

# History and Literature of Ancient Israel

OT 3701

## Catalogue Course Description

This course is an overview survey of the historical sections of the Old Testament, focusing on the books of Genesis through Esther with related readings from other Old Testament texts. The course content includes summaries and introductions to the various books, principles for Old Testament exegesis and a broad overview of God's plan to save the world. Students will learn the material through readings, discussion forums, course teaching and projects. 3 Credit Hours.

## Course Resources

1. Hill, Andrew and John Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (Grand Rapids, Michagan: Zondervan, 2009).
2. Goldingay, John. *Do We Need the New Testament?* (Downer's Grove: IVP Academic, 2015).

## College Mission

The ultimate mission of Ozark Christian College is to glorify God by evangelizing the lost and edifying Christians worldwide. The immediate mission of Ozark Christian College is to train men and women for Christian service through an undergraduate Bible college education.

## College Learning Outcomes

Ozark has identified learning outcomes for each area of the curriculum – General Education (GE), Biblical Education (BE), and Professional Education (PE). This course will directly address the following college learning outcomes:

### **Biblical Education Outcomes:**

**BE1: Know the historical and theological content of the Bible.**

**BE2: Employ sound historical-grammatical principles for biblical interpretation.**

## Course Goals

Students will gain familiarity with and competency in the History and Literature of Ancient Israel as presented by the authors of the Old Testament so as to accurately interpret these books in study, teaching and preaching. In addition, students will learn about the world and cultures of the Old Testament, understand the main theological themes in the Old Testament and observe the relationship between the Old and New Testament.

## Course Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the major people and events of the Old Testament. This knowledge will be measured through discussion forum posts and exams. (BE1)
2. Identify the meaning and significance of certain Old Testament passages in an exegetical lesson or sermon. This will be measured through two exegetical projects. (BE2)
3. Understand and articulate critical issues in the study of the Old Testament. This will be measured through discussion forum posts and exams. (BE1)
4. Understand the overall storyline and flow of the Old Testament. This will be measured through two exegetical projects and exams. (BE1, BE2)
5. Engage with modern, popular-level teaching on the Old Testament. This will be measured through discussion forum posts and exams. (BE2)

## Information Literacy

Ozark Christian College is committed to information literacy training. This training will be intentional, incremental, and missional. Students will learn to access, evaluate, and utilize pertinent information in their ministry preparation.

### ADA Accommodation

If you have a disability and are requesting an accommodation, please contact the Dean of Online Learning at 417-626-1234 Extension 2007 as soon as possible.

## Online Course Policies

### Turnitin

Ozark Christian College contracted with iParadigms, LLC for Turnitin® services to be used at the instructor's discretion. The Originality Check service allows students to submit a paper through Canvas to check for improper citation and potential plagiarism before it is submitted to the instructor. The Peer Review service allows students to submit assignments anonymously to peers for editing and feedback. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

### OCC Student Email Address

All Ozark Christian College students must use the official e-mail address provided by the college (lastname.firstname@my.occ.edu) to receive communication from the faculty and staff. The OCC student e-mail address may be forwarded to another e-mail service (e.g. yahoo.com or hotmail.com). **Email will be the professor's chosen method of communication with the student in this course, so check your email regularly.**

## Online Course Refund Policy

Refunds of tuition and certain fees may be made upon official withdrawal of any student according to the table below. To receive a refund adjustment for any classes dropped, less an administration fee, the student should contact the Dean of Online Learning at [lindsay.shawn@occ.edu](mailto:lindsay.shawn@occ.edu). See [the website](#) for specific dates.

Week 1: Monday-Sunday	100% refund
Week 2: Monday-Sunday	75% refund
Week 3: Monday-Sunday	50% refund
Week 4: Monday-Sunday	0% refund

## Online Course Drop Policy

Online courses dropped during the first four days of the course will not be recorded on the student's transcript. Any student who wishes to withdraw from a class after the Add/Drop period must notify the Dean of Online Learning or the Registrar's Office and formally request to be withdrawn from the class(es). Until this is done, the student is officially enrolled in the class whether or not he/she participates. Likewise, the student is responsible for appropriate charges and coursework until he/she is officially removed from the course.

Online courses withdrawn after the fourth day but before the sixth week of the course will be recorded as a "W" on transcripts. This grade will not be calculated in the student's GPA but will impact financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. After five weeks, students cannot drop or withdraw from online courses and grades will be issued based on course performance. The only exception is for reasons approved by the Dean of Online Learning.

## Online Course Attendance

Online courses often demand greater discipline and careful attention to details within a compressed period of time compared to on-campus courses. Students are strongly advised to remain in close contact with their online instructor in the event that they must be absent for a brief period of time. Attendance in online courses will be taken on a weekly basis. Students will be expected to actively participate according to the individual course syllabus.

Participation may include, but not be limited to: submitting written assignments, posting in graded forum discussions, completing exams, and written communication with the instructor directly related to the course.

**Online students who do not participate in the above ways for seven consecutive days will be considered absent. Students are permitted a maximum of one absence.**

The following scenarios may negatively impact a student's academic record and financial aid opportunities.

1. Being administratively dropped due to lack of login or participation within the first four days of an online course. Online Learning Department personnel will contact students via their OCC student email account

and/or current phone number to assist them prior to this deadline.

2. Missing twelve consecutive days. The student will be contacted by the instructor via the student's OCC email account. Instructors will promptly convey this information to the Dean of Online Learning. The student will be given 48 hours to communicate his/her intentions. Those who do not respond, or who do not wish to continue in the course, will be administratively withdrawn.
3. Acquiring a second absence after the fifth week. Students who exceed the absence limit (one) without the consent of the online instructor will fail the course. If a student exceeds the absence limit within the first five weeks, he/she may elect to withdraw from the course.

## Assignment Submission

All assignments will be facilitated through our Canvas course site. You may post replies to the discussions forums, as well as take quizzes and exams. For written assignments, save documents in either .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf format (or as otherwise indicated by your instructor) and upload them to the Canvas site.

## Late Work

Assignments are due on Thursday and Sunday by 11:59 pm Central Standard Time. Late work may or may not be accepted, at the discretion of the teacher. Any grade deductions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. If you have a question about a particular assignment, please contact the teacher well ahead of the deadline.

## Responses to Your Work

You may generally expect replies to personal communication (email, Canvas inbox) within 24-48 hours. For written assignments, the professor will endeavor to grade and give feedback within seven days of the due date.

## Academic Honesty

Due to the commitment of training men and women for Christian service and the commitment of educational excellence, academic integrity is our natural expectation. Compelling evidence of academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating or plagiarism) will be reported to the academic dean's office and the student development office. Penalties could range from failure of an assignment to suspension from college. Students should avoid dishonesty and irresponsibility at all costs.

## Required Course Tools/Connectivity

Successful participation in this course requires the student to possess or obtain (and know how to use) the following in addition to course books:

- One fully functional and adequately performing desktop or laptop computer, free of known viruses.
- A word processor that can publish or save into .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf format.
- Access to your @my.occ.edu email address.
- Daily access to a reliable internet connection of at least 1MB/s speed.
- A webcam and mic (typically integrated on most laptops).

## Course Topic Outline and Workload

In keeping with standards typical of higher education, the expectation is that you will spend between 112 to 135 hours completing all coursework in this 3-hour online course.



## Course Topic Outline

Module	Topics Covered	Hrs./Min. Covered
1	God as Giver: Genesis	17 hr.
2	God as Deliverer: Exodus	16 hr.
3	God as Holy: Leviticus-Numbers	18 hr.
4	God as Grace: Deuteronomy	15 hr.
5	God as Judge: Joshua-Ruth	17 hr.
6	God as King: 1-2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles	17 hr.
7	God as Faithful: 1-2 Kings, 2 Chronicles	17 hr.
8	God as Hope: Esther-Daniel	18 hr.
Total Hours Students will Spend Working on Course Assignments (120-135 Total)		135 hr.

## Evaluation Methods

Below is a listing of assignments that comprise the 100% percentage points possible for this course.

Assignment	Grade	Course Obj.
Bible Reading	15%	1
Textbook Reading	10%	1, 2
Forums	10%	1, 3, 5
Quizzes / Assessments	25%	1, 3, 4, 5
Projects	40%	2, 4
Total Points	100%	

## Grading Scale

Total Score	Course Grade	Value
100-95 points	A	4.0
94-93 points	A-	3.67
92-91 points	B+	3.33
90-87 points	B	3.00
86-85 points	B-	2.67
84-83 points	C+	2.33
82-79 points	C	2.00
78-77 points	C-	1.67
76-75 points	D+	1.33
74-72 points	D	1.00
71-70 points	D-	0.67
69-0 points	F	0.00
For further information on grading policies, refer to the college catalog.		

## List of Assignments

This course is intensive on a variety of levels and requires a high degree of engagement for every week of the course. The structure of the course will remain constant from week to week, although the assigned topics or projects will vary throughout.

**Every week, the following assignments are due by Thursday:**

- A. Read the Old Testament.** Each week, students will read a large portion of the Old Testament. This can be done in any translation of the student's choosing, though the NIV, NASB or ESV are recommended. The assigned reading should be carefully read (not listened to) and not skimmed. Each week, students will be required to answer on the Quiz how much of the text was carefully read (options include "All," "Some" or "None").
- B. Read *A Survey of the Old Testament, Third Edition* by Andrew Hill and John Walton.** The required chapters will be noted each week. The assigned reading should be carefully read and not skimmed. Each week, students will be required to answer on the Quiz how much of the text was carefully read (options include "All," "Some" or "None").
- C. Read *Do We Need the New Testament* by John Goldingay.** The required chapters will be noted each week. The assigned reading should be carefully read and not skimmed. Each week, students will be required to answer on the Quiz how much of the text was carefully read (options include "All," "Some" or "None").
- D. Engage with the presentation, *The Old Testament in Today's World*.** Each week, a different critical issue of reading the Old Testament in the 21st century will be discussed through readings, lectures or video presentations. The goal of this section is to equip the student to engage issues with the Old Testament in ministry and life. Students should read or watch the presentations carefully.
- E. Engage with the presentation, *Digging Deeper*.** Each week, a text from the Old Testament will be probed at a deeper level of exegesis through readings, lectures or video presentations. In a course oriented to "overview" rather than "exegesis," it is often easy to miss the details of the text. The goal of this section every week is to dig deeper into one specific text to give insight as well as a model for exegesis.
- F. Post to the Forum.** One topic will be provided for class discussion every week. Students should examine the topic carefully and produce a thoughtful, 250-word post on the topic.
- G. Take a Quiz.** Each week, students will take a short quiz over the content of the week, including all of the readings and presentations. This quiz will include the reading confessional statements from the week's readings, so the quiz should be completed after all the reading is finished. A study guide for the quiz will be provided every week. This study guide is a *guide* for initial study and should not be considered exhaustive; in addition, not every topic mentioned in the study guide is guaranteed to be a question on the quiz. This is a closed book Quiz.

**Every week, the following assignments are due by Sunday:**

- A. **Listen to the Old Testament.** Each week, students will listen to a large portion of the Old Testament. This is often the same passage as was read earlier in the week (though not always), so the student will be exposed to the text two times each week. This can be done in any translation of the student's choosing. A wide selection of free audio Bibles are available via YouVersion's Bible app or on YouTube. Each week, students will be required to answer on the Chapter Identification Assessment how much of the text was listened to (options include "All," "Some" or "None").
- B. **Observe the Old Testament in preaching.** Each week, students will listen to a sermon from the Old Testament. The sermon will cover a text from the Old Testament readings of the week. The sermons provide excellent examples and models for the student of preaching from the Old Testament. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take notes on the following: How did the preacher use the OT? How did the preacher get to the NT? Students may also find it helpful to record any effective stories, anecdotes, illustrations or approaches that could be saved and later used in their own ministry. Each week, students will be required to answer on the Chapter Identification Assessment how much of the sermon was listened to (options include "All," "Some" or "None").
- C. **Respond to a Forum Post.** Students will respond each week to at least one of their classmate's forum postings. These responses should engage the topic beyond a mere agreement or disagreement and show some level of critical thinking and analysis.
- D. **Chapter Identification Assessment.** Throughout the course, students will memorize chapter identifications pertaining to each week's study. A list of chapter identifications is provided in the course documents. Students should memorize this list so that they can accurately attach a chapter number to a given label (i.e., "From Adam to Noah" is found in which chapter in Genesis?). *This assessment will be cumulative*, meaning that every week students must be ready for both the current week's chapter identifications *as well as all previous weeks*. This is a closed book Assessment.
- E. **Exegetical Project.** Each week, students will submit an assignment pertaining to either the Bible Study Project or the Theological Lesson Project, both intended for future use in the student's church and ministry. Since these assignments are *projects*, students will complete different sections of the project each week and then synthesize what they have studied into a final form at weeks 4 and 8.
  1. The first project, to be completed during the first four weeks of the course, is intended for use as a Bible study on a particular passage, such as for an in-depth adult small group study. The emphasis in this project is on exegesis, background and context. This is the Bible Study Project. For this project only, there are example assignments given in the course documents for reference; these are provided to give students an idea of what is to be expected for the course. *The assignment is different every week.* Students should submit the assignment according to the requirements below:
    - a. **Week 1 Assignment:** Students must choose a passage from the following list: Genesis 1:26-31, Deuteronomy 4:5-8, Numbers 24:10-14. Students should read

through the passage many times (at least 20), and make a list of at least 20 observations *without consulting any outside material* (students may use various Bible translations, which may help in the observation of the text). Students may only use the Bible (along with other translations) and their own sense of perception. The purpose here is to really *observe* the text. Observations can include comments about the structure, context, grammar, translations, questions or even confusions. Students must submit a paper including their chosen passage and at least 20 observations in bullet form. Length required is 1 page, single-spaced. An example Week 1 assignment is available in the course documents.

- b. Week 2 Assignment:** Students should find texts from the Ancient Near East that provide insight to their chosen Biblical passage. Students are encouraged, but not required, to use the Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) texts associated with their passage provided below. Students must read the texts (all the ones listed in the guide are accessible through a Google search). Then, students should write a 2-page, double-spaced paper with a *summary of at least 3 of the relevant texts* (1 page) and an *explanation of how the sources aid in the understanding of the text* (1 page). An example Week 2 assignment is available in the course documents.
- i. Genesis 1:26-31 ANE Texts: Instruction of Merikare (lines 130ff) / Theology of Memphis / Enki and Ninmah (see all, but especially lines 38-43) / Hymn to Ptah / Enuma Elish, Tablet 6
  - ii. Deuteronomy 4:5-8 ANE Texts: Code of Hammurabi / Laws of Lipit-Ishtar / Laws of Ur-Nammu / Hittite Laws
  - iii. Numbers 24:10-14 ANE Texts: Deir 'Alla Inscription / Maqlu Incantation / Treaty of Esarharddon / Code of Hammurabi
- c. Week 3 Assignment:** Students should discover the literary context of their passage. The following questions may be helpful, but they are merely suggestions to help the student discover the context: Where does the passage fall within the chapter? Where does the passage fall within the section? How does the passage fit into the overall structure and message of the book? What words or phrases, if any, help connect the passage to the broader context? Why is this passage where it is and not a chapter earlier or later? What important concepts or themes would be missing if it wasn't in the text? Students then must write a one-page (double-spaced) summary of the literary context of the passage. An example Week 3 assignment is available in the course documents.
- d. Week 4 Assignment:** Students should synthesize all the research completed so far. In addition, students should examine any significant words or phrases. Students should trace any themes through the book. Students should consult various commentaries or journal articles to aid in the understanding of the text. Then, students should write a 2-page, single-spaced Bible study in outline form that explores the passage in depth. The Bible study should contain some sort of application, but the application section should not exceed 1/2 page. An example Week 4 assignment is available in the course documents.
2. The second project, to be completed during the final four weeks of the course, is intended for use as a theological lesson, such as for a Sunday morning sermon or for a devotion for a group of adults. The emphasis in this project is on exegesis, theology and application. This is the Theological Lesson Project. *The assignment is different every week.* Students should submit the assignment according to the requirements below:
- a. Week 5 Assignment:** Students should choose a passage for the Theological Lesson Project from one of the following texts: Joshua 6:1-27, 2 Samuel 7:1-17, 2

Kings 4:8-37. Students must then observe the passage, much like in the Week 1 Assignment, but in more depth this time. *Students should also search for any important words or phrases in the passage and trace those words or themes throughout the Old Testament.* Students should also take note of any unusual grammatical structures or phrases. No outside sources, besides the Bible in various translations, should be consulted for this paper. Students should submit a 1-page, single-spaced paper with the choice of text and a list of observations and notes in *bullet form*.

- b. Week 6 Assignment:** Students should examine the ANE background of their passage. While the assignment in Week 2 required students to examine texts only, this week students will examine both texts and customs. For this work, students should consult the various Bible backgrounds commentaries and resources mentioned in the bibliography for *The Old Testament in Today's World* in Week 2. Students may also consult commentaries. Students should submit a 1-page, single-spaced paper in *outline form* that details the most significant ANE backgrounds for their text.
- c. Week 7 Assignment:** Students should discover the broader literary and theological context of their passage. Students should examine the literary context while also addressing any major theological themes and locating them within the broader context of the Old Testament and all of Scripture. Students should then submit a 1-page, single-spaced paper in *outline form* that shows the major ways their passage is informed by both the literary context and the major theological themes found within the text.
- d. Week 8 Assignment:** Students should synthesize everything they have learned in the course to create a sermon or lesson outline. This should include an introduction, body and conclusion. The sermon or lesson should also include illustrations and application. Students should submit a detailed, 3-page single-spaced paper in *outline form*.