



BI510 Old Testament Survey

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Jeannine Michele Graham

Course description

This course will plunge you into a quick romp through the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) in which you will gain an overview of the varied genres, themes, structures and core messages of this fascinating anthology of sacred writings. Spanning many centuries, the books of the Old Testament are marvelously diverse in their historical, geographical, cultural and textual settings. Yet at the same time their diverse portrayals are interwoven like threads composing an utterly unique tapestry that bears witness to the glory and wonder of the same Almighty Creator-Redeemer Triune God whose presence underlies them all. Attention will be paid to the relevance of historical, geographical, literary, cultural and theological contexts for faithfully and reliably interpreting the core message of each biblical book as well as how those diverse writings contribute to and connect with the overarching redemption trajectory realized in and through Jesus Christ.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 150 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Longman III, Tremper and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. ISBN-13:978-0-310-26341-8. 502 pp. Appr. \$25.49.

Lawrence, Paul. *The IVP Atlas of Bible History*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006. ISBN-10: 0-8308-2452-9. 117 pp. (Old Testament portion). \$45.49.

NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-31043158-9. \$49.99. [includes appr. 30 pp. of relevant sidebar notes plus verse-by-verse commentary throughout] [NKJV and NRSV editions are also acceptable]

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8308-2359-8. \$15.99. Appr. 250 pp.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Requirements and assignments

1. **Read the lectures.** Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. You should look up any scripture references in the lectures.
2. **Read the assigned sections from the Old Testament books to be covered each week.**
3. **Read the textbooks and any assigned articles.** They total approximately 800 pages, or about 80 pages per week.
4. **Listen to short weekly video clips.**
5. **Participate in weekly forums.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 10 percent of the grade.
6. **Weekly quizzes.** *Open book and open notes.* These may be drawn from any of the assigned readings, including the biblical texts. These count for 10 percent of the grade.

7. **“2 + 1” Reading responses.** Post weekly responses consisting of 2 observations + 1 question that arose from any of the assigned readings (e.g., biblical texts, textbooks, articles, etc.). This counts for 20 percent of the final grade.

8. **Response Papers.** 1-1.5 pages, single-spaced. You are to respond to several questions posed by me over the Wright book (*Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*). This counts for 10 percent of the final grade.

9. **Research paper.** This counts for 25 percent of the final grade.

10. **Final exam.** This counts for 25 percent of the final grade.