vclogo-sm 

# RLGN 1301 VC04 — Old Testament History

***Winter Term 2018***

|  |
| --- |
| Hal N. Ostrander, Ph.D. • Online Professor of Religion & Philosophy478.278.4066 (cell) • harold.ostrander@wayland.wbu.edu |

**Course Description** — An introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the institutions, religion, and national life of the Hebrew people

|  |
| --- |
| It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied  the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. |

## Outcome Competencies

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to demonstrate . . .

* Knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the Old Testament world.
* Knowledge of some of the critical methods used in Old Testament studies.
* An understanding of the basic theological content of the Old Testament and its main teachings.
* Knowledge of the canonical process producing a more complete understanding of the Old

Testament

## 

## *MPj03995770000[1]*Requirements & Grading Scheme

Here's what we will do during this course:

* ***Read & master*** the posted lecture notes *(major exam questions will come ONLY from the lecture notes — trust me!)*
* ***Write*** three (3) **mini-papers** on topics identified below ***(5% each, total of 15% of your grade)***
* ***Respond*** to questions and discuss them with your colleagues via the discussion board ***(10% of your grade)***

**This may not necessarily be YOUR grade!**

* ***Pass*** seven quizzes (posted on Friday of each week except the week of examinations, see schedule); all questions will come from the assigned readings in *SOT* for the week pertaining to the respective quiz (e.g., **Quiz 1**, *SOT 33-36; 37-132)* ***(15% of your grade)***
* ***Pass***three examinations ***(60% of your grade)***

## Textbook

*John Walton & Andrew Hill, A Survey of the Old Testament. Zondervan, 3rd ed., 2009 (SOT)*

## Schedule of Readings, Discussion Boards, Quizzes & Examinations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Part One:* Foundations of the Old Testament** | |
| \*w/o 12 Nov | Formation and Canon of the Bible, *SOT 21-52; 480-497*  (No quiz, but read out of integrity!) |
| w/o 26 Nov | Early History of the Hebrews 1, *SOT 57-120*  ***Quiz 1*** |
| w/o 3 Dec | Early History of the Hebrews 2, *SOT 125-176* ***Quiz 2*** |
| ***Part Two:* God & Old Testament History** | |
| w/o 10 Dec | Deuteronomic History, *SOT 205-253*  ***EXAMINATION 1*** |
| w/o 17 Dec | Priests, Kings, and Exile, *SOT 257-303* ***Discussion Board 1 Quiz 3*** |
| w/o 7 Jan | Calamity and Song, *SOT 309-354* ***Quiz 4*** |
| *Part Three:* God & Old Testament Hope | |
| w/o 14 Jan | The Wisdom Literature, *SOT 375-477 Discussion Board 2 EXAMINATION 2* |
| w/o 21 Jan | The Prophets 1, *SOT 503-577*  *Quiz 5* |
| w/o 28 Jan | The Prophets 2, *SOT 581-656 Discussion Board 3 Quiz 6* |
| w/o 4 Feb | The Prophets 3, *SOT 559-710 Quiz 7* |
| w/o 11 Feb | *Wrap it up!* *FINAL EXAMINATION* |
| SOT = *A Survey of the Old Testament* **\*w/o stands for “week of”** | |

**Mini-Papers**

1. **Bill Cosby on Noah** (Cosby’s recent troubles aside, please complete the assignment based only on the skit’s content!)

* Read carefully the passages in Genesis related to Noah and the Ark (Gen. 6-9)
* Listen to Cosby’s performance: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMH_uVu2Acs>.
* Write a brief paper, 1½ to 2 pages single-spaced, addressing each question (25% each):
  + What are the biblical accuracies you discover in Cosby’s skit?
  + How does Cosby’s portrayal of Noah’s obedience to God’s command square with your understanding of obedience to authority?
  + From what you’ve read about Noah in the Old Testament, what kind of man is he?
  + Do you find the routine irreverent or sacrilegious? Why or why not?

***DUE DATE: Thursday, December 6, before midnight CST***

1. **Job’s Wife**

* Read Job 2:1-10, concentrating especially on Job’s wife’s comment in v. 9.
* Write a brief paper, 1½ to 2 pages single-spaced, addressing each question (25% each):
  + What exactly does she mean by her comment?
  + Is her comment one of derision for his faith and patience, or one of sympathy and love (i.e., die and be spared the deep grief and pain)? Why do you think this?
  + In Job 19:17, Job states: “My breath is offensive to my wife . . .” What inferences do you draw from that statement?
  + At the end of the book, Job’s fortunes are restored, and he has more children; presuming that the same wife is the mother of the “new” children, do you think that perhaps her attitude changed? Why or why not?

***DUE DATE: Thursday, January 10, before midnight CST***

1. **Hank & Hosea**

* Read Hosea, chapters 1-3.
* Click the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvYDQBIokz0>. Three clips will appear. Choose the top video.
* Write a brief paper, 1½ to 2 pages single-spaced, addressing each question (25% each):
  + How would you describe the marriage of Hosea & Gomer?
  + What similarities do you find between Hosea & Gomer and Hank Williams and his love? Lyrics for Hank Williams’ song may be found at:

https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/hankwilliams/youwinagain.html.

* + Who has the power in both of these situations? What words do you find the biblical text and the song to substantiate your answer?
  + What counsel would you offer Hank and Hosea after reading Isaiah 54:7-8. Does God’s strong love for his people make a difference?

## *DUE DATE: Thursday, February 7, before midnight CST*

## NOTE about Mini-Papers: Use your imagination on these assignments. Don’t worry about how I will grade it. Respond to the questions, and you will receive full credit. For the most

## part, there are no right or wrong answers. I want to know what *you* think about the passages and how they impact your understanding and feelings.

## Below are the guidelines to be used in assessing punctuality of submission:

The following penalties will be imposed for ***assignments submitted after the due date:***

* Submissions one minute to seven days late *—* 10 points
* Submissions eight to fourteen days late *—* 20 points
* ***NO SUBMISSIONS*** ***will be accepted more than 14 days late!***

## Quizzes

* All the questions for the weekly Friday quizzes will come from the readings in *SOT*.
* All quizzes will consist of 10 questions in the form of T/F and/or multiple-choice.
* All quizzes will be timed, but you may use any notes taken on the readings. If you

try using the textbook to look up answers quickly, it’s likely you will run out of time.

* Each quiz is worth 100 points total.
* ***NO QUIZ may be made up beyond 3 days of the original due date! You must notify me why you are taking it late! Plus, points will be taken off for late-ness. After 3 days the quiz will be closed, not to be reopened.***

## Exams

* ALL exam questions will come from the posted lecture notes. NOTHING will come from the assigned readings in *SOT*. All answers are in the lecture notes. The mid-term exam will be proctored. Read the information at this link carefully to set up proctoring the exam: <https://www.wbu.edu/wbu-online/current-students/proctored-exams.htm>
  + Format for exams will be T/F and/or multiple-choice.
  + For all intents and purposes, they are open-book. Do not consult with family or ask others to help you.
* No review will be given; be familiar with your notes and where to find information per-taining to the question.
* You’re on the honor system; just do the work yourself!
* Each exam is worth 100 points total.
* ***No exam may be made up beyond 7 days of the original due date! You must notify me why you are taking it late! Plus, points will be taken off for lateness. After 7 days the exam will be closed, not to be reopened.***

## Discussion Boards

## **Each student must participate in three (3) discussion boards/forums.** Discussions will be open those three weeks from Monday through Saturday. Further instructions are found under each discussion board itself.

## Grading

The University grading scale prevails for this course and is as follows:

**A**= 90-100%; **B**=80-89%; **C**=70-79%; **D**=60-69%; **F**=less than 60%

**Tips for Better Grades**

Here are a few pointers for earning good grades in this class.

* Do your best to *apply* the subject material to your life situation — in your present or past work, home setting, social experience, or religious situation.
* For the discussion boards, keep your focus on the topic. I welcome discussions of moral or ethical issues, but make sure that you give attention to the matter at hand.
* Check your grades online about a week after you complete the assignments. If you don't have a grade, send me an email. This is especially critical as final exam time approaches.
* Keep me posted on absences of a week or more, ideally *before* you have to be absent.
* Check the **Announcements** regularly; read and act on all of the announcements.
* Don’t wait until the last minute to submit assignments and/or take tests. Always allow for the possibility of some emergency. “Something is wrong with my computer!” doesn’t work too well these days as an excuse.
* Please let me know whether you understand the subject matter. Just reading the textbook and lecture notes doesn’t necessarily mean you really comprehend it. Biblical studies, like economics, biology, criminology, etc., has its own set of technical terms, jargon, and such. If you don’t understand something, ask me about it through my email at: [harold.ostrander@wayland.wbu.edu](mailto:harold.ostrander@wayland.wbu.edu).

**Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty

Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of exams or exam materials, forgery, or plagiarism. See the current *WBU Catalog* for penalties that may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty.

**One last thing; you’ll enjoy this class better . . . *if you value:***

???

* ***Questions*** *more than answers . . .*

* ***Humor*** *more than whatever its opposite is, and . . . *



* ***Hard work*** *with our readings and biblical texts!*

**Did I mention this class is reading-intensive?**

**Please stay current with all assignments!**

**Exceptions to the rules above are RARE!**