

REL 1010: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

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[Office Hours](#) will be posted on door and online

THIS COURSE

This course is required for every student of William Carey University, as an integral part of a well-rounded educational experience. As primary literature for Judaism and Christianity, the Old Testament has greatly influenced the development of western civilization, and its study is necessary for a complete understanding of western thought and values. This course should enable students to think intelligently about the Old Testament and its place in their lives.

COURSE DESCRIPTION and LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Descriptions: An introduction to the history, literature, and theology of the Old Testament.

Upon completing the course, the student will:

1. be able to describe the history of the Old Testament including the historical storyline of the Old Testament and the cultural, political, and geographical backgrounds of the Old Testament world,
2. be able to describe the literary structure of the Old Testament including genre, canon, and basic literary content of each book, and
3. be able to describe the theology of the Old Testament including the identification of the main themes of each book and the specific theological subjects that are normative and distinctive in Old Testament studies.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Class format is primarily lecture, and the student is expected to maintain careful notes; a synopsis of the lecture material is available online (see above address) to assist the student in organizing his/her notes
- Daily reading assignments, subject to quizzes, appear on the class schedule below
- Class participation through discussion and questions, both in and out of class, are strongly encouraged
- Audiovisual materials and archaeological artifacts will be used whenever possible
- Class communication, study helps, and the like will be disseminated through the University's online learning system, **D2L** ("Desire 2 Learn"); it is therefore essential that all students utilize it by registering and logging in regularly

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE

Students with disabilities who are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and require special accommodations, should contact Ms. Brenda Waldrup at 601-318-6188. Ms. Waldrup is located in the Student Services Office in Lawrence Hall.

TEXTBOOKS

- The main text is the Old Testament itself. Please have a modern translation in class (translated in the last 100 years). If you have questions about the various translations available, please ask.
- Extensive readings are assigned from the supplementary text: James B. Pritchard, ed., *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures*, Vol. 1 (Princeton: Univ. Press, 1959). ISBN: 978-0691002002.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

- **Class format** is primarily lecture, and the student is expected to maintain careful notes; a synopsis of the lecture material is available online (see above address) to assist the student in organizing his/her notes
- **Class participation** through discussion and questions is strongly encouraged, both in class and on the University's online learning system, **D2L**
- **Reading quizzes:** Daily reading assignments will be subject to random and unannounced reading quizzes. The number of these quizzes will be determined by the instructor. Missed quizzes may not be made up, but *at least* 20% of the lowest quiz scores will be dropped (e.g., the 10 best quiz scores would be counted out of 13). **Some quizzes may be administered using D2L with prior notice.**
- **Grading System:** grades will be determined according to the following items and percentages:

Assignment	Weight
Reading Quizzes	20%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	20%
Final Exam (minimally comprehensive)	20%

- **Grading Scale:** The student's final letter grade will be assigned from his/her average according to a *ten-point grading scale*; i.e.: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; < 60 = F
- Extra credit work will not be assigned; the grading system and/or class schedule may be modified for the benefit of the class as the instructor sees fit. Any changes will be accompanied by written notification
- The instructor retains—at his sole discretion—the right to assign a grade of 'F' to individual students in cases of flagrant or repeated violations of "Attendance and Classroom Policies" outlined in the section below

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University Statement: William Carey University seeks to create an environment that encourages continued growth of moral and ethical values, which include personal honesty and mutual trust. The University places the highest value on academic integrity and regards any act of academic dishonesty as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty is considered unethical and in violation of William Carey University's academic standards and Christian commitment. If such an incident occurs, students, faculty, and/or staff are obligated to initiate appropriate action. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, sanctions could include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, and could lead to suspension or dismissal from the University. A full explanation of the procedures for responding to instances of academic dishonesty is contained in the University's *Policies and Procedures Manual* and in the student handbook, *The Red Book*.

INSTRUCTOR'S POLICY: ALL incidents of academic dishonesty (whether involving in-class exercises or plagiarizing of written work) will be considered as the most serious offense; ANY cases will result in immediate failure of the course and possible further actions according to University policy.

CLASSROOM and ATTENDANCE POLICIES

It is far preferable to teach and learn in an atmosphere in which students are eager to learn and display mutual respect for instructors and other students alike. Unfortunately, recent trends in student behavior, specific actions by certain students, and results of those acts make this section necessary.

General Classroom Policies

- The instructor is the final authority in matters of class decorum; if any student is deemed to be disruptive to the learning environment, the instructor—at his sole discretion—may dismiss that student and assign an absence for the period
- Class begins at the specified time; quizzes or quiz questions missed as a result of tardiness may not be made up
- Getting up to leave temporarily during class is not acceptable, except in cases of severe distress; students must regulate their bodily functions like adults (go to the potty before class!)
- **Cell phones and pagers are not allowed in class**, for voice *or text* communication; if a cell phone rings, the student in possession will be dismissed from the class and assessed an absence
- Recording of class sessions is not allowed except by special permission

Attendance

- The William Carey University catalog states, “students must attend 75% of the class meetings in order to receive credit for the course;” this policy will be enforced with the following additions
- NO distinction is made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences for attendance reporting; if you are not in class—for *any reason*—you are considered absent, plain and simple; this means:
 - 1) absences for school activities count as regular absences and the student is responsible for keeping their total absences within the limits specified by the University catalog (above), and
 - 2) doctor’s excuses are not needed and will have no bearing on attendance reporting
- If a student adds the course late and misses classes, those absences *will be* recorded as absences
- If a student is not present when attendance is determined (either by roll call or by work performed in class), the student will be considered absent (there will be no “tardy” category)
- If a student leaves class early, they will be assessed an absence and will not receive credit for work completed in the class; for example, students will not be given credit for a quiz if they leave class during the period in which the quiz was administered

Examination Policy

- Students must be present for all sectional exams (each designated “Exam” on the course schedule); absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero, unless *prior* arrangements have been made with and approved by the instructor
- Makeup exams will be given only under extreme circumstances or in cases of absence for school sponsored programs, and only by *prior* approval from the instructor; **it is the student’s responsibility** to request such arrangements

DISASTER CONTINGENCY

In the event of closure or cancellations due to natural disaster or other emergency causes, general information will be forwarded to local media, posted on the WCU website <http://wmcarey.edu>, and sent via automated process to your WCU student e-mail address. Specific information regarding the continuation of coursework will be posted on the university’s course management system at <https://elearning.wmcarey.edu>. For up-to-the-minute alerts regarding emergency situations, sign up to receive notifications through *Sader Watch*, the WCU emergency text message service. Sign up instructions can be found under current students on the WCU homepage.

COURSE SCHEDULE Fall 2009—REL 1010 sec. 10; MWF 10:10

NOTE: "ANE" designates the supplementary text; other readings are from OT books by abbreviations and chapter:verse notation (e.g., Ex 1-2 indicates Exodus chapters 1 and 2; 1 Sam 15:30-16:40 = 1 Samuel chapter 15, verse 30 through chapter 16, verse 40)

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Aug 24	Intro to the Course	
2	Aug 26	OT Text and Literature	Syllabus; Gen 1:6, 2:24, 3:1, 10:1-3; Ex 4:24-26, 15:21, 20:14, 21:28-31; Num 33:9-14; Deut 6:4-9, 23:1; Josh 16:1-2; Judg 15:15; 2 Ki 2:23-3:3; Ps 100; Prov 27:15-16; 31:10-11; Eccl 2:1-3; Song of Sol 7:1-9; Jer 30:1-3; Dan 7:2-6
3	Aug 28	OT Literature and its Transmission	
4	Aug 31	Hebrew Poetry and Poetic Books	ANE 226-30; Pss 22-23, 104; ANE 257-58; Song of Sol 1-5
5	Sept 2	Wisdom Literature	Prov 22:17-24:22; ANE 234-43; Eccl 1-2
6	Sept 3	Intro to Torah/Pentateuch	ANE 40-75
	Sept 7	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	
7	Sept 9	EXAM I	
8	Sept 11	Primeval Prologue I	ANE 31-39; Gen 1-5
9	Sept 14	Primeval Prologue II	Gen 6-11; ANE 28-30
10	Sept 16	Genesis: the Patriarchs	ANE 5-11; Gen 12-26; ANE 167-70
11	Sept 18	Genesis: The Patriarchs	Gen 27-50; ANE 12-16, 24-27
12	Sept 21	The Exodus: Background	ANE 173-84, 262-77
13	Sept 23	The Exodus	Ex 1-23; ANE 231, figs. 91, 96
14	Sept 25	Leviticus; Numbers; Deuteronomy	Dt 6:1-9

COURSE SCHEDULE Fall 2009, cont'd

NOTE: "ANE" designates the supplementary text; other readings are from OT books by std. abbreviations

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
15	Sept 28	Archaeology, Geography, and History of the Ancient Near East; the Biblical Story	Study outline: http://www.wmcarey.edu/browning/Courses/OT/OT0-OTHistory.pdf
16	Sept 30	Joshua and Judges	Josh 1-2, 6-11; ANE 185-86, fig. 92; Judg 1-5, 13-16; 1 Sam 1-11; 1 Sam 13-15; Ruth
17	Oct 2	EXAM II	
18	Oct 5	United Monarchy: Saul and David	1 Sam 1-11, 13-18; 31; 2 Sam 5-7
19	Oct 7	Solomon	1 Ki 9-11; ANE figs. 181-85
20	Oct 9	The Divided Monarchy: Israel & Judah	1 Ki 12-15; ANE 187, fig. 94
21	Oct 12	Divided Monarchy: The 9th Cent.	1 Ki 16-22; ANE 209-10, fig. 74; 188-91, fig. 100
22	Oct 14	Divided Monarchy: 8th Cent.	ANE 192-93
23	Oct 16	8 th century Prophets	Amos 4, 6; Hos 1-3; Isa 6, 40, 52:13-53:12
24	Oct 19	EXAM III	
25	Oct 21	The Syro-Ephraimite War; Fall of Israel	ANE 193-94; 2 Ki 16; Isa 7-8
26	Oct 23	Hezekiah and Sennacherib; 7th Cent. Prophets;	ANE 195-98; 2 Ki 17; Isa 36-37; ANE 212; Isa 22; ANE199-202; Hab 1-2; Jer 7, 31
27	Oct 26	Destruction of Judah, Jerusalem; The Exile	ANE 202-203, 212-14; Jer 32; Ezek 1; 23; 37:1-14
28	Oct 28	The Post-Exilic Period; Esther; Daniel	ANE 203-208, 278-82; Ezra 1, 3, 5; Jonah; Esther
29	Oct 30	Final Exam (reg. class time)	