



BIBL 2202 – Story of the Old Testament

Spring Term 2016 (March 28-June 10)

MW 4:00-5:15pm

Instructor: W. Gregg Strawn, MS

Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description:

This course explores God's story from creation through Israel's return from exile and looks forward towards God's future for humanity. It will consider essential scriptures concerning God's love, plan, and promises as revealed in the Old Testament as well as principles for interpreting these scriptures.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify the location of various Old Testament cities, countries and geographical features.
2. Students will be able to describe different styles of literature in the Old Testament and how that impacts interpretation.
3. *In support of the University Learning Outcome of Foundational Knowledge:* Students will be able to describe the basic content of God's story with His creation as revealed in the Old Testament.
4. Students will be able to identify the major themes (God's steadfast love declared through Creation, Exodus, Covenant, Law, Land and Exile); and time periods of the Old Testament (Beginnings, Patriarchal Age, Egyptian Bondage, Wilderness Wanderings, Conquest of Canaan, Judges, United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Judah alone, Babylonian Exile, Restoration of Jerusalem.)
5. *In support of the University Learning Outcomes of both Active Faith and Personal, Social and Global Stewardship:* Students will have the opportunity to understand their role in God's continuing story as they read much of the Old Testament and learn of God's steadfast love.

Required Text: (Students should have the text with them for every class meeting)

ESV Study Bible, Crossway, 2008. **ISBN-13:** 978-1-4335-0241-5

Course Requirements

1. Attendance & Participation Policy (10%):

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in discussions, debates, and/or other activities. Excellent participation requires near-perfect attendance and a demonstrated knowledge of assigned daily readings. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction in the final class grade as well as a zero on the quiz for that day. Excused absences include genuine sickness, University related absences (sports, performances, etc.), and genuine emergencies. For an absence to be excused a written note explaining the reason of the absence must be turned in within one week of the absence.

2. Quizzes (15%):

Quizzes, covering assigned readings, will be given at the beginning of most class meetings. These will assess your retention of the reading material and ensure thoughtful comments during the class time. The quizzes will be multiple-choice, short answer, and T/F.

3. Memory Work (5%):

Students will be expected to know key verses as well as the Books of the Old Testament. Memorization will be evaluated on various quizzes as well as the Final Exam.

4. In support of the University Learning Outcome of Effective Communication:

4a. Old Testament Reaction Essay (25%):

Students will write an essay that explores a specific story of the Old Testament and how it relates to one of the major themes of the OT and God's overall story. The essay must be a minimum of 5 full pages, double-spaced, and typed in a 12 point standard font and should use standard margins. The essay must not exceed 8 full pages. Possible topics and additional guidelines will be handed out in class.

OR

4b. Old Testament Reaction Multi-Media Presentation (25%):

Students will prepare a presentation containing some combination of drama, art, music, and/or visual presentation of information (Poster, Power Point, Banner) that explores a specific story of the Old Testament and how it relates to one of the major themes of the OT and God's overall story. The project will be presented to the full class at a time concurrent with the date the essay is due. Possible formats and length must be approved by the Instructor prior to beginning the project.

5. Exams (45%)

The two exams will cover the readings, lectures, and class discussion. They will be multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay. The Mid-Term is worth 20% of the course grade. The final exam will be comprehensive and is worth 25% of the course grade. Students must bring a blue essay book to the exams.

Grading Scale:

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59 and below

Course Policies

1. Academic Honesty Policy:

Academic honesty is expected of all students. Any form of cheating, copying, or dishonesty is unacceptable. These include: helping another student on an exam or quiz, using unauthorized aids during exams and quizzes (including notes, phones, or other electronic aids), falsely claiming authorship on an assignment, and plagiarizing material. Plagiarism is the use of another's words and/or ideas without giving the author the credit. If you have questions about this, go to the following webpage for a brief description with examples: www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml. Academic dishonesty will result in a "0" for the assignment and following the process outlined in the current OC academic catalog.

2. Late Work Policy: Assignments will be considered late if not turned in to me at the beginning of class on the day it is due. The grade for assignments that are late will be reduced by 5% (from the grade the effort would have earned) for each day that it is late. Work that is more than 7 days late will not be accepted for any points.

Exams: The opportunity to make up exams will not be granted automatically and are only available at my discretion. Make-up exams may be entirely essay. The student should make every effort to complete the exam as quickly as possible following an absence. If the make-up exam is not completed within the time specified by the instructor following the student's return, the student will receive a "0" for the exam. There are two legitimate reasons for missing an exam: extreme illness and urgent personal emergency. Both must be verified by an outside source (i.e. written doctor note or funeral program). Please note that travel arrangements for holidays, attending weddings or family gatherings, or attending performances are *not* acceptable reasons for missing an exam.

3. Classroom and Electronic Etiquette Policy:

Students are expected to be on time to class and actively engaged to create a healthy learning environment. I view the following as being disrespectful to both me and your fellow students.

- a. Tardiness is disruptive and reduces your time for completing, or even taking the quiz.
- b. Cell phones are to be turned off. Texting and calls destroy a healthy learning environment.
- c. Laptops can be used for note-taking but NOT for surfing the web, email, completing assignments, or other distracting activities.
- d. Engaging in anything the instructor views as disrespectful or distracting during class will negatively impact your participation grade. You may also be publicly confronted and/or asked to leave class.
- e. The instructor comes to teaching from an "old school" paradigm, including a high level of class control. While such strictness may seem unusual to a contemporary student, it will be the instructor's common stance.

4. Inclement Weather Policy:

In the event of snow, ice or other weather issues, or if the instructor is ill; the instructor may decide to cancel class for the day. Efforts will be made to disseminate that information to the

students as soon as the decision is made. In addition, the instructor will attempt to include primary lecture insights missed due to the cancellation in following lectures. In case of cancellation, the students may be requested to stay an extra 10-15 minutes at a subsequent class or to schedule another class meeting. The instructor realizes that students may have conflicts during that extra class time. The student should secure notes from another student if they are not present for the extra lecture and assume the information may be part of any future test.

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA/504) Statement/Students with Disabilities:

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Katy Roybal ([405.425.1876](tel:405.425.1876)) before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, I will work with you, with Mrs. Roybal, and with the Oklahoma Christian University Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform well in the course.

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