

Course Prospectus

For THL 211 Old Testament Survey I

Overview

We are witnessing a resurgent interest in religion and prophecies about the future. Various reports from science and archeology claim to support or contradict the Bible. This course will give you an overview of the Old Testament that will cover important issues that relate the Bible to history and show the relationship of ancient Bible prophecies to world events making news today.

Course catalog description for this course

This course deals with the Law and the Former Prophets focusing on background, content, structure, geography, teachings, and basic meaning of each book and outstanding people and events. Emphasis is on the Hebrew Scriptures as the background and foundation for understanding the New Testament. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the author, background, theme, and content of each book.

Prerequisites and corequisites

There are no Prerequisites or Corequisites for this course.

Course credit

Three (3) semester hours.

Instructional objectives

On successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the author, background, theme and content of each book.
2. Discuss important concepts contained in each book that relate to understanding history and the development of human knowledge.
3. Identify and discuss key points of books that are subject criticism.

Students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities have a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students having a disability requiring an accommodation should inform the instructor through the "Contact Instructor" link on the course home page.

Technology access

This course requires web access and the student has to have an established e-mail account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. One can download the reader free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Course evaluation

Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by e-mail is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. At the end of the course students have the opportunity of assessing the course. We want to make e-learning courses as effective as we can. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student's experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We

appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners.

Textbooks

Textbooks for this course are:

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998;

and

The Bible – preferably the New King James version (also consult other translations)

These may be ordered through the University Bookstore.

The textbooks used in this course are commercial publications. They represent the views and ideas of their authors, editors, and publishers. Living University does not endorse these texts nor vouch for their accuracy. We simply employ them in helping you master the content of the course.

Recommended Reference Books

Some additional reference books may be helpful for this course:

Halley's Bible Handbook, Henry H. Halley

Holman Bible Handbook, David s. Dockery (general editor)

Unger's Bible Handbook

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary

All the Men of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer

All the Women of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer

Recommended Booklets

The Real God: Proofs and Promises (LCG)

The Bible: Fact or Fiction (LCG)

Icebreaker assignment

To begin this course, students must complete an icebreaker assignment to introduce themselves to their classmates through the posting of a short autobiography on the course Forum. The icebreaker assignment is due by the **eighth day** of the semester. Students post their biographies as a reply to the "Bios" topic on the course forum. A student can earn 25 bonus points in this course by doing so "on time." As there are people from all over the world enrolled in this course each autobiography will help all know, understand and appreciate each other. Students are to read and comment on each other's bios throughout the first week of class.

Quizzes and examinations

Each assignment has an associated online Drill and Practice Quiz. These range from 10-20 questions. They are open book quizzes and there is not time limit. A quiz should help you master the material in the assignment. It also provides you with practice in text taking. The **three exams** discussed below will draw multiple questions from quizzes. Therefore, it is important for you to understand and commit the quiz material to memory.

On the other hand, examinations are timed, closed book tests to be taken online. They are not proctored. As Living University students do not cheat, steal or lie, we rely on our students' integrity during these examinations.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined based on the number of points you have earned over the semester as follows:

Drill & Practice Quizzes (300 points)
Writing Assignments (300 points)
Final Essay (100 points)
Exam 1 (100 points)
Exam 2 (100 points)
Exam 3 (100 points)
Total 1,000 points

By getting your autobiography posted on time you can earn **25 bonus points**. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing. Grades are assigned in the traditional American style of A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning we believe that mastery of the subject is achieved when a student can demonstrate that they have achieved 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want you to earn at least 800 points in this course. If you do not do so then you have not developed the mastery we would like you to have. We want this course to be competency-based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades (if you don't know what this means, don't worry about it). If you receive a D or below you might want to take the course again. Mastery of the material is what your goal should be.

Grades are assigned as follows:

A = 900 – 1000 points
B = 800 – 900 points
C = 700 – 800 points
D = 600 – 700 points
F = below 600 points

Academic irregularity

Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another's ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were the writer's own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned.

In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members may refuse to grade such papers, completely or in part, or examinations, and to record each of them as a failure.

If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

1. Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
2. Place the student on academic probation; and/or
3. Dismiss the student from the University.

Getting Started

At a minimum you need a bible that you can read and mark. Also, make sure you are familiar with navigating through this outline course system.

Your **very first assignment** is the icebreaker bonus assignment (an autobiography) by which you can introduce yourself to your professor and classmates using the course forum. By doing so “on

time” you can earn 25 bonus points in this course. Simply tell the class about yourself and your goals (**in about 1 page**). This is not a place for a profession of faith, or the details of your conversion experience of problems you have had in various churches or stages of life, as that information is more of a private nature. Here you inform your classmates what you would like them to know about you. As we have people from all over the world enrolled in this course each autobiography will help us know and appreciate each other.

Overview of Assignments

Assignment 1	Genesis 1-11	
Assignment 2	Genesis 12-50	
Assignment 3	Exodus	
Assignment 4	Leviticus	
Assignment 5	Numbers	
Assignment 6	Deuteronomy	Exam 1
Assignment 7	Joshua	
Assignment 8	Judges / Ruth	
Assignment 9	I & II Samuel	
Assignment 10	I & II Kings	
Assignment 11	I & II Chronicles	Exam 2
Assignment 12	Ezra / Nehemiah	
Assignment 13	Esther / Job	
Assignment 14	Psalms	
Assignment 15	Proverbs	Exam 3