



On-Campus Course Syllabus

OTS 501 FA.L1

Old Testament Survey I: Genesis - Esther

Fall 2019

Class Information

Day and Time: Monday 10:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Room Number: E209

Contact Information

Instructor Name: David L. Brooks

Instructor Email: dbrooks@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1324

Instructor Office Hours: Monday 2 – 3; Tuesday 10:30 – 11:00; 12:00 – 1:00; Thursday 2:00 – 5:00

Course Description and Prerequisites

An advanced study of the books of Genesis through Esther, emphasizing the historical framework of the Old Testament, problems of interpretation, and the contribution of these books to biblical theology and godly living.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

- A. Construct a timeline of the major OT events and characters in these 17 books;
- B. Discuss the issues relating to the historical background, purpose, structure, genres, and message of each book;
- C. Evaluate and articulate in a clear and scholarly manner the critical issues of the Pentateuch and Historical Books, such as origination, composition, and unity of the books; and
- D. Describe the general content and major theological emphases of the Pentateuch and Historical Books;
- E. Apply the major theological principles from these OT books to biblical theology (especially how they prepare for the advent of Christ) and systematic theology and integrate them into your worldview.

Required Textbooks

- A. Merrill, Eugene H., Mark F. Rooker, and Michael A. Grisanti. *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2011. (ISBN: 9780805440317)
- B. Charles, J. Daryl, ed. *Reading Genesis 1 – 2: An Evangelical Conversation*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2013. (ISBN: 978-1598568882)

Course Requirements and Assignments

- A. **Tests** on material from the professor's written presentations and Merrill, Rooker, and Grisanti's textbook (MRG). Tests will be taken on Canvas.
- B. **Quiz:** Map and chronology: Identify the countries, cities, bodies of water, and topographic regions of Israel and the ANE on a map and locate on a timeline the people and events listed on the quiz.
- C. **Book review** of Charles, J. Daryl, ed. *Reading Genesis 1–2: An Evangelical Conversation*. The complete description and rubric are available on Canvas. Submit the review on Canvas.
- D. **The Christian and the Law** (of Moses). A 5- to 6-page paper examining the relevance of the Mosaic Law to the Christian. The details of the assignment are on Canvas. The paper is to be submitted on Canvas, also. See the schedule below for the due date.
- E. **Reading report** how much of the two textbooks and critical reading on reserve in the library you have read.
- Read the textbook by Merrill, Grisanti, and Rooker (MRG) per the Course Outline/Calendar.
 - Read 200 pages of the critical reading below. The books are on reserve in the Wallace Library. Read the chapters designated below from the books. Several of the reading selections are journal articles and can be accessed online or in the Wallace Library.
 - For each author write one paragraph summarizing his idea(s) in the selection. The paragraph should not exceed 200 words. Submit on Canvas your report of the chapters/articles read, the total amount of pages read, and the paragraphs summarizing the readings.
 - Read at least 150 pages from the following reading list. For each article or chapter, write two paragraphs: one summarizing the idea(s) of the scholar and one giving your reaction to those ideas. Your reaction must include evidence supporting your opinion.
 1. Bimson, John J. *Redating the Exodus*. JSOT Supplements. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1988.
 2. Childs, Brevard. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1979). "The "Discipline of Old Testament Introduction,"" Pages 27-45.
 3. Demsky, A. "Who Came First, Ezra or Nehemiah? The Synchronistic Approach." *Hebrew Union College Annual* 65 (1994): 1-20.
 4. Fohrer, Georg, and Ernst Sellin. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Trans. David E. Green (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1968). "Joshua" There is a 1986 paperback edition.
 5. Gottwald, Norman K. *The Tribes of Yahweh: A Sociology of the Religion of Liberated Israel, 1250-1050 B.C.E.* Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1962. "Obstacles to a Comprehensive Understanding of Early Israel," 3-8; "Models of the Israelite Settlement in Canaan," 191-236
 6. Hess, Richard. *Israelite Religions: An Archaeological and Biblical Survey*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007. "Narrative and Legal Strands of the Pentateuch," 141-70; and "Priestly and Cultic Strands of the Pentateuch," 171-208.
 7. Kitchen, Kenneth A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003. "The Empire Strikes Back—Saul, David, and Solomon," 81-158; or "Humble Beginnings—around and in Canaan," 159-240.
 8. Lemke, W. E. "The Synoptic Problem in the Chronicler's History," *Harvard Theological Review* 58 (1965): 349-63.

9. Long, V. P. *The Art of Biblical History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994. "History and the Genre(s) of the Bible: Is the Bible a History Book?" 27-57.
10. McFall, L. "Was Nehemiah Contemporary with Ezra in 458 B.C.?" *Westminster Theological Journal* 53 (1991): 263-93.
11. McKenzie, Steven L. *The Chronicler's Use of the Deuteronomistic History*. Atlanta: Scholars, 1984.
12. Noth, Martin. *The Deuteronomistic History*. JSOT Supplements. Sheffield: University of Sheffield, 1981.
13. Payne, J. Barton. "The Validity of Numbers in Chronicles." *Near East Archaeology Society Bulletin* 18 (1978): 5-58.
14. Rendtdorff, Rolf. *The Old Testament: An Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986. "The Beginnings of the Monarchy," 29-36; "Israel and Judah in the Time of the Monarchy," 37-54; "The Books of Samuel," 170-73, "The Books of Kings," 174-182; "The Deuteronomistic History," 183-87.
15. Shea, W. H. "Esther and History." *Concordia Journal* 13 (1987): 234-48.
16. Whybray, R. N. *The Making of the Pentateuch: A Methodological Study*. JSOT Supplements. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1987. "The New Approach," 133-36; "The Meaning of 'Tradition'," 136-39; "The Study of Oral Tradition," 139-84.
17. Wood, Bryant. "Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho?" *16 Biblical Archaeology Review* (March-April 1990): 44-57.
18. Wright, J. S. "The Historicity of the Book of Esther." In *New Perspectives on the Old Testament*. Edited by J. Barton Payne. Waco, TX: Word, 1970.
19. Younger, K. Lawson. *Ancient Conquest Accounts: A Study in Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical History Writing*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990. "Israelite Conquest Accounts," 197-240.

<u>Library resources</u>	<p>Students can access information about Criswell College's Wallace Library at http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/.</p> <p>You can access scholarly articles through the library online at http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/electronic_databases</p> <p>The Wallace Library manual is available at http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/library_handbook/.</p>
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Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Weighted grading for this course:

1. Tests	45%
2. Quiz	10%
3. Book review	15%
4. Christian and the Law	10%
5. Reading report of the textbooks	10%
6. Reading/summary report	10%
Total	100%

Note: Criswell's grading scale as of fall 2019: 60 is passing, 70 is C-, 80 is B-, 90 is A-, etc.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,

- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and CAMS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with CAMS should contact the Campus Software Manager at bstifle@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through Dr. Jeff Campbell, Dean of Students, at jcampbell@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	Subject (book and/or special topic)	Reading Assignments	Written Assignments
1	Aug 19	Syllabus, geography, historical overview, history of OT Criticism		
2	Aug 26	Critical methods, ANE Lit: laws and creation stories, ANE religions and myth	MRG 1-70	
<i>Labor Day—no classes meet</i>				
3	Sept 9	Canonicity, transmission of the OT, text criticism	MRG 73-121	Geography and history quiz
4	Sept 16	Genesis: Creation account, flood stories, purpose of genealogies, double creation accounts in Genesis	MRG 123-89	
5	Sept 23	Genesis: Canaan in ancient history, family history/saga, Egyptian history in the Middle Kingdom, Mosaic authorship		Test 1: Prolegomena
6	Sept 30	Exodus: Historicity of the exodus, date of the exodus, ancient law codes, purpose of the plagues	MRG 190-214	Book review
7	Oct 7	Exodus and Leviticus: Purpose of Israel, centrality of the Decalogue, hardening of the pharaoh's heart, Levitical offerings	MRG 217-30	
8	Oct 14	Numbers and Deuteronomy: large numbers in the Bible, Hittite and Assyrian treaties, Deuteronomistic school, Deuteronomistic history	MRG 232-68	
9	Oct 21	Joshua: Conquest models	MRG 271-87	The Christian and the Law

Week	Date	Subject (book and/or special topic)	Reading Assignments	Written Assignments
10	Oct 28	Judges: Dating the Judges period	MRG 288-306	Test 2: Pentateuch
11	Nov 4	Samuel: History writing, covenant	MRG 307-17	
12	Nov 11	Kings: Dates of the kings	MRG 319-29	
13	Nov 18	Chronicles: Samuel–Kings relation to Chronicles	MRG 330-342	
<i>Reading Days and Thanksgiving Day—no classes meet</i>				
14	Dec 2	Ezra–Nehemiah and Esther: Sequence of Ezra and Nehemiah, historicity of Esther	MRG 343-60	
15	Dec 9			Test 3: Historical Books; Reading reports (2)

Selected Bibliography

Archer, Gleason L., Jr. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. 4d edition. Chicago: Moody, 2007.

Beitzel, Barry. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible*. Chicago: Moody, 2009.

Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Coogan, Michael D. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Copan, Paul. *Is God a Moral Monster: Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011

Craigie, Peter C. *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1986.

Fretheim, Terence E. *The Pentateuch*. *Interpreting Biblical Texts*, ed. Gene M. Tucker and Charles B. Cousar. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996. Pp. 19-170.

Gaebelein, Frank E., ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vols. 1-4. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979-88.

Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. 2d ed. Chicago: Moody, 2005.

Hamilton, Victor. *Handbook on the Pentateuch*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Harrison, Roland K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004.

- Hoerth, Alfred J., Gerald L. Mattingly, and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999.
- Howard, David. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books*. Chicago: Moody, 1993.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *A History of Israel: From the Bronze Age through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- LaSor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard, and Frederic William Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Livingston, G. Herbert. *The Pentateuch in Its Cultural Environment*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.
- Longman, Tremper, III, and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
- Matthews, Victor H., and James C. Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*. 2d edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Schultz, Samuel J. *The Old Testament Speaks*. 5d edition. New York: HarperOne, 1999.
- Wegner, Paul D. *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1999.
- Wood, Leon. *A Survey of Israel's History*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Yamauchi, Edwin M. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1990.
- Young, Edward J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964.