



OT 501 – OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY I

Fall 2014 • 2 Semester Hours

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I. PURPOSE

As God led his people out of Egypt, the Israelites were escaping a culture corrupted by idolatry, immorality, and oppression. To fulfill their calling to shine as lights in the midst of a dark generation, they needed to be immersed in God's ways as revealed in his holy Law. As Moses gave the people God's revelation, he charged them to integrate God's words thoroughly into their everyday lives:

⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (ESV)

Like Israel of old, believers today need a thorough immersion in God's word to become effective ministers and leaders in Christ's church. As a vital part of ministry preparation, this inductive survey course serves to expose students to the content and flow of the Old Testament Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and the Book of Joshua. As you read these books firsthand, the lectures and assigned readings will assist you in discerning the major figures, events, and themes of these biblical books and how their unique message fits into the canon of Scripture and the larger flow of biblical history. Understanding the author, purpose, and historical setting of each book will also help you gain the necessary perspective for a good understanding and accurate interpretation of the Scriptures.

II. PERSONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- To read reflectively and become familiar with the content of each of the first six books of the Old Testament canon;
- To grasp the flow and major themes each book's message in history and in the larger context of God's redemptive program;
- To gain an overview of the historical context of these books;
- To understand the content of the Old Testament law and to reflect on its meaning and application for followers of Christ today;
- To discern the ways in which we, both personally, as a community of believers, need to reflect the holiness of God in the midst of a twisted and wayward generation;
- To explore ways in which the early historical books can be used for preaching and teaching God's word to contemporary people.

III. COURSE STRUCTURE

Modules: You have up to fifteen weeks to complete this online course. The course is divided into thirteen modules, designed to be completed in order over the course of 13-14 weeks. Generally speaking, each week includes Bible reading, course textbook reading, and a lecture video. To see a detailed outline of the structure, click the "Modules" link on the left side of this page.

Conferences: Your course instructor will want to meet with you at least monthly using the conferencing capabilities of Canvas. Contact your instructor about setting up a conference within the first couple of weeks of the course.

Mentor: As you proceed through this course, you will need to obtain the services of a course mentor who will meet with you on a monthly basis to interact with you regarding your studies and to proctor the course exams. (The quizzes may be taken without supervision.) Ideally, your course mentor will be a pastor, youth pastor, or other spiritual authority in your church who can guide and counsel you as you pursue biblical and

theological training. In the course materials there is a mentor agreement form that your mentor will need to sign and return to New Geneva Seminary before you begin the course.

IV. READING ASSIGNMENTS

Since a very limited amount of material can be communicated through the weekly, two-hour class sessions, and since thoughtful and critical reading is such an essential skill for your personal and academic development, reading assignments form an essential part of the learning process for this course. This emphasis is reflected in the fact that the completion of the course reading assignments constitutes one quarter of your final grade.

The primary textbook for this course is the Bible itself. Weekly readings from Genesis through Joshua in a major English Bible translation (ESV, NASV, NIV, NKJV) have been assigned. I highly recommend that you complete these weekly Bible readings by dividing them up into daily readings rather than attempting to burn through them just before the due date. Daily reading also helps to ensure adequate time for reflection on God's holy word, especially when accompanied with prayer and an obedient heart. Daily reading also lightens the load, requiring only three to four pages of Bible reading per day.

The weekly Bible readings are supplemented with readings from *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch* by Herbert M. Wolf, which serve to set the biblical readings in historical perspective as well as to provide an overview of the contents and theme of each biblical book studied. In addition, one chapter in *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books* (included in the course materials) will provide an introduction to the Book of Joshua.

Progress in the completion of the weekly reading assignments is assessed by alternating weekly reading quizzes and summaries, each covering that week's reading assignment. You will not be quizzed on specific Bible reading content; however, the reading quizzes provide a place for you to report, using the honor system, on the extent (%) of your completion of the Bible reading assignment for the week in question. Five points of each ten-point reading quiz are related to the textbook reading, and five points are based on the completion of the Bible reading.

OT Survey I: Course Calendar

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	TEXTBOOK READING	BIBLE READING
Week 1	Introduction to the Pentateuch	Introduction, 17-58	Genesis 1-27
Week 2	Overview of the Pentateuch	Authorship, 59-92	Genesis 28-50
Week 3	Creation and Corruption	Genesis, 93-128	Exodus 1-23
Week 4	Abraham and His Seed	Genesis, 129-148	Exodus 24-40
Week 5	Deliverance from Bondage	Exodus, 149-167	Leviticus 1-27
Week 6	God's Holy Dwelling	Exodus, 168-190	Numbers 1-17
Week 7	Mid-term Exam		
	FALL BREAK		
Week 8	The Holy and the Profane	Leviticus, 191-218	Numbers 18-36
Week 9	The Law in Focus	Numbers, 219-244	Deuteronomy 1-17
Week 10	Law and Covenant	Deuteronomy, 245-264	Deuteronomy 18-34
Week 11	Faith and Courage	Joshua, (included in course materials)	Joshua 1-12
Week 12	Commitment and Conquest	————	Joshua 13-24
Week 13	Applying the Pentateuch		
Week 14	End-term Exam		

V. WORKSHEETS AND STUDENT PRESENTATION

A series of five worksheets are assigned to assist you in thinking through the implications of the course material.

Each student will also be responsible to make a twenty-minute online presentation focusing on one of the important historical figures of the Pentateuch or the Book of Joshua. The presentation should include 1) an overview of the figure's life, 2) an examination of the main challenges the person faced, 3) an enumeration of the person's most important accomplishments or contributions, 4) and a summary of the key lessons we can learn from the person's life. Contact your instructor to schedule a date for your presentation.

VI. EXAMINATIONS

The course contains two examinations containing four essay questions each. The exams focus on the reading and lecture contents for the weeks leading up to the exam. The final exam contains questions related only to the material presented since the midterm. The exams may be taken without a proctor and are "open book" and "open notes."

VII. GRADING

Letter grades for assignments and exams follow the grade scale presented in the seminary catalog. Your final grade for this course is weighted as follows:

- 25%: reading quizzes and summaries
- 25%: mid-term exam
- 25%: end-term exam
- 15%: participation (worksheets, presentation)
- 10%: interaction (mentor, conferencing, discussion forums, course evaluation)

VIII. TEXTBOOKS

Required reading:

Wolf, Herbert M. Wolf, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch* (Moody, 2007); ISBN 9780802441560.

Howard, David M., Jr., Chapter 2, "Joshua," in *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books* (Moody, 1993); ISBN 0802441556. (The required chapter is provided in the course materials.)

Recommended collateral reading:

Leder, Arie C., *Waiting for the Land: The Story Line of the Pentateuch* (P & R, 2010).

Poythress, Vern S., *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses* (P & R, 1995).

Robertson, O. Palmer, *God's People in the Wilderness* (Mentor, 2009).