



GBIB 551 Old Testament Synthesis

(6 ECTS credits/3 credit hours)

Online

Subject: Old Testament

Language: English

Prerequisites

Basic eligibility for university studies.

Students auditing the class: No prerequisite

Educational Objectives

After completing the course the student is expected to:¹

- Articulate the purpose and message of each book of the Old Testament
- Identify major events, people, and geography of the Old Testament in its ancient Near Eastern context
- Discuss major theological themes of the Old Testament
- Explain the significance of the Old Testament for a contemporary believer
- Address the foundational significance of the Old Testament for understanding the New

Contents

This course provides a grand sweep of the history and major themes of the Old Testament. Attention is given to placing each book within its historical, geographical, and cultural settings within the ancient Near East, which sheds light on interpretation of the biblical text. Issues of composition, formation, authorship, dating, and the hard questions of the Old Testament are discussed to help the student engage with modern discussions, apologetics, and significance of the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Teaching and Assessment

Teaching (on-line), and examination for students taking the course for credit

Teaching consists of video lectures, reading of assigned literature, and on-line discussion forums. Students will be assessed through quizzes, participation in forum/discussion questions, a mid-term examination, and a final examination. Keeping up with the studies each week is expected unless discussed and approved by the instructor.

¹ Educational objections correspond to the objectives of *A Survey of the Old Testament*, as stated on pg. 17 of the textbook.

Students taking the course for audit

Students who are not taking the course for credit may choose to participate in the quizzes and tests if they would like. Student must inform the instructor of your decision.

When available: *Local (on-site at STH) teaching, and examination for students taking the course for credit*

Teaching consists of lectures, reading of assigned literature, and discussion seminars.

Students will be assessed through quizzes, participation in forum/discussion questions, a mid-term examination and a final examination.

Attendance at all classes is expected, unless excused by the instructor.

Required Textbooks

1. Hill, Andrew J., and John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publications, 2009.
2. Modern translation of the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament (check with instructor)
3. Additional articles and texts as provided by the instructor.

Recommended Texts

1. Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
2. Rainey, Anson F. And R. Steven Notley, *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.
3. Arnold, Bill T. and Richard S. Hess. *Ancient Israel's History: An Introduction to Issues and Sources*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
4. Hoffmeier, James K. *The Archaeology of the Bible*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2008.
5. Sandy, D. Brent and Ronald L. Giese, Jr., *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.
6. Carr, David M. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Sacred Texts and Imperial Contexts of the Hebrew Bible*. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
7. Matthews, Victor and J. Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.

See also 'Course: General Provisions "

SCHEDULE FOR EACH SESSION and WEEK

Each week's session will include a lecture, reading assignment, forum discussion questions (you must answer at least one each session), and a quiz for every major Session or an exam. There is a mid-term exam and a final exam.

Eight Sessions in 15 Weeks:

Session 1: Introduction to Old Testament Literature, People, and Geography

Session 2: The Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy)

Session 3: The Historical Books Part 1 (Joshua – Ruth) with Historical Overview of Old Testament Times and Old Testament Archaeology

Session 4: The Historical Books Part 2 (1 Samuel – Esther) and Critical Methodologies

Session 5: The Poetic Books and the Formation of Old Testament Scriptures

Session 6: The Major Prophets

Session 7: The Minor Prophets

Session 8: The Whole Picture and Journey to Jesus

Week #	Session	Reading from <u>A Survey of the Old Testament</u> and the Lecture Assignments	Bible Reading Assignments Give special attention to sections of Bible indicated	Other Assignments SEE MOODLE FOR EACH WEEK
Week 1	Session 1: Introduction to Old Testament Literature, People, and Geography Physical Theology video by Dr. John Monson	Read Preface and Chapters 1 and 2	Begin reading the Old Testament (OT) Recommend reading each book in its entirety. However, at least the designated chapters below.	Quiz 1 (on Session 1) SEE MOODLE For Each Session: Read Lecture Answer at least one Forum Discussion Question Take Quiz or Test
Week 2	Session 2a: The Pentateuch (Five Books of Moses) Introduction to the Pentateuch Genesis	Read Chapters 3-4	All of Genesis, or at least read Genesis chapters 1–5, 6-9, 12, 15, 22; 37-39, 50	SEE MOODLE Article: Reliability of the Old Testament
Week 3	Session 2b: The Pentateuch (Five Books of Moses)	Chapters 5–8	Exodus 1–5, 12–14, 20;	Quiz 2 (on Session 2 a&b) SEE MOODLE

	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy		Leviticus 1, 10, 16, 25; Numbers 3–4, 6, 11– 14; Deuteronomy 5– 8, 28–31, 34	
Week 4	Session 3a: The Historical Books, Part 1 Historical Overview of OT Times Joshua	Chapters 9-10	Joshua 1–6, 23–24 (read ahead for next week)	SEE MOODLE
Week 5	Session 3b: The Historical Books, Part 1 Judges Ruth and OT Archaeology	Chapters 12–13 & 19	Judges 1–4, 13-16 Ruth 1–4 (read ahead for next week)	Quiz 3 (on Session 3 a&b) SEE MOODLE
Week 6	Session 4a: The Historical Books, Part 2 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings 1 & 2 Chronicles	Chapters 14–16	1 Samuel 7–10, 12, 15–20, 28, 31; 2 Samuel 5–8, 11-13, 15, 18; 1 Kings 3, 6–12; 17– 19, 21; 2 Kings 1–2, 6-7, 11– 12, 17–23; 1 Chronicles 15–17, 21–22, 28–29; 2 Chronicles 5-10, 14–16, 24–26, 29–35	SEE MOODLE
Week 7	Session 4b: The Historical Books, Part 2 Ezra Nehemiah Esther Critical Methodologies	Chapters 17-18 & Appendix A (p. 753-760)	Ezra 3, 6–7 Nehemiah 1-2, 4, 6 Esther 1–4	Quiz 4 (on Session 4 a&b) SEE MOODLE

Week 8	Session 5a: The Poetic Books and Wisdom Job Psalms	Chapters 20-22	Job 1–3, 38–42 Psalms 1-2, 8, 19, 23, 51, 100, 103, 139, 150	Mid-Term Exam (on Sessions 1-4) SEE MOODLE
Week 9	Session 5b: The Poetic Books and Wisdom Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs The Formation of OT Scriptures	Chapters 23–26	Proverbs 1–3, 8 Ecclesiastes 1–5, 12 Song of Songs 1-2 (read ahead for next week)	Quiz 5 (on Session 5 a&b) SEE MOODLE
Week 10	Session 6a: The Major Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations	Chapters 27-30	Isaiah 1–2, 6, 40, 52–55 Jeremiah 1–5 Lamentations 3	SEE MOODLE
Week 11	Session 6b: The Major Prophets Ezekiel Daniel	Chapters 31–32	Ezekiel 1–3, 18, 33 Daniel 1–2, 4–6	Quiz 6 (on Session 6 a&b) SEE MOODLE
Week 12	Session 7a: The Minor Prophets Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	Lecture 6	Hosea 1–4 Joel 2 Amos 3 Obadiah 1 Jonah 1 Micah 1–2	SEE MOODLE
Week 13	Session 7b: The Minor Prophets Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah	Chapters 33–44	Nahum 1 Habakkuk 1 Zephaniah 3 Haggai 1–2 Zechariah 1–2	Quiz 7 (on Session 7 a&b) SEE MOODLE

	Malachi		Malachi 1, 4	
Week 14	Session 8: The Whole Picture and Journey to Jesus OT Law within New Testament Faith	Chapters 45–47		SEE MOODLE
Week 15				Final Exam (on Sessions 5-8) SEE MOODLE