



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## OTS 501 FA.L1

### Old Testament Introduction I

#### Fall 2020

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Tuesday 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Room Number:** E207

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** David Brooks

**Instructor Email:** dbrooks@criswell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 214-818-1324

**Instructor Office Hours:** Tu 2:30 – 4:30; W 1:00 – 2:00; Th 2:30 – 3:30; per the Administration, these should be carried on through phone calls and video rather than in person during the COVID pandemic.

#### 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. **Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) religions.** In a 6- to 8-page paper describe the religion of either Canaan, Egypt, or Babylon during OT times. The complete description and rubric are available on Canvas. Submit the review on Canvas.
- E. **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.
- F. **Textbook reading report.** Report how much of the two textbooks you read. For MRG the requirement is for pp. 1-360 this semester.
- G. **Critical reading report** how much of the critical reading on reserve in the library you have read.
  - Read from the critical reading below. Read the chapters designated below from the books. The books are on reserve in the Wallace Library. Several of the reading selections are journal articles and can be accessed online or in the Wallace Library.
    - Read at least 200 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. Paragraphs should not exceed 200 words each (so, a maximum of 400 words per article or chapter).
    - Submit your report on Canvas of the chapters/articles read, the total amount of pages read, and the paragraphs summarizing the readings. Remember: you only need to read 200 pages, not all of the following.
      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?" *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><b>Library resources</b></u>	<p><b>Students can access information about Criswell College's Wallace Library at <a href="http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/">http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/</a>.</b></p> <p><b>You can access scholarly articles through the library online at <a href="http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/electronic_databases">http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/electronic_databases</a></b></p> <p><b>The Wallace Library manual is available at <a href="http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/library_handbook/">http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/library_handbook/</a>.</b></p>
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## Course/Classroom Policies and Information

*Weighted grading for this course:*

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|----------|-----|
| 1. Tests | 45% |
|----------|-----|

2. Quiz	5%
3. Book review	10%
4. ANE religion	10%
5. Christian and the Law	10%
6. Reading report of the textbook (MRG)	10%
7. Reading/summary “critical” reading	10%
Total	100%

## 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. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students’ ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment**

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

## **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 instructor, 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 Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS 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 SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@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](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu). Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoringcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@criswell.edu) or by calling 214.818.1373.

**If due to the pandemic the campus closes during the semester, class sessions scheduled below will be by Zoom. Assignments are on Canvas and submitted on Canvas, so that would not change.**

## Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	Subject	Reading Assignments	Written Assignments
1	Aug 18	Syllabus, geography, historical overview		
2	Aug 25	History of OT criticism, Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch	MRG 1-70	
3	Sept 1	Genesis	MRG 73-121	Geography and history quiz
4	<b>Sept 8</b>	<b>Genesis</b>	<b>MRG 123-89</b>	<b>Test 1: Prolegomena</b>
5	Sept 15	Exodus		
6	Sept 22	Exodus	MRG 190-214	Book review

Week	Date	Subject	Reading Assignments	Written Assignments
7	Sept 29	Leviticus and Numbers	MRG 217-50	
8	Oct 6	Deuteronomy	MRG 251-68	ANE religions
9	Oct 13	Joshua	MRG 271-87	
<b>10</b>	<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>Judges and Ruth</b>	<b>MRG 288-306</b>	<b>Test 2: Pentateuch</b>
11	Oct 27	Samuel	MRG 307-17	
12	Nov 3	Kings	MRG 319-29	The Christian and the OT Law
13	Nov 10	Chronicles	MRG 330-342	
14	Nov 17	Ezra-Nehemiah	MRG 343-53	
<b>Week of Nov 24: Reading Week and Thanksgiving—No classes meet</b>				
15	Dec 1	Esther	MRG 354-360	
16	<b>Dec 8</b>			<b>Test 3 due: Historical Books; Reading reports (2)</b>

## 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.





## On-Campus Course Syllabus

### **ADDENDUM FOR FA-20**

OTS 501 FA.L1

## Old Testament Introduction I

In the event that Criswell College has to close the campus to on-campus classes in during the FA-20 semester, this addendum specifies how your instructor intends to adjust the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

Nothing changes except for how we meet in class sessions.

### **Remote Class Sessions: Identity and Participation Verification**

If campus closes, we will have our class sessions on Zoom. You may join by phone if necessary, but computer, laptop, or tablet is preferable. You may keep your video blacked out if you prefer, but you are expected to be present throughout the session and respond when called upon.