviticus		
Oct 9 No Class	No class KNCSB Convention					
Week 7 (Oct 16)	Numbers	Chapter 7		Numbers		
Week 8 (Oct 23)	Midterm Exam					
Week 9 (Oct 30)	Deuteronomy	Chapter 8		Deuteronomy		
Week 10 (Nov 6)	Historical Overview, Introduction to Historical Books, and Joshua	Chapter 9, 10, and 11		Joshua		
Week 11 (Nov 13)	Judges and Ruth	Chapter 12, 13		Judges and Ruth		Outline of Joshua
Week 12 (Nov 20)	1 & 2 Samuel	Chapter 14		1 & 2 Samuel		
Week 13 (Nov 27)	1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles	Chapter 15, 16		1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles		
Week 14 (Dec 5)	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	Chapter 17, 18		Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther		Outline of 1 & 2 Samuel Reading Report
Week 15 (Dec 11)	Final Exam					