Course Prospectus
For THL 211 Old Testament Survey I

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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 relating the Bible to history and showing the relationship of ancient Bible prophecies to world events making news today. The order of the books covered in this class will be that of the Hebrew Bible rather than the English ordering.

Course description
This course is an introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures following the order set out in the Tanakh. The course focuses upon the Torah, the Former Prophets (historical books) and the Major Prophets (Isaiah-Ezekiel). Emphasis is upon the background, content, structure, geography, teachings, and basic meaning of each book as well as outstanding people and events. 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 to criticism.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR
The instructor of record for this course is Mr. Peter G. Nathan. To contact him on course details and issues please use email in the e-learning system (Populi) or pnathan@livinguniv.com. His telephone number is 704-708-2295.

Peter Nathan served as a professor in Theology for seven years at Ambassador College/University. As a faculty member in 1990, he led a group of students to participate in the Tel Mozan Expedition, Syria, which was directed by Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati. His studies at Southern Methodist University focused largely on Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis. Most recently he has completed a Master’s program at University of Cambridge focusing on Jewish Christian relations, with an emphasis on early Church history and the “Parting of the Ways.”

Subsequent to the time at Ambassador University, he focused on education of young adults within church communities, providing seminars in Biblical Studies to help lay a foundation for future roles in the ministry. In addition, he has written and published numerous articles on the identity of the early church, which carefully examined and challenged many of the commonly held assumptions relating to that era of time. The place and use of the Dead Sea Scrolls in understanding the early church environment has been a special interest.
Ordained to the ministry of the Church of God in 1973, he has pastored churches in diverse parts of the world and has been deeply involved in ministry to the developing world. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Schools of Oriental Research and the International Patristics Society. As well as serving on the Living University Administrative Council, Mr. Nathan serves as Vice Chair of the university's Learning Resources Committee.

**COURSE PROTOCOLS**

**Technology access**
This course requires that students have web access and an established email 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](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html) which can then be installed and used to access PDF documents on this site.

**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 by email (on the “Course Info” page, click on the instructor’s name and then select “Send E-mail”).

**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 Icebreaker 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.

**Attendance in this online course**
One of the most vital aspects of the college and university experience is attendance and punctuality in the learning environment. Regularity of attendance is necessary to maintain a satisfactory academic record and for students to derive maximum benefit from a course, whether in an online course or in an on-campus course. We have noticed that students who fall behind in their coursework typically drop out. Therefore, we highly encourage you to complete your assignments on time, as we want you to succeed. Remember Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”

Please be aware that all students who fall behind in an online course and do not complete twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total assignments and other required activities for a course, on or before “Last day to withdraw from a course” as set forth in the University Academic Calendar, will receive a grade of “W” for it. After that date, the grade will be a “WF” and counted in a student’s GPA. Moreover, an instructor may drop a student from a course whenever the instructor concludes that a student’s class attendance or punctuality endangers the student’s success or places other students at risk.

**Withdrawing from or dropping this course**
It is the responsibility of a student to drop a course if he or she cannot meet the requirements of the course. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing from it risks receiving a punitive grade for that course. A student who finds it necessary to drop a course after the Late Registration (Drop/Add) Period must notify the Registrar's Office in writing. Please note the following:

- If a student drops a course on or before the “Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade penalty” as published in the University Academic Calendar, even if his or her work is not of a passing grade, then a “W” is recorded.
• If a course is dropped after that date, but before the last 21 calendar days of the semester, then the instructor determines the grade. The faculty member will at this time record a grade of “W” if passing (not computed in GPA) or “WF” if failing (computed in GPA).
• Students who drop a course, yet remain in one or more other courses during the last 18 calendar days of the semester, will receive a grade of “WF.”
• Students who completely withdraw from the University at any time during the semester may be given a grade of “W” on all courses.

If students do not initiate the withdrawal process, the instructor is required to initiate the administrative process and to record a grade of “W” or “WF” for the course, depending on the date the faculty member drops the student from the course. Students who register for a course as an audit, but then withdraw, will be assigned a grade of “W” for the course.

Study tips
Distance learning emphasizes self-motivation. Your instructor functions as a facilitator with you as the driving force in mastering course content. Do not put off completing your readings and assignments. While there are many different learning styles the following strategy should serve the needs of most students.

• Look over assigned readings.
• Read the assigned readings making notes before viewing the assigned lecture.
• Define terms in the lesson. The exams will specifically test basic terminology. Develop your biblical and theology vocabulary as you proceed lesson by lesson.
• As you view lectures complete your notes.
• Participate in the lesson discussion forum topic.
• Complete your answers for the writing assignment.
• Each week review your notes, geographical terms and locations, and the words you defined.
• If you have a question, ask. Questions should arise in the teaching-learning process. By bringing questions to our attention you not only acquire assistance but you also maintain the interaction necessary in higher education. To submit a question just click on the instructor’s name on the course “Info” page and send your question by email through the Populi system

Course evaluation
Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by email 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 to assess 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. Participation in this course evaluation is worth 10 bonus points toward your final grade.

TEXTBOOKS
Textbooks for this course are:

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


Download from the Information Page for this class a PDF of the JPS 1917 English Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. The order of the books in this translation is the order that will be followed in this class.

Recommended Reference Books
Some additional reference books may be helpful for this course:

- *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*, John H. Walton
- *Holman Bible Handbook*, David S. Dockery (general editor)
- *The New Unger’s Bible Handbook*
- *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*
- *All the Men of the Bible*, Herbert Lockyer
- *All the Women of the Bible*, Herbert Lockyer

These may be ordered through the University Bookstore. Living University is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for sites to earn advertising fees by advertising and linking to amazon.com. 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 Booklets**

- *The Real God: Proofs and Promises* (LCG)
- *The Bible: Fact or Fiction* (LCG)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Due dates and extensions**
Submit assignments on or before the due date. Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

**Reading assignments**
Reading assignments are integrated into the lesson pages at the course website and noted below under the Course Details section of this document.

**Discussion forums**
Each lesson will have an associated discussion question posed by the instructor. Students will be required to post on-line comments to the discussion thread and interact with fellow classmates.

**Writing assignments**
All writing assignments in this course should follow the MLA style as set forth in *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide* by Lester & Lester. Assignments include outlining each book of the Bible covered in this course, and typing out selected assigned scriptures. The Files feature on the Assignment Submission page lets you submit your work so your instructor can have it handy for download, review and grading.

**Quizzes and examinations**
Each lesson has an associated online Quiz. These range from 10-20 questions. They are open book quizzes and there is a one hour time limit. A quiz should help you master the material in the lesson. It also provides you with practice in test 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, and in the case of Exam 3, proctored tests to be taken online.
Research paper
This is a three to five page research paper on a subject of your choice in the Old Testament, citing at least six references from various sources. It should be in the MLA style and your sources should be properly credited, both within the paper and in your bibliography. Guidelines for these are linked here and also available on the “Info” tab. This paper is due by the end of the semester and is worth **90 points**.

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

- **Lesson Quizzes** (15, each worth 20 points, total of 300 points)
- **Writing Assignments** (15 two part assignments at 10 pts for each part, 20 pts per lesson, totaling 300 points)
- **Discussion Forums** (15, each worth 4 points, total of 60 points)
- **Research paper** (90 points)
- **Exam 1** (75 points) [timed, closed book]
- **Exam 2** (75 points) [timed, closed book]
- **Exam 3** (100 points) [timed, closed book, proctored]

**Total 1,000 points**

By getting your autobiography posted on time you can earn **25 bonus points**, and by completing the course evaluation, you can earn **10 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 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 or examinations, completely or in part, 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.
COURSE OVERVIEW

Lesson 1 – Genesis 1-11
Lesson 2 – Genesis 12-50
Lesson 3 – Exodus
Lesson 4 – Leviticus
Lesson 5 – Numbers
Lesson 6 – Deuteronomy

Exam 1
Lesson 7 – Joshua
Lesson 8 – Judges
Lesson 9 – I & II Samuel
Lesson 10 – I & II Kings

Exam 2
Lesson 11 – Isaiah 1–39
Lesson 12 – Isaiah 40–66
Lesson 13 – Jeremiah 1–20
Lesson 14 – Jeremiah 21–52
Lesson 15 – Ezekiel 1–24
Lesson 16 – Ezekiel 25–48

Exam 3 PROCTORED

Research Paper: A paper on a subject of your choice in the Old Testament, due by the end of the semester. A rubric will be provided setting out the requirements for this paper.

Lesson 1 – Genesis 1–11

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 1 – Genesis 1–11
- View video lecture "THL211 Restoration of All Things"

Reading Assignment
- Read Genesis 1–11
- Read chapters 1–4 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
- Take Quiz 1, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

Lesson 2 – Genesis 12–50

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 2 – Genesis 12–50
- View video lecture "THL211 Abraham: A Friend of God"

Reading Assignment
- Read Genesis 12–50
Course Prospectus (THL 211 – Old Testament Survey I)

- Read chapter 5 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer
- Read booklet: *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 2, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

Lesson 3 – Exodus

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 3 – Exodus
- View video lecture "THL211 Tabernacle"

Reading Assignment
- Read Exodus 1–40
- Read chapter 6 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer
- Read article "No Yahweh in Songs," Vatican News Service, August 12, 2008
- Study Chart: Plagues & Gods of Egypt

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 3, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

Lesson 4 – Leviticus

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 4 – Leviticus
- View video lecture “THL211 What does the Eternal Require of Us?”

Reading Assignment
- Read Leviticus 1–27
- Read chapter 7 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer
- Read Booklet: *The Ten Commandments*

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
### Lesson 5 – Numbers

**Viewing Assignment**
- View Lecture 5 – Numbers
- View video lecture “THL211 In the Wilderness”

**Reading Assignment**
- Read Numbers 1–36
- Read chapter 8 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer

**Writing Assignment**
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

**Answer Forum Question** (worth 4 points)

**Lesson Quiz**
- Take Quiz 5, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

### Lesson 6 – Deuteronomy

**Viewing Assignment**
- View Lecture 6 – Deuteronomy
- View video lecture “THL211 the Shema”

**Reading Assignment**
- Read Deuteronomy 1–34
- Read chapter 9 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer

**Writing Assignment**
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

**Answer Forum Question** (worth 4 points)

**Lesson Quiz**
- Take Quiz 6, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

### Exam 1 – Closed book, 2 hours in length, Lessons 1–6

### Lesson 7 – Joshua
Course Prospectus (THL 211 – Old Testament Survey I)

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 7 – Joshua
- View video lecture "THL211 Joshua Themes"

Reading Assignment
- Read Joshua 1–24
- Read chapter 10 and 11 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer
- Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho? by Bryant G. Wood

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 7, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

Lesson 8 – Judges

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 8 – Judges
- View video lecture "THL211 Judges"

Reading Assignment
- Read Judges 1–21
- Read chapter 12 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer
- We will cover the book of Ruth in the next semester. Note that this is the first change in order of books between the Hebrew and English Bibles.

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 8, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

Lesson 9 – 1 & 2 Samuel

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 9 – Samuel
- View video lecture “THL211 Approach to Scripture”

Reading Assignment
- Read 1 & 2 Samuel
Course Prospectus (THL 211 – Old Testament Survey I)

- Read chapter 13 & 14 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 9, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

**Lesson 10 – 1 & 2 Kings**

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 10– 1 & 2 Kings
- View video lecture “THL211 Approach to Scripture Part 2”

Reading Assignment
- Read 1 & 2 Kings
- Read chapter 15 & 16 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 10, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

**Exam 2** – Closed book, 2 hours in length, Lessons 7–10.

**Lesson 11 – Isaiah 1-39**

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 11 – Intro to Prophecy & Isaiah 1-39
- View video: THL211 The Why of Prophecy

Reading Assignment
- Read Isaiah 1-39
- Read booklet: *The Bible: Fact or Fiction*

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).
Course Prospectus (THL 211 – Old Testament Survey I)

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 11, it is open book, with no time limit, and is worth 20 points.

Lesson 12 – Isaiah 40-66

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 12 – Isaiah 40-66
- View video: THL211 What Manner of Man?

Reading Assignment
- Read Isaiah 40-66
- Read chapter 26 in Encountering the Old Testament, Arnold & Beyer

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 12, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 25 points.

Lesson 13 – Jeremiah 1-20

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 13 – Jeremiah 1-20 (MP3 format only)
- Additional material to be provided

Reading Assignment
- Read Jeremiah 1-20
- Read chapter 27 Encountering the Old Testament, Arnold & Beyer
- Read Behind the Mists of Ireland

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
Take Quiz 13, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points.

Lesson 14 – Jeremiah 21-52

Viewing Assignment
Course Prospectus (THL 211 – Old Testament Survey I)

- View Lecture 14 – Jeremiah 21-52 & Lamentations (MP3 format only)
  - Note: Although the lecture addresses Lamentations, that book will be covered in THL 212.
- Additional material to be provided

Reading Assignment
- Read Jeremiah 21-52
- Read chapter 28 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the listed scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
  - Take Quiz 14, it is open book, with no time limit, worth 20 points

**Lesson 15 – Ezekiel 1-24**

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 15 – Ezekiel 1-24
  - Additional material to be provided.

Reading Assignment
- Read Ezekiel 1-24
- Read chapter 29 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer

Writing Assignment
- Make a brief outline of each chapter showing the major subjects covered (one to two lines per chapter). Make an outline that will be useful to you. The outline is worth 10 points.
- Write out the following scriptures (worth 10 points).

Answer Forum Question (worth 4 points)

Lesson Quiz
  - Take Quiz 15, it is open book, no time limit, worth 20 points.

**Lesson 16 – Ezekiel 25-48**

Viewing Assignment
- View Lecture 16 – Ezekiel 25-48
  - View Ezekiel’s View of Israel

Reading Assignment
- Read Ezekiel 25-48
- Read chapter 30 in *Encountering the Old Testament*, Arnold & Beyer
Writing Assignment
   There are no writing assignments for this Lesson