OT 520 Foundations for Old Testament Study

Joyce Nki
INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT
Fall 2003

Course: OT 520
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Joyce Nki
Class meeting: Saturday 9:00-5:00 PM
Office: Rm. 132
Room: Chapel Rm. 105
Tel. 407-482-7681(w); 386-767-7954 (H)
Office hours: S 11:45-12:45 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An Introduction to (1) the literature of the Old Testament in its socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts; and (2) critical study of the Old Testament

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. By the end of the course, students will become familiar with the difficulties involved in understanding and interpreting ancient texts, and
2. Appreciate the unique message of the Old Testament.
3. Identify the theological themes that run through the Old Testament and continue in the New Testament.
4. Describe the general content of each section of the Old Testament.
5. Become familiar with the transforming message of the Old Testament and allow that message to transform into the likeness of the One who created humankind in his image.
6. Become familiar with the history and geography of the biblical world in order to contextually place the Old Testament narrative in real space and time.
7. Arrange the events of the Old Testament in a chronological order.
8. Understand the faith and redemption of Israel in its historical context.
9. Analyze and critique the major questions of the Old Testament scholarship and study (authorship, date, and unity of key portions of the Old Testament)

Course Requirements
(a) Required Textbooks:


(a) ii. **Recommended Textbooks:**


There will be materials useful to this course on the Internet. Details will be provided in class.

(b) **Grading:**

1. Class attendance will count for **5%**. Unless it is an emergency, attendance is very necessary because we have only 5 class meetings the whole term.

2. Participation in class discussions will count for **5%** of your final grade. You are expected to do your weekly assigned readings before each class meeting. Your primary text is your Bible.

3. There will be **Five Web Based Quizzes**, which will account for **15%** of your grade.

4. You will do a one-page double-spaced **weekly response** paper to your readings, which should be turned in at the beginning of every class meeting. These assignments will count for **15%** of your final grade.

5. You will do a term paper for this course and it is due on **10/18/03**. This paper is worthy **35%** of your final grade. The paper should be 3-4 pages double-spaced, plus cover page and bibliography page. Please focus on the following questions:

   a) Discuss three main themes found in the Old Testament.
   b) A short summary on each of the three sections of the Old Testament: indicate theme, list of books, and when each section was closed.
   c) How does the sections of the Old Testament relate or connect to each other?

5. There will be a Final Exam on **Saturday 11/8/03**. This will count for **25%** of your final grade.

NOTE: Use the required and recommended textbooks for weekly response papers and term paper.

**GRADING SCALE**

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SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have any special needs, please let your instructor know the first day of classes in order to assist you in your learning.

HONOR CODE

Please remember academic Honor Code. If you use someone’s material you have to acknowledge them.

Schedule of Classes

1. **September 6, 2003**
   - Introduction
     - Why Study the Old Testament
     - Books of the Bible (Hebrew, Roman Catholic, Protestant)
     - Source Criticism of the Pentateuch (Read the Table of Content in your Bible; JT 1-21; WL 1-14, 585-618

2. **September 20, 2003**
   - Pre-Israelite History
     - Geography
     - Prehistory – Genesis 1-11
     - Ancestral Period – Genesis 12-50
     - Read JT 22-59; WL 15-51, 619-631

3. **October 4, 2003**
   - Early Israel
     - In Egypt and the Exodus - Exodus 1-4; 13:1-16; 19:1-20:17; 31-34
       - Leviticus 11
       - Numbers 13-14
       - Deuteronomy 5; 27; 33
     - Conquest and Settlement- Joshua 1-4; 13-21, Judges 1-3; 13-16
     - Read TJ 60-122; WL 52-127, 131-164

4. **October 18, 2003**
   - The Monarchy
     - Prophecy in Israel (Elijah, Elisha, 8th Century Prophets and Beyond)
     - United Monarchy- 1 Samuel 1-4; 7-8; 10:1-16; 12
       - 9; 10:17-27; 11
       - 2 Samuel 2:1-11; 5:1-16;
     - The two Kingdoms- 1 Kings 12-22; 2 Kings 1-14:20
     - Judah Alone- 1 Kings 14:21-31; 2 Kings 23
     - Read TJ 123-262; WL 165-230
5. **November 8, 2003**  
   Early Judaism  
   - Babylonian Exile – 2 Kings 24; Jer. 29:1-32; Ezek. 37; Ps. 137  
   - Return and Restoration- Isa. 40-55; Ezra 1-10  
   - Judaism and Hellenism- Malachi 1-4; Daniel 1-12; Zechariah 9-14  
   **Read TJ 263-389; WL 400-422, 550-582**

**Schedule for Each Class Meeting**

- **9:00-10:30** Lecture  
- **10:30-10:45** break  
- **10:45-11:45** class activity  
- **11:45-12:45** break  
- **12:45-1:45** quiz  
- **1:45-3:15** class reports  
- **3:15-3:30** break  
- **3:30-5:00** Lecture