

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Munster Bible College, Cork, Ireland — January 19-24, 2015

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Course Description

A survey of the Old Testament, in English Bible, including an exposure to relevant introductory issues, an examination of literary genres, and application to life and ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able:

1. To demonstrate an understanding of each book's place, purpose, and importance in the Old Testament by:
 - a. Recalling a concise summary statement of each book's content and meaning.
 - b. Summarizing the major contribution(s) of each book to the developing revelation of God in the Old Testament.
 - c. Understanding how each book's message is developed through its literary structure.
 - d. Recognizing the progress of revelation and how this reveals the unchanging nature of the promises of God.
2. To demonstrate an understanding of the history of Israel by:
 - a. Identifying the relationship between Israel's development and her ANE environment.
 - b. Identifying the importance and function(s) of the central person, events, and institutions of biblical Israel.
3. To incorporate the Old Testament into his/her spiritual formation by:
 - a. Making contextually appropriate applications of key Old Testament texts.
 - b. Recognizing the importance of understanding the Old Testament for studying and applying the New Testament.

Course Requirements

Old Testament Readings (OTR)

The foundation of everything that will occur in this course is the time you will spend reading from the Old Testament. Without sufficient time in the text itself, class lectures, discussions and outside readings will be ineffective. Students should read the assigned portions and submit a reading report via email to the professor by Mar 31, 2015.

Course Text Readings (Motyer)

Required reading from the course text and recommended readings from the recommended supplemental text will be indicated in the schedule. NOTE: Only material from the required text will be included in the exams. These reading should be completed prior to the class in which they will be discussed. A reading report will be submitted to the professor via email by Feb 15, 2015.

Reserve Readings and Interactions (RR&I)

Students will engage a variety of articles in order to begin to engage the larger field of Old Testament studies. Each reading will be accompanied by a guide and an assignment. The assignments will be emailed to the professor by March 31, 2015.

Exam

One examination will be given over the course of the semester. The exam will include material from class discussions, lectures, and required reading assignments. The exam will be taken on Moodle. Timing and instructions for the exam will be discussed in class.

OT Application Paper

Students will apply principles and content from one of the reserve readings to their particular life and ministry contexts. This assignment will be 1,000-2,000 words in length. Details will be given in class. This assignment will be due Mar 31, 2015.

Course Texts

Required Texts

Bible - Any standard translation (not a paraphrase) e.g. NIV, NASB, ESV, HCSB, etc.
Motyer, Alec. *Roots: Let the Old Testament Speak*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2010. ISBN: 1845505069

Recommended Texts

Dumbrell, William J. *The Faith of Israel: A Theological Survey of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. ISBN: 080102532X
House, Paul R. and Eric Mitchell. *Old Testament Survey*. 2nd ed. Nashville: B&H, 2007. ISBN: 0805440364

Grading

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Percent of Course Grade</i>
Old Testament and Course Text Readings	30%
Reserve Readings and Interactions	30%
Exam	30%
OT Application Paper	10%

Tentative Schedule (Revisions are likely and will be communicated in class and electronically.)

Day	Topic(s)	OTR	Motyer	RR&I
Monday			13-48	
	Course Intro			
	Introduction to the OT			
	<i>Narrative Literature</i>			
Tuesday			49-90	Sprinkle Block
	The Pentateuch	Gen 1-22; 24-33; 45-50 Exod 3-6; 12-15; 19-24; 32-34 Lev 1-7; 16; 23; 25 Num 1-14; 22-25; 27; 36 Deut 1-10; 27-34		
Wednesday			91-134	
	<i>Historical Literature</i>			
	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	Josh 1-12; 23-34; Judg 1-16; Ruth 1-4		
Thursday				Galil Estes
	Samuel - Kings	1 Sam 1-31 2 Sam 1-12 1 Kgs 1-12; 17-22 2 Kgs 1-11; 17-25		
	<i>Poetic and Wisdom Literature</i>			
Friday			135-222	Chisholm
	Psalms	Pss 1-72		
	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Job	Prov 1-9; 31; Eccl 1-12; Song 1-8; Job 1-2; 29-31; 38-42		
	<i>Prophetic Literature</i>			
	Amos, Hosea	Amos 1-9; Hos 1-4; 8		
	Isaiah, Micah	Isa 1-12; 36-39; 40-53; 56-66		
Saturday			223-390	House Luc
	Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah	Jon -14; Nah 1-3; Hab 1-3; Zeph 1-3		
	Jeremiah, Obadiah, Ezekiel, Daniel	Jer 1-6; 18-19; 23-45; 46-52 Oba 1; Ezek 8-11; 18-24; 33-32; 40-48; Dan 1-12		
	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Chronicles	1 Chr 10-29; 2 Chr 1-9; 26-36; Ezra 1-10; Neh 1-13; Esther 1-10		
	Haggai, Zechariah	Hag 1-2; Zech 1-14		
	Malachi, Joel	Mal 1-4; Joel 1-3		

Reserve Readings Bibliography

- Block, Daniel I. "How Many Is God? An Investigation into the Meaning of Deuteronomy 6:4-5." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 47 (2004): 193-212. Accessible online: http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/47/47-2/47-2-pp193-212_JETS.pdf
- Chisholm, Robert. "When Prophecy Appears to Fail, Check Your Hermeneutic." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 53.3 (2010): 561-77. Accessible online: http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/53/53-3/Chisholm_JETS_53-3_pp_561-577.pdf
- Estes, Daniel J. "The Hermeneutics of Biblical Lyric Poetry." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 152 (1995): 413-430. Accessible online: http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_lyric_estes.html
- Galil, Gershon. "The Message of the Book of Kings in Relation to Deuteronomy and Jeremiah." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 158 (2001): 406-14. Accessible online: http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_kings_galil.html
- House, Paul. "Investing in the Ruins: Jeremiah and Theological Vocation." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 56 (2013): 5-15. Accessible online: http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/56/56-1/JETS_56-1_5-15_House.pdf
- Luc, Alex. "A Theology of Ezekiel: God's Name and Israel's History." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 26 (1983): 137-143. Accessible online: http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/26/26-2/26-2-pp137-143_JETS.pdf
- Sprinkle, Joe M. "Law and Narrative in Exodus 19-24." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 47 (2004): 235-52. Accessible online: http://www.etsjets.org/files/JETS-PDFs/47/47-2/47-2-pp235-252_JETS.pdf