

Syllabus for Old Testament Survey I (OTE 501)

Genesis through 2 Kings

Front Range Bible Institute

Professor Aaron Otten (Fall 2014)

Course Description

The first of three courses which together survey the entire Old Testament, devoting special attention to the major lessons of each book. This first course covers the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy), Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and Ruth.

This course examines the historical, cultural, and geographical setting in a broad sense for the Old Testament. We will also examine the major themes, purpose, and structure of each OT book, while evaluating the major criticisms associated with each book. We will also emphasize both the understanding of the text and the applications to Christian living, along with the correlation with the New Testament.

Course Objectives

- I. To survey Genesis through 2 Kings in a broad, expositional manner.
- II. To gain a working understanding of the Old Testament and to facilitate a better grasp of the big picture of the Bible. To grasp the basic geography and general chronology of the Old Testament era, and get a survey of the different cultures and people groups included in the OT.
- III. To state the theme and major emphasis of each Bible book and also to show its relationship to other parts of the Scripture.
- IV. To fit the unfolding drama of God's revealed plan and purpose into its historical human setting.
- V. To offer solutions to certain selected key problems in passages.
- VI. To promote a worldview that is derived from godly wisdom and Biblical insight. To apply that worldview in matters of practical living, piety, and one's spiritual growth.
- VII. To grow in love with God and Christ-likeness by applying the magnificent spiritual lessons about God and His covenantal purposes to our own personal, practical walk with Him. To be encouraged in your existence, purpose, and future as a Christian.
- VIII. To develop life long learners, leading the students to apprehend Biblical truth for themselves.

Course Material.

- A. A NASB or ESV Bible. Preferably a Study Bible.
- B. Bachelor and Certificate Level only: *Talk Through The Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More Out of the Bible*. By Bruce Wilkinson and Ken Boa. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005. Make sure to get the 2005 version.
- C. Master Students additional reading. *An introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*, by Herbert Wolf (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1993).
- D. Copy of professor's notes, supplied on the first day of class.

Course Requirements

- A. Attendance:

Each student should be faithful in attendance. The student is completely responsible for making up any work missed and for securing any material missed in absence. If the student misses more than 2 classes, then their final grade will be lowered a full letter grade. You can not miss more than 3 classes without teacher consent.

- B. Final Grade Percentage.

The grading system for this class, implemented with the final grade average, is as follows:

- Grade A: 100% - 92.0%
- Grade B: 91.9% - 84.0%
- Grade C: 83.9% - 76.0%
- Grade D: 75.9% - 68.0%
- Grade F: 67.9% - 0%

- C. Assignments:

1. **Bible Reading:** This class covers the books of Genesis through 2 Kings. These books shall be read once for the Bachelor and Certificate Level; while the Master Students are required to scan once and read once.

Scanning. Scanning is reading quickly, with the aim of only spending 10-30 seconds per chapter. Getting familiar with order of the story, the chapter location for the big and hot topics, and noticing the amount of scripture is spent on a single subject or story.

Readings. Reading for comprehension. Being able to recount the story, know the big facts associated with the subject matter, and being able to think about the story. You should be developing questions from this level of reading. If you are not developing a list of questions from this stage of reading, then you are not reading deeply enough. From the teacher's perspective, questions are great indicators of comprehension and examination of the story.

2. **Scripture Memory** - All students must memorize the assigned Scripture verses. Each student is to write out the verses with no helps. You must memorize the verse in either the NASB or ESV translations (no exceptions). The memory verse will be tested on the quizzes.
 - Quiz 1 memory verse (Genesis 15:6)
 - Quiz 2 memory verse (Numbers 6:24-27)
 - Quiz 3 memory verse (Joshua 1:8)
 - Quiz 4 memory verse (1 Samuel 17:45)
 - Quiz 5 memory verse (2 Samuel 7:12-13)

3. **Supplemental Reading:**
 - a. Bachelor and Certificate level only:
 - 1) *Talk Through The Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More Out of the Bible*. By Bruce Wilkinson and Ken Boa. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005. Reading will be reported on the quizzes. This book covers the whole Bible, so only the material covered in class will be required from this book. This resource will be abbreviated as *TTTB*.
 - b. The Master's level student will need to read the above book (*TTTB*), along with following additional reading:
 - 1) *An introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*, by Herbert Wolf (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1993). This resource will be abbreviated as *HW*. This book must be finished by Quiz #4, for it will be reported on that quiz the amount you have read.

4. **Synopsis Papers.**
 - a. Synopsis papers are due after the book is presented in class, as specified by the syllabus. The books that the student will summarize are as follows: **Genesis 26-50** and **1 Samuel**. The student shall summarize the material in these books (sections) on 2 pages (no more than 3 pages). The grade will reflect a quantity of material in filling the pages.
 - Make the synopsis useful and concise because the primary use of the material is for the students own overview. Don't worry about complete sentences. Be particular in following the provided format (font size and type, spacing, underlines) as discussed in class, and as presented on the WORD document that is provided from the teacher.
 - b. The content for the synopsis papers. For each of the assigned books (or sections) (see above), turn in a 2-3 page paper that addresses the following:
 - Thesis Statement. A short and meaningful summary sentence of the entire book or section of scripture. It is suggested that you complete this after doing the rest of the assignment. Please make a statement in your own words (don't simply copy a smarter theologian). Your understanding of this book can be surmised by your effort in this thesis statement.

- Section titles and summary statements. The section breaks will be provided by teacher in the synopsis format document, though they may be modified at student's desire.
- Themes, purposes, and application of the theologies addressed. Include any themes of interest that were not highlighted in the main thesis statement. More freedom is allowed in this section. Please, don't simply reiterate the main thesis already stated.
- Key verse(s)/passage(s). Location and quick summary. Don't write the verse out, but simply summarize the idea in the verse.

5. Research and Presentation Projects.

- a. The student shall choose one of the following subjects to research for the purpose of writing a 3 page paper and present the material in a 15 minute segment in class. The due date for the class presentations are defined by the syllabus. The due date for the 3 page paper is the same day as the presentation.
- b. The student must research this subject using 3 credible book sources, usually a respected commentary will do. Do not use or even think about using the internet or Wikipedia. These sources must be identified in a bibliography in the final paper.

Master Level Students must write a 5 page paper, provide at least 4 credible sources, and make a 20 minute presentation. The Master Level Student are assigned their project, and not able to choose as the other students.
- c. For the 15 minute class presentation, the student must provide a single page handout summarizing their report, to be distributed for your presentation. Please bring enough handouts for all other students and the teacher.

Format of the class presentation handout is at the student's discretion.
- d. Format of the paper. Write the 3 page document in paragraph, essay form with complete sentences, single-spaced, typed, regular sized paper, simply stapled in corner, and 12 point font. The margins should not exceed 1 inch on any edge. Do not provide a cover page, and place the bibliographical material on its own separate page at the end.
- e. Research Topics:
 - Sacrifices. Leviticus 1-7. Understand the purpose and significance of the different types of sacrifices done in the Tabernacle. Explore and summarize the differences in methods and animals. Identify any typology that projects into the NT.
 - Tabernacle. Exodus 25-27. Understand the purpose and significance of the different articles within the Tabernacle. Identify any typology that projects into the NT.
 - JEDP Authorship Theory. There is a well received theory about the authorship of the Pentateuch. Understand the theory and its application. Explore and comment on a few of the reasons why the theory is wrong.

- Cycle of the Judges. There is a cyclical view of the people in the book of Judges. The paper should focus on understanding and presenting the cycle, and less on all the stories, with primary emphasis on the similarities and differences. Identify key verses. Summarize how each judge was part of this cycle.
- Ark of the Covenant. Follow the Ark of the Covenant as it travels in 1 and 2 Samuel. Identify the locations where it stays, the events surrounding, the timeframes of movement, and the reasons for its movement.
- Who are the Philistines? (Master Level Student only) Where did they come from? What kind of people were the Philistines and how were they special? Explore the origins and type of people that become the Philistines in Canaan.
- The Assyrians Conquest of the Northern Nation. (Masters Level Student only) Explore the history of this event. Who are the Assyrians? Who were their leaders? What was the history surrounding the Assyrians conquest of Israel.

Course Grading

Bachelor and Certificate Level:

A. Bible Reading	25%
B. Supplemental Reading (<i>TTTB</i>)	20%
C. Bible Memorization	10%
D. Quiz Material	20%
E. Synopsis Papers	10%
F. Research Presentation Project	15%

Masters Level:

A. Bible Reading	20%
B. Supplemental Reading (<i>TTTB</i>)	10%
C. Supplemental Reading (<i>HW</i>)	10%
D. Bible Memorization	10%
E. Quiz Material	15%
F. Synopsis Papers	15%
G. Research Presentation Project	20%

Course Schedule

	Material Covered in Class	Due at Beginning of Class
Class 1	Introduction to class: Discuss syllabus and class notes Discuss course requirements. Introduction to Bible. Overview of Bible, Dispensations Overview of OT (How does it end? Where are we going?). Genesis. Planks and Patriarchs	n/a
Class 2	Genesis. Planks and Patriarchs	Read, and keep reading.
Class 3	QUIZ #1 Genesis. Planks and Patriarchs	READ: Genesis READ: <i>TTTB</i>
Class 4	Exodus DUE: Class Presentation – Tabernacle Articles	READ: Exodus READ: <i>TTTB</i>
Class 5	QUIZ #2 Leviticus Watch video on Mount Sinai DUE: Class Presentation – Sacrifices	READ: Leviticus READ: <i>TTTB</i>
Class 6	Numbers Deuteronomy DUE: Class Presentation – JEPD Theory	READ: Numbers READ: Deuteronomy READ: <i>TTTB</i> DUE: Genesis Synopsis Page
Class 7	QUIZ #3 Pentateuch Overview Joshua	READ: Joshua READ: <i>TTTB</i>
Class 8	Judges and Ruth DUE: Class Presentation – Cycle of the Judges	READ: Judges READ: Ruth READ: <i>TTTB</i>

Class 9	QUIZ #4 1 Samuel DUE: Class Presentation – Ark of the Covenant	READ: 1 Samuel READ: <i>TTTB</i> *DUE: <i>HW</i> Pentateuch book reading
Class 10	2 Samuel *DUE: Class Presentation – The Philistines	READ: 2 Samuel READ: <i>TTTB</i> DUE: 1 Samuel Synopsis Page
Class 11	QUIZ #5 1 and 2 Kings *DUE: Class presentation – Assyrian Conquest	READ: 1 & 2 Kings READ: <i>TTTB</i>

“*” = Signifies material due for Masters Level.

“TTTB” = *Talk Through The Bible*. Read corresponding material.

Dates:

Class 1	Tuesday, September 2, 2014	Class 7	Tuesday, October 14, 2014
Class 2	Tuesday, September 9, 2014	Class 8	Tuesday, October 21, 2014
Class 3	Tuesday, September 16, 2014	Class 9	Tuesday, October 28, 2014
Class 4	Tuesday, September 23, 2014	Class 10	Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Class 5	Tuesday, September 30, 2014	Class 11	Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Class 6	Tuesday, October 7, 2014		