

BIB 205 Old Testament Survey
Ohio Valley University
(2 semester hrs. credit)

Fall 2009
MW 1:00-1:50
Room 63

Joe Spivy, Instructor
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Students are encouraged to contact the instructor if they have any questions about the course content, assignments, or simply wish to discuss related concepts and life. My plans are to be in my office (Campus Ministry Office, basement) on Mondays from 10:30 – 3:00 with breaks for lunch and class. Feel free to check the office at other times. You may also call and make an appointment to meet me at my church office located at 373 Timberline Parkway (off Rosemar Road, before Grand Central Avenue).

You can check online at www.grandcentralchurch.com for assignments, a copy of the syllabus, work sheets, etc. The link for the page will be on the front page, lower right hand corner (it is a picture of a scroll). Do not allow problems to persist until they become a crisis. Worksheets and related readings should be completed prior to your arrival for the lecture.

Old Testament Wisdom Literature constitutes a rich source of insight for life based on the observations of the ancients as they were direct to write by the hand of God (call "inspiration"). Please read the proverb below and then we'll discuss how it applies to your situation as a student.

***A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-
And poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man***
~ Proverbs 6:10-11

Course Description

This course will provide the student with an introduction to the content of the Old Testament. As a survey course it is not meant to be exhaustive nor will we be allowed to go into great depth. Such a study will give attention to geographic, historic, and cultural factors in the development of the Old Testament as it reflects the development of the community of Israel. A basic understanding of the various literary genres found in the Old Testament, an awareness of the major characters studied, and an emphasis on the Old Testament as being theological in nature will aid the student in the exploration of the text.

Ultimately, as a believer, my bias in the class will be studying the text within a Christian framework. Throughout the course students will be reminded that the "scriptures" spoken of and quoted throughout the New Testament are primarily the text of the Old Testament.

Course Objectives

1. To provide a basic foundation for reading, and develop an understanding of, the Old Testament
 - a. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the geography of the Old Testament
 - b. Memorize the names of the Old Testament books (in canonical order)
 - c. Identify key individuals and discuss their contribution to the story of the Old Testament
 - d. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the historical events of the Old Testament and how they relate to the development of Israel and her expectations for the future
 - e. Become acquainted with the various kinds (i.e., genres) of literature in the Old Testament and demonstrate an awareness of how this influences interpretation
2. To develop an understanding of the basic content and themes of each book of the Old Testament
3. To develop a basic understanding of the formation of the Old Testament
4. To develop a greater appreciation of the contemporary relevance of the Old Testament
5. To develop an understanding of the Christian view of the Old Testament

Course Requirements

Textbook(s)

The NIV Study Bible (ISBN:0310923077). This is the preferred text for this class. There will be assignments which will be specific to this reference work. The NIV Study Bible introductions to the books of the Old (and New) Testament may be found online at <http://www.biblica.com/niv/studybible>.

Alternate text (some may already have purchased this text; if so, you do not have to secure *The NIV Study Bible*:

ESV Study Bible (ISBN: 1433502410). If the ESV Study Bible is used, the student is responsible for the material referenced in class and assignments which is from *The NIV Study Bible*.

General Guidelines for Assignments

1. Due dates for assignment are usually listed in the syllabi supplement/calendar. Always check these before asking the instructor. An assignment is considered to be on-time when:
 - a. The instructor receives a hardcopy (in-hand) on the day assigned
 - b. A readable copy is attached to an email *received* prior to midnight of the due date
2. Late assignments are deducted -5 points the first day; -2 points per day thereafter until the final accepted date; papers received after the "final acceptance date" will be considered as "extra credit" and you will receive a "0" for the assignment
3. All assignments, except for artwork, are to be printed—no handwritten work will be accepted.
4. Essays are to include the following elements:
 - a. A title page (see attached)
 - b. Margins are to be one inch all around (top, bottom, left, and right)
 - c. Approved fonts are Times New Roman (11 pt), Ariel (11 pt), or Courier New (10 pt)
 - d. Double spaced
 - e. If the assignment calls for references, they are to be included in footnotes and a bibliography (see attached examples)

Assignments

1. A 500 word personal essay is due Monday, August 31. You are to address one of the three topics listed below.
 - a. What I know about the Old Testament
 - b. What I know about the Bible
 - c. What I believe about the Bible and/or Christianity
2. Assigned readings are listed in the syllabus supplement/calendar.
 - a. Readings are to be completed prior to your arrival to the classroom
 - b. Reading guides, when provided, are to be completed prior to your arrival to the classroom
 - c. You may be asked to submit your reading guide at the beginning of a class
3. A class notebook (due dates in "e." below) which is to include:
 - a. All class notes and materials received in-class
 - b. All reading and study guides, completed
 - c. All returned assignments and tests
 - d. A pertinent "question of the month" related to the material covered
 - e. Due Dates: Sept 23, Oct 21, Nov 18, Date of Final Test (TBD)

4. Research Paper, due Wednesday, Oct 7 (Nov 18)
 - a. Paper is to focus on a significant Old Testament individual, event, place, or edifice; a list of possible topics can be found in the syllabus supplement (see attached) or other topics can be arranged with the approval of the instructor
 - b. In addition to the general guidelines found above, a well-written research project will include a brief introduction to the subject, relevant biblical references, an explanation of the subject's place within the story of the Old Testament, and how this aids in an understanding of Christianity
 - c. Paper is to be three to five pages in length (at least three full pages)
 - d. The minimum number of references is four; NOTE: references to specific scriptures and to notes from a Study Bible do NOT count in fulfilling this requirement
5. General Interest Project, due Wednesday, Dec 2 (Dec 9); choose from choices below:
 - a. Write an essay of two to three pages, following the general parameters found for a Research Paper (#4, above)
 - b. Create an Old Testament board/computer game (100 Questions & Answers; all aspects of the game will be graded)
 - c. Create an Old Testament work of art; included with the work is to be a one to two page explanation of what the work depicts
 - d. Volunteer and work in a local (Wood/Washington County) ministry to the poor and/or disadvantaged for a minimum of eight (8) hours; a verification statement from a supervisor and a one page explanation of how this relates to the message of the Old Testament
 - e. Be the lead teacher for a Bible Class (any age) for at least six sessions; provide examples of the material used and a two page explanation of the material covered

Question of the Month

1. Your class notebook is to include a printed copy of a question raised by the readings, lecture, or class discussion for each month (September, October, November).
2. One question is to be on single sheet titled "Question of the Month for [name of month]" and placed within the context of that month's notes and work (see attached example)
3. The instructor may ask you for your question on any given day, so be prepared

Tests:

1. The Pre-Test has no bearing on your grade
2. There will be at least three Quizzes; you will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz grade
3. A Mid-Term Test
4. A Final

Course Grading

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|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| 1. Personal Essay | 50 | (all essays that follow the guidelines will receive full credit) |
| 2. Class Participation | 100 | (attendance + participation) |
| 3. Notebook | 150 | (notes, reading guides, question of the month, etc.) |
| 4. Research Project | 150 | (late projects are better than no project) |
| 5. General Interest Project | 100 | |
| 6. Quizzes | 200 | |
| 7. Mid-Term | 100 | |
| 8. Final Exam | 150 | |

Attendance Policy

Students are allowed 4 absences from class; absences beyond the four allowed will result in the deduction of 20 points for each absence; three tardy occurrences count as one absence; students who are absent for more than 25% of class sessions will be automatically dropped with a failing grade; you know the class schedule, adjust your calendar to accommodate this class time (exceptions are made for hospital stays and a death in the family)

Appropriate and inappropriate actions in class

No cell phones, iPods, etc. are to be used during class (cell phones should be turned off or put on silent); laptops are to be used exclusively for taking notes; if food and drink are brought into the classroom you are responsible for clean up; students are expected to be on time, focus on the class lecture, discussion, etc. and stay for the duration of the class

ADA Policy:

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify the Office of the Provost before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting; after your disability has been verified, notify your instructor who will work with you and the Office of the Provost to insure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in the course

Academic Integrity Policy

Because Ohio Valley University expects students to follow the highest standards of honorable conduct in all areas of life, it is essential that students maintain high standards of academic integrity; cheating, plagiarizing (whether intentionally misrepresenting another's work as one's own or failing to follow appropriate requirements of documentation), and helping others cheat or plagiarize violates all these standards; students who engage in these behaviors will face appropriate consequences, which could include failing the assignment in question, failing the course, or being dismissed from the University; a student who believes that he or she is being treated unjustly may file for an appeal with the Provost; the student must initiate the appeal within 48 hours after receiving notification of the consequence; appeal procedures are available in the office of the Provost

Contingencies

This syllabus reflects the instructor's intentions regarding this course; the instructor has the right and privilege to make adjustments in assignments and scheduling as deemed necessary

Extra Credit

With the prior approval of the instructor, students may do one extra credit project which follows the guidelines of a "General Interest Project"

Title Page Format Example

2 inches from top
WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIANITY

5 single spaces; type on 6th line

A Personal Essay
Presented to Joe Spivy
Ohio Valley University
Vienna, West Virginia

7 single spaces; type on 8th line

As a Requirement in
Course BIB 205
Old Testament Survey

7 single spaces; type on 8th line

By
I. B. Smart
August 31, 2009

Footnote Format Example

The Introduction to *The Church of Christ: A biblical ecclesiology for today* begins with the declaration, "God gave a person, then a proclamation, and then a people. This is the historical and theological order."¹ This construct, in a work described by one reviewer as an "outstanding volume on the church overall,"² provides a theological framework in which to examine the work and words of Jesus Christ in his earthly ministry as a model for his followers.

Matthew's account of Jesus' call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him and become "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18-22) is followed by his threefold formulation of the work of Jesus in Matthew 4:23.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

In Matthew 5:1 - 9:34 a "representative sampling"³ of Jesus' teaching, preaching, and healing is provided with the next verse

¹ Everett Ferguson, *The Church of Christ: A biblical ecclesiology for today* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996), xvii.

² William R. Baker, Review of *The Church of Christ: A biblical ecclesiology for today*, by Everett Ferguson, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 42, 2 (June 1999), 344, available through WilsonSeclect through OCLC FirstSearch <http://firstsearch.oclc.org> (accessed Feb 24, 2006).

³ Donald Hagner, *Matthew 1-13*, Word Biblical Commentary 33A (Dallas: Word, 1993), 259.

Bibliography Format Example

Bibliography

- Baker, William R. "Review of *The Church of Christ: A biblical ecclesiology for today*, by Everett Ferguson." Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, 42:2 (June 1999): 344. Available from WilsonSelect through OCLC Firstsearch <http://firstsearch.oclc.org> (accessed Feb. 24, 2006).
- Barrett, C. K. A Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians. Harpers New Testament Commentaries, ed. Henry Chadwick. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.
- Bruce, F. F. 1 and 2 Corinthians. New Century Bible, ed. Matthew Black. Greenwood, SC: Attic Press, 1971.
- Collins, Raymond F. First Corinthians. Sacra Pagina Series vol. 7. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1999.
- Ferguson, Everett. The Church of Christ: A biblical ecclesiology for today. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Gibbs, Jeffrey A. "An Exegetical Case for Close(d) Communion: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34". Concordia Journal 21 (April 1995), 148-63.
- Hagner, Donald. Matthew 1-13. Word Biblical Commentary vol. 33A. Dallas: Word, 1993.

Possible Topics for Research Paper

Significant individual from the Old Testament:

Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abram/Abraham, Sarai/Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, Reuben, Judah, Joseph, Pharaoh, Moses, Aaron, Jethro, Nadab, Abihu, Caleb, Joshua, Rahab, Achan, Samson, Deborah, Gideon, Samuel, Saul, David, Abigail, Michal, Jonathan, Goliath, Abner, Joab, Absalom, Bathsheba, Nathan, Solomon...

Significant event or period of time recorded in the Old Testament:

Creation, Fall, Flood, Tower of Babel, Famine, Egyptian Captivity, Exodus, Wilderness Wandering, Conquest of Canaan, Fall of the Walls of Jericho, Anointing of David, Saul's Defeat, Division of Israel, Fall of Israel, Fall of Jerusalem, Nehemiah's Return...

Significant place or location in the Old Testament:

Garden of Eden, Promised Land, Jericho, Kadesh, Cities of Refuge, Jerusalem, Bethel, Dan, Babylon

Significant edifice or article the Old Testament:

Ark, Tabernacle, Aaron's Staff, Solomon's Temple, Ark of the Covenant, Book of the Law

You might also wish to address a significant command, covenant, sacrifice, feast, or prophesy found in the Old Testament

Sample Format for Question of the Month

Question of the Month: October

King David seems to constantly be at odds with his Captain, Joab. Why would David allow such an evil man, who often goes against David's wishes (murder of Abner; 2 Samuel 3:17-21 and 3:26-27), defies his orders (execution of Absalom; 2 Samuel 18:5 and 18:10-15), and countermands his orders (killing Amasa whom David had appointed to replace Joab; 2 Samuel 19:13 and 2 Samuel 20:4-10)?