

REL 1018: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT (HONORS)

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Office Hours will be posted on door and online

THIS COURSE

This standard version of 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 all students to think intelligently about the Old Testament and its place in their lives. Additionally, honors students are exposed to current research and academic directions in Old Testament study and encouraged to meaningfully summarize and evaluate these trends for themselves and others.

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 lecture based, and the student is expected to maintain careful notes; a synopsis of the lecture material will be available online 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 are strongly encouraged
- Reading/writing assignments are designed to expose students to academic trends in the subject and provide experience in evaluation and reaction to the same
- 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 Waldrip at 601-318-6188. Ms. Waldrip 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 lecture based, and the student is expected to maintain careful notes; a synopsis of the lecture material will be available online 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 and Participation	25%
Article Review	10%
Issue Review	15%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
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 and 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 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 Lance*.

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.

REVIEWS

Requirements include reviews (due dates indicated in the course schedule) of:

- 1) A scholarly article (ca. 2 pgs only). The article review must come from scholarly journals or collected essays, chosen according to the student's interest, and must be relevant to the course content *and approved by the instructor*. Details and expected format are in the instructor's "Guidelines for Article Reviews."
- 2) An "issue" related to the Old Testament—chosen according to the student's interest or curiosity—will be researched at the level of assembling bibliography, evaluating it, and characterizing competing points of view. This is not a full research paper, but should simulate the initial steps in producing one. Proper academic form will be expected. Additional details will be provided in class.

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.

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; the instructor—at his sole discretion—may dismiss any student for disruptions and assign an absence for the period
- 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; in cases of violation, students may 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 days *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
- Students must be present for all sectional exams; 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

REL 1018 sec 10 COURSE SCHEDULE--Fall 2009

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

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
BACKGROUND OF THE OT			
1	Aug 25	Intro to the Course	
2	Aug 27	OT Text and Literature	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	Sept 1	Poetry/Wisdom Literature	ANE 226-30; Pss 22-23, 104; ANE 257-58; Song of Sol 1-5; Prov 22:17-24:22; ANE 234-43; Eccl 1-2
4	Sept 3	Intro to the Torah/Pentateuch	ANE 40-75
5	Sept 8	EXAM I	
PROLOGUE & ISRAEL'S BIRTH			
6	Sept 10	Primeval Prologue	ANE 31-39; Gen 1-11; ANE 28-30
7	Sept 12	Patriarchs in History; Article Review Due	ANE 5-11; Gen 12-25; ANE 167-70
8	Sept 17	Genesis: The Patriarchs	Gen 27-50; ANE 12-16, 24-27
9	Sept 22	The Exodus	Ex 1-21; ANE 173-84, 262-77, 231, fig.96; Dt 6:1-9
10	Sept 24	Conquest	Josh 1-2, 6-11; Judg 1-5
11	Sept 29	the Judges	Judg 13-16; ANE 185-86; Ruth
12	Oct 1	EXAM II	
ISRAEL BECOMES A STATE			
13	Oct 6	United Monarchy	1 Sam 1-11; 13:5-15; 16-18; 31; 2 Sam 5-7; ANE 16-24
INTERNATIONAL CRISES & PROPHETIC INTERPRET.			
14	Oct 8	Divided Monarchy: The 9th Cent.	1 Ki 9-12, 16-22; ANE 187, fig. 94; 209-10; 188-91
15	Oct 13	Divided Monarchy: 8th Cent.	Amos 4, 6; Hos 1-3; ANE 192-94
16	Oct 15	Isaiah; the Fall of Israel	Isa 6-8; 2 Ki 16; ANE 195-98, 2 Ki 17; Isa 22, 36-39; ANE 212; Isa 52:13-53:12; ANE199-202
17	Oct 20	7th Cent. Prophets; Issue Review Due	ANE 202-203, 212-14; Hab 1-2; Jer 7, 31-32; Ezek 1, 23, 37:1-14
18	Oct 22	Exile and the Post-Exilic Period	ANE 203-208, 278-82; Ezra 1, 3, 5
19	Oct 27	Post Exilic Prophets; Esther; Daniel	Jonah; Esther
20	Oct 29	Final Exam	