

# Syllabus for Old Testament Survey I (OTE 501)

Front Range Bible Institute  
Instructor Peter Wise (Fall 2022)

## I. Course Description

The first of three courses which together survey the entire Old Testament, with a focus on understanding the major contents of each book. Examines literary structure, historical backgrounds, geographical settings, and parallel passages to enhance comprehension and application to contemporary issues and concerns. This first course covers the Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy), the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings), and Ruth.

## II. Course Objectives

- A. To present the outline and flow of each OT book.
- B. To discuss the theme and major emphases of each Bible book.
- C. To see each OT book in relation to other parts of Scripture, especially the New Testament.
- D. To fit the unfolding drama of God's revealed plan into its historical setting.
- E. To provide analysis of key passages.
- F. To understand the Biblical theology of each book individually and in relationship to other books of Scripture.

## III. Required Course Materials

- A. *Pocket Bible Handbook*: Nelson's Pocket Reference Series (you may substitute *Talk Thru' the Bible*)
- B. *Unger's Commentary of the Old Testament*, by Merrill Unger (a pdf copy will be provided.)
- C. *Ordination Practicum*, by Richard Mayhue (The Master's Seminary).
- D. A book of your choice (see the bibliography at the end of this syllabus)
  - a. Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. *Talk Thru the Bible*
  - b. Hays, J. Daniel, and J. Scott Duvall, eds. *The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook*
  - c. Geisler, Norman L. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*

## IV. Course Requirements

### A. Attendance

- 1. Each student should be faithful in attendance. If a student must miss a class, he must watch the lecture. The student is completely responsible for making up any work missed and for securing any material missed in absence.

### B. Assignments

- 1. **Bible Reading**: Students are assigned readings from the text of Scripture. (10%)
- 2. **Class Reading** (40%)

- a. Read each section from the *Pocket Bible Handbook* that corresponds to the lesson for the next week.
  - b. Read the required articles sent each week.
  - c. Read the introduction to each book in *Unger's Commentary on Old Testament*.
3. **Reading responses from *Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament* (30%)**
  - a. Each OT book (excepting Esther) will have short-answer reading responses from Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament. They are due each week.
4. **Weekly Quizzes (20%)**
  - a. Memorize the theme and outline of each book from the Ordination Practicum. Be able to identify where you would find the key chapters of each book. You will receive the quiz in class or by email and should take the quizzes at home when they feel prepared. You may retake the quizzes as many times as you like to improve your score. Just make sure that they are 'closed book'. Please email me with your quiz score by the following class session.

## V. Course Schedule

Class #	
1	Introduction to OT Survey
2	Genesis
3	Exodus
4	Leviticus, Numbers
5	Deuteronomy
6	Joshua
7	Judges, Ruth
8	1 Samuel
9	2 Samuel
10	1 Kings
11	2 Kings

### Recommended Supplementary Books Include:

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas K. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. Excellent survey by respected exegetes.

Geisler, Norman L. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977. This excellent survey is very readable and highly informative. Material is well organized, with outlines, charts, and study questions. Geisler includes relevant material on apologetics and Christ in the Old Testament whenever appropriate—two themes that are often overlooked in survey books. These themes are part of what gives the book its devotional warmth. One of the top surveys of the OT of all time— highly recommended!

Hays, J. Daniel, and J. Scott Duvall, eds. *The Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011. Excellent summaries, beautiful photographs and maps, and helpful sections such as “What is at the heart of Exodus?,” “What makes Exodus interesting and unique?,” “What is the message of Exodus?,” and “Applying Exodus to our lives today.”

Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen’s Survey of the Old Testament: Search and Discover*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1978. The visual charts alone are worth the price of this book.

Thomas Nelson Publishers. *Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts: Old and New Testaments*. Rev. and updated ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1996. Helpful, interesting material throughout. Recommended.

Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. *Talk Thru the Bible*. Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983. Packed with information, interesting, and well-organized. Gold standard for a traditional survey book.