



Online Course Syllabus

OTS 501 L1

Old Testament Introduction 1: Genesis - Esther

Spring 2023

Contact Information

Instructor Name: David Brooks

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Instructor Office Hours: Students may email the professor to set up a phone call or Zoom meeting

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

By completion of the course, the student should be able to...

- A. Construct a timeline of the major OT events and characters in these seventeen books;
- B. Describe the general content and major theological emphases of the Pentateuch and Historical Books;
- C. Discuss the issues relating to the historical background, purpose, structure, and message of each book;
- D. 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;
- E. Identify the major theological principles from these OT books and apply them to biblical (especially how they prepare for the advent of Christ) and systematic theology and integrate them into your worldview; and
- F. Apply biblical principles from the OT to contemporary situations.

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)

C. Canvas written presentations by the professor: from *Old Testament Story*

Course Requirements and Assignments

Note: all **due dates are Sunday nights** at midnight, except original threads of discussions—see below.

A. **Tests** on material from the professor’s written presentations and Merrill, Rooker, and Grisanti’s textbook (MRG).

B. **Discussions** over five issues about theology and critical issues. The complete descriptions and rubric are available on Canvas.

C. **Quiz** on the geography of the ancient Near East and Israel.

D. **Research paper** on a critical issue in the Pentateuch or Historical Books. The list of suggested topics, rubric, and a full description of requirements for writing are available on Canvas.

E. **Topic and Bibliography** for the research paper. This is preliminary to the research paper above. The instructions and rubric are on Canvas. The instructions include suggested paper topics.

<u>Library resources</u>	Distance education students can access information about Criswell College’s Wallace Library at http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/ . The Wallace Library manual is available at http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/library_handbook/
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F. **Timeline** on PowerPoint of the major OT characters and events. The complete description and rubric are available on Canvas.

G. **Reading report** how much of the textbooks and lectures have been read.

H. Watch the **Video Recordings** weekly for each of the biblical books. They range from about 20 to 45 minutes each.

Online Course Information

In an online course at Criswell College:

1. Instructors and all students enrolled in that course meet using video-conferencing technology at scheduled class times through the course of a semester or term in order to meet 25–30% of the direct faculty instruction required by the college’s Credit Hour policy.
2. The remaining direct faculty instruction is delivered using other means such as:

- Lectures/instruction for students to watch asynchronously
- Online content modules in which instructor provides feedback to student work
- Tests/quizzes on which instructor provides feedback
- Discussion boards on which instructor provides feedback

Canvas: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool to host/deliver all instructional materials, discussions, assessments, files, and other peripheral tools and applications that support teaching and learning. In online courses at Criswell College, instructors design and use Canvas to:

- organize course content on a module basis using organizational tools within Canvas,
- control the timing of course requirements through module control or assignment due dates to ensure that students are engaged for the full length of the semester or term,
- accept assignments from students only inside the Canvas course (emailed assignments are not acceptable),
- provide written feedback on assignments only within Canvas, preferably through Speedgrader,
- use the Announcement or e-mail feature in Canvas to communicate to the students rather than by broadcasting to a class email listserv outside of Canvas.

Zoom in Canvas is used for all synchronous class sessions.

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.

Identity Verification and Evidence of Attendance: Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. In online courses at Criswell College, a student participates in class or otherwise engages in an academically related activity. These activities comprise items relevant to Identity Verification for Distance Education Courses. Acceptable evidence of attendance at an academically related activity in an Online course includes, for example, a student's:

- participation in a synchronous remote video class session with the instructor present,
- student picture id submitted in the Canvas Account Profile,
- submission of an academic assignment, quiz, or exam,
- participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction,
- participation in an online study group or discussion board that is assigned by the instructor,
- documentation showing that the student and a faculty member corresponded about the academic subject studied in the course.

Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. Such participation may include the following: completing quizzes or exams; emailing faculty or class members as part of an assignment; discussion board posting or response; turning in an assignment; or other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. When unavoidable situations result in non-participation, 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 participation affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether participation 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

Weighted grading of assignments for course grade:

1. Tests	30%
2. Discussions	20%
3. Quiz	5%
4. Video recordings	10%
5. Research paper	15%
6. Topic and bibliography	3%
7. PowerPoint timeline	7%
8. Reading report	10%
Total	100%

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 Support

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. The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information can be found at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

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. 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 or by calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

**13 weekly videos are assigned relative to each assigned biblical book*

SESSION	DATES	CONTENT		READING ASSIGNMENT	WRITING OR VIDEO ASSIGNMENT
1	Jan 17-22	Prolegomena		MRG 1-70 OTS Prolegomena	Video Introduction
2	Jan 23-29	Gen 1 – 11		MRG 123-62	Discussion 1: Synchronic and Diachronic methods
3	Jan 30 – Feb 5	Gen 1 – 11 (continued)		OTS Gen 1 – 11	
4	Feb 6-12	Gen 12 – 50		MRG 163-89 OTS Gen 12-50	Quiz: Geography
5	Feb 13-19	Exodus		MRG 190-214 OTS Exodus	Test 1: Prolegomena – Genesis
6	Feb 20-26	Leviticus		MRG 217-30 OTS Leviticus	
7	Feb 27 – Mar 5	Numbers		MRG 232-50 OTS Numbers	Discussion 2: The Mosaic Law

SESSION	DATES	CONTENT		READING ASSIGNMENT	WRITING OR VIDEO ASSIGNMENT
8	Mar 6-12	Deuteronomy		MRG 251-68 OTS Deuteronomy	Discussion 3: Authorship of the Pentateuch
MAR 13-19 SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES, NO ASSIGNMENTS DUE					
9	Mar 20-26	Joshua		MRG 271-87 OTS Joshua	Test 2: Exodus - Deuteronomy
10	Mar 27 – Apr 2	Judges – Ruth		MRG 288-306 OTS Judges – Ruth	Paper topic and bibliography
11	Apr 3-9	1 – 2 Samuel		MRG 307-17 1 – 2 Samuel	Discussion 4: Value of the Historical Books
12	Apr 10-16	1 – 2 Kings		MRG 319-29 1 – 2 Kings	PowerPoint: History
13	Apr 17-23	1 – 2 Chronicles		MRG 330-42 1 – 2 Chronicles	Test 3: Joshua – 2 Kings
14	Apr 24-30	Ezra-Nehemiah		MRG 343-53 OTS Ezra- Nehemiah	Research Paper
15	May 1-7	Esther		MRG 354-60 OTS Esther	Discussion 5: Providence and Sovereignty
16	May 8-12				Final exam; reading report

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.

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