

Old Testament Literature

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BEGE 2730, August, 2009
Office hours: T-F 2:00-3:00
or by appointment

Mission of the Bible Department in reference to the Bible Minor

We exist to equip every Cedarville University student with Biblical knowledge, a theological framework, and skills for a lifetime of continuing study; to encourage students to embrace a process of spiritual formation characterized by intentional growth within the context of a Christian community; and to equip students to engage the world in a culturally sensitive, Christ-like manner.

Objectives:

Understand foundational theological concepts as developed through Scripture.

1A Description of the Course

Old Testament Literature gives the student a working overview of God's revelation of Himself and His program in the First Testament. We will give special attention to historical, cultural, literary, and geographical backgrounds and, most importantly, to the unifying theme of each book. Being convinced that the One who created language and literature is also skillful in the use of it, special emphasis will be given to the literary structure, genre, and style of writing. This study traces the hand of God in the history of the Hebrew nation from its origin through the last prophetic voice before the time of Jesus.

2A Objectives of the Course

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- 1B *appreciate* the wisdom of God in communicating both His person and his program through *written* revelation
- 2B *understand* the progress of revelation and *affirm* the way this reveals the unchanging nature of the promises of God
- 3B state a succinct purpose for, and *think his or her way through*, the big idea of each book of the Old Testament; (Thus, she should be able to explain the main idea of any of these books to a friend while home over break and perhaps even a few days beyond that).
- 4B *organize* the historical development of the nation of Israel, in relation to surrounding nations, in proper chronological order and *identify the importance* of the central persons and events;
- 5B *identify the major contribution(s)* of each book to the rest of the Bible.
- 6B describe and *explain the significance* and importance of the major institutions (e.g. tabernacle, priesthood, kingship), individuals (Abraham, Moses, David), dates (1446 B.C., 722 & 586 B.C.) and nations (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon).

3A Requirements

1B *Textbooks:*

- 1C Holy Land Satellite Atlas
- 2C Class notes packet
- 3C Your favorite *translation* of the Bible

2B *Reading*

The reading report (on the last page of this syllabus) lists daily reading and assignments.

This simple report (with just your initials to indicate completed reading) will be turned in at the 2nd & 4th celebrations.

To receive full credit, each reading must have been completed **before** class and the report must be turned in on time.

At the beginning of the semester the reading assignment isn't difficult to meet. After Genesis the rate picks up dramatically. The rule of thumb will be to not spend more than 45 minutes for any given reading assignment. Each reading is 1/3% per day of your final grade. Reading reports will be collected *in class* on the day they are due. Late reports *may* be accepted but will be penalized proportionately, like most assignments, at 10% per weekday day late.

3B *Exams*

- 1C Four objective celebrations will be *enjoyed* during the semester (see reading report & schedule).
- 2C The exams will include material from class lectures and discussions and from multimedia tutorials (if assigned). If you know you have a legitimate conflict please see me several days before the exam so we can make arrangements for a makeup. In the case of a last minute excuse such as sickness please DO NOT call me

the night before or morning of the exam. Simply see me for permission when you make it back to class and then contact Mrs. Pam Bromer, (2nd floor, CBTS-235, ext. 7400) to schedule a makeup exam.

4B *Inductive Study of Esther*

As an interesting finish and capstone exercise of all that we have learned in this class each student will do a specialized inductive Bible study of the book of Esther. Step by step instructions can be found on the class Home page. This will be due later in the semester; the exact date is listed on the Reading Report.

5B *Reaction papers*

Each student will write three short reaction papers in response to our class discussions on wisdom literature. The purpose of these papers is to encourage each person to explore the meaning and application of wisdom literature truths and to articulate them in a personally relevant way. These are not research papers and by definition, since they're *response* papers, can't be done ahead of time. These will happen half way through the semester (see Reading Report for exact date).

6B *Map Study*

The land of Israel is the stage upon which the Old Testament play was performed. If you learn the basic principles of the "stage," you will understand the play better! The *Holy Land Satellite Atlas*, a collection of satellite pictures, is the basis of a required set of "worksheets" taken through Blackboard. Pay careful attention to the due dates of the two map assignments noted on the reading schedule.

7B *Active learning*

Because of the large enrollment of OT Lit classes some students feel as though they are not an important part of the learning process and become passive. In order to meet objectives of this class you will need to be an *active* learner, i.e., one who comes to class, takes careful notes, thinks through the rhetorical questions offered in class and contributes to corporate learning by asking and answering thoughtful questions. *If you believe you may need support in managing the impact of a disability, please contact Marilyn Meyer, coordinator of disability services for students. Faculty rely on Disability Services to verify the need for academic accommodations and to identify reasonable and appropriate accommodation strategies. Examples of disabilities are AD/HD, specific learning disabilities, hearing, vision, health impairment, psychological, orthopedic, and traumatic brain injury.*

8B *Home Page*

Check it out soon (<http://people.cedarville.edu/Employee/millerc/>) or you can search for my website or follow the CedarNet menu system of: Start> CedarNet> Bible> CM_Class_Materials (web page) and then simply bookmark the page.

4A Grading

1B *Percentages and time estimates*

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>	<i>Anticipated hours</i>
Reading	10	24
Four celebrations	60	32
Inductive paper	15	8
Reaction papers	10	4
Map assignments	5	2
Total	100	70

2B *Attendance policy:*

Basically, there is no attendance policy in this class, but let me explain. Studies have shown that most students learn more when they're in class than when they're not, but I always want to treat you as adults who take ownership for their own education. I think you'll learn a lot more if you come to class, and we'll take attendance just to see the correlation between attendance and grades, but there is no penalty for missing (at least that I'll enforce). Therefore, you need not submit excuses of any kind (sickness, sports, other curricular activities). I try to record each day's lecture for those who have missed, and provide PowerPoints and other multimedia helps, but technical glitches often happen, and there are *no guarantees for helping you get the material other than class lectures*. If you miss,

check with a friend to see what you missed. With a large class like this I simply can't personally email or tutor people who are absent. I really want to see your smiling faces each day and build relationships through the classes and very much enjoy having a full class and I think you'll feel the same if you come faithfully.

3B Additional points may be added to an individual's grade at the discretion of the Professor based upon class attendance, class interaction, or attitude.

4B Grading will be assigned on the following scale:

A	= 100-95%
A-	= 94-93
B+	= 92-90
B	= 89-86%
B-	= 85-83
C+	= 82-81
C	= 80-75%
C-	= 74-73
D+	= 72-71
D	= 70-68
D-	= 67-65
F	= 64

Reading Report & Schedule

Date	Pd	Topic	Reading	Name _____	# Readings Missed _____
8-19	1	Orientation, OT Walkthru	Normal	Fast	
8-21	2	Genesis	1-4		<i>Initial</i> if done on time
8-24	3	Genesis	5-11		
8-26	4	Genesis	12-26		
8-28	5	Genesis	27-36		
8-31	6	Genesis, <i>bring Sat Atlas to class</i>	37-50		
9-2	7	Exodus	1-20		
9-4	8	Exodus	21-24	25-40	
9-7		no class (Labor day)			
9-9	9	Law / Covenant Genre	no reading		
9-11	10	Leviticus (<i>Atlas #1-4</i>)	Leviticus		
9-14	11	Celebration #1			
9-16		no class (day of prayer)			
9-18	12	Numbers	Numbers		
9-21	13	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy		
9-23	14	Joshua	1-13		
9-25	15	Joshua (<i>Atlas #5-8</i>)	14-24,		
9-28	16	Judges	Judges		
9-30	17	Ruth	Ruth		
10-2	18	Poetry Genre	no reading		
10-5	19	Job	1-20		
10-7	20	Job	21-42		
10-9	21	<u>Psalms, (<i>Job reaction paper</i>)</u>	1-51 ONLY		Turn in 1 st reading report
10-12	22	Celebration #2			
10-14	23	Psalms	no reading		
10-16					
10-19	24	Wisdom Genre	No reading		
10-21	25	Proverbs	Proverbs		
10-23	26	Ecclesiastes	Ecclesiastes		
10-26	27	Ecclesiastes	No reading		
10-28	28	SoS (<i>Eccles. reaction paper</i>)	SoS		
10-30	29	Prophecy genre, (<i>SOS rp</i>)	No reading		
11-2	30	Jonah / Amos	Jonah / Amos		
11-4	31	Hosea (<i>Esther prep due</i>)	Hosea		
11-6	32	Isaiah	1-12; 36-66	13-35	
11-9	<u>33</u>	<u>1-2 Samuel</u>		1-2 Samuel	
11-11	34	Micah/Nahum/Zephaniah	Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah		
11-13	35	Joel/Habakkuk/Obadiah	Joel/Habakkuk/Obadiah		
11-16	36	Kings, Chronicles		<i>Kings, Chronicles</i>	
11-18	37	Celebration #3			
11-20		no class			
11-23	38	Jeremiah/Lamentations	Jer. 29-33	1-28, 34-52	
11-25	39	Daniel	Daniel		
11-27		Thanksgiving break			
11-30		Thanksgiving break			
12-2	40	Daniel / Ezekiel		<i>Ezekiel</i>	
12-4	41	Haggai/Zechariah / Esther	Haggai, Zechariah		Turn in 2 nd reading report
12-7	42	Esther	No reading		
12-9		9:00 final exam			
12-11		10:30 final exam			