



GBS 510 Old Testament Introduction

Spring 2021

Instructor Information

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Office Location: Student Life Office

The best way to connect with Dr. Goodwill is through email. He will check email daily and do his best to respond within 24 hours. If you do not receive a respond within 24 hours, please assume that the email was accidently overlooked and send a follow-up email.

If your question needs a response sooner than 24 hours, please call/text.

Course Description: This course studies the authorship, date, historical setting, and canonicity of the sixty-six books of the Bible along with a survey of the major modern critical approaches to those issues. Special attention is given to the inerrancy of scripture and to the methodological problems inherent in liberal scholarship's approach to Scripture (3 hours credit).

Prerequisite: none

Textbook Information:

Required Texts/Materials:

- Gleason Archer. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction, revised and expanded ed.* Chicago: Moody Press, 2007.

Note: the first edition (available on Logos) is an acceptable addition to use for this course.

Recommended Texts:

- David W. Baker and Bill T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman, III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Students joining the class virtually must have a computer, internet connection, video camera, and a headset with a microphone.

MBU Institutional Outcomes supported by this course.

1. **Scientific Reasoning:** Students will use scientific principles to draw empirical conclusions about the order of all creation.
2. **Biblical Interpretation:** Students will interpret Scripture using the historical-grammatical method with careful attention to the immediate and broader biblical context.
3. **Doctrinal Defense:** Students will defend the historical biblical faith.



4. **Historical Understanding:** Students will analyze the influence of philosophical ideas on societal trends throughout history.
5. **Written Communication:** Students will write correctly and cohesively with compelling argumentation.

Course Goals: By the end of this class, I desire the student to...

1. Understand the process and principles involved in the canonization of the Old Testament books.
2. Strengthen the student's faith in the conservative approach to the Bible.
3. Outline and critique the major critical methods employed in Old Testament studies.
4. Appreciate the contributions of archeology to both the understanding of the Biblical world and the reinforcement of the conservative approach to Scripture.
5. Examine any book of the Old Testament in relationship to its author, date, text, message, and special interpretive problems.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class the student will be able to...

1. Explain the process and principles involved in the canonization of the Old Testament books.
2. Articulate the differences between a conservative approach and the major critical methods employed in Old Testament studies.
3. Use the contributions of archaeology in understanding the Biblical world.
4. Demonstrate how to examine any book of the Old Testament in relationship to its author, date, text, message, and special interpretive problems.

Course Requirements

Tests

There will be two equally weighted tests for the OT portion of the course. They are constructed to ensure the student has adequately interacted with the course notes.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given over portions of the reading. A study guide will be given for the quizzes. Expect a mixture of essay and short answer questions.

Reading

1. Read *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* according to the schedule. The total number of pages required reading is lower than you would expect for a 1 ½ hour course. Each reading, however, has either a quiz or reading journal associated with it, so deeper processing of the material is expected.
2. Read for additional readings A:
 - *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*, by K. A. Kitchen (any 25 pages). [221.1 K62o]3
 - *Archaeology & the Old Testament*, by Hoerth (p. 13-30). [221.93 H964a]
3. Read for additional readings B:
 - *Life in Biblical Israel*, by King and Stager (any 25 p.) [221.95 K54L]
 - *Giving the Sense*, edited by David M. Howard, Jr. and Michael A. Grisanti (any 25 pages). [221.67 G539h 2003]



Research Paper

You must write one research paper for this course.

General Requirements

1. Paper must be done according to Maranatha Baptist Seminary format (See Vyhmeister, *Quality Research Papers*).
2. Subject Headings for the main points must be used in the body of the paper. Do not use chapter headings.
3. The main body of the paper excluding title page, bibliography, etc., must be a minimum of 5 pages, a maximum of 6 (not 4 ½, not 6 ½). Use a 12 point **Times New Roman** font.
4. Include title and bibliography pages.
5. The footnote method of citation must be used. Do **not** use endnotes or in-text citations.
6. A minimum of eight sources must be cited in the footnotes for the paper (not including the Bible). Most of the sources that you will consult will come from the books listed below, but for any additional works you may use, be sure that they are legitimate graduate level material. Use academic sources such as some of the better commentaries, theological works, periodicals, standard reference works, etc. For example, *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* is a good source, *Haley's Bible Handbook* is not. If you consult additional sources that do not appear in footnotes, you may still include them in the bibliography. The quality and number of sources that you consult does influence your grade.

Content Requirements¹

This paper will discuss the contributions of archaeology to Old Testament Studies. Please note: this is not a paper designed to argue that modern archaeology has refuted the claims of critical scholars (though it has at times done so). Rather, it is a paper designed to show how archaeology has increased our knowledge of events and customs that, in some instances, are separated from modern culture by more than 3 millennia. With that goal in mind, this assignment "should treat the following three categories of archeology's contribution to Old Testament study.

1. Background information
2. Historical events
3. Linguistic Knowledge"²

Organizational scheme

After your introduction concluding with a well-formulated thesis statement, the three categories listed above provide your three main points.

- Begin by explaining the type of information which is included in each of the categories (see Pfeiffer, *The Biblical World*, 64-5, for an explanation of the various categories).
- Then you should find at least one good example for each category and explain how archaeological work has advanced our understanding of the Bible in that one area.
- **You must quote from the primary sources in at least one of your examples from either Pritchard's *Ancient Near Eastern Texts* or Hallo and Younger's *The Context of Scripture* (that is,**

¹This assignment is taken from Robert Bell, "Old Testament Introduction General Instructions for Papers" (unpublished class notes in OT 540 Old Testament Introduction), Bob Jones University, Spring 1990.

²Ibid.



you should cite a translated text, not just the commentary on the text though you may wish to cite the commentary on it is as well if it helps you make the point). Be thorough, yet concise, in your discussion of the relevant areas.

General works on archeology

Cornfeld, Gaalyah. *Archaeology of the Bible: Book by Book*. [220.93 C816]

Free, Joseph. *Archaeology and Bible History*. [220.93 F853a]

Gray, John. *Archaeology and the Old Testament World*. [NL]

***Harrison, R.K. "The Archaeological Background of the Old Testament," Chapter in *Introduction to the Old Testament* (p. 105-33). See also p. 505-541.

_____. *Old Testament Times*. [221.95 H321o]

Hess, Richard. "Ancient Near Eastern Studies." Chap in *Interpreting the Old Testament*, ed. Craig Broyles [221.6 I61b]

***Hoerth, Alfred, *Archaeology and the OT* [221.93 H694a]

***King, Philip J. and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. [221.95 K54L]

Kitchen, K.A. *Ancient Orient and Old Testament*. [221.93 K62a]

Owen, G. Frederick. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. [220.93 O97a]

Pfeiffer, Charles F., ed. *The Biblical World*. [220.93 P582 REF]

Pritchard, James. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. [221.93 P961a]

Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long and Tremper Longman *A Biblical History of Israel*.

Thompson, J.A. *The Bible and Archaeology*. [220.93 T473]

Vaux, Roland de. *Ancient Israel: Religious Institutions and Ancient Israel: Social Institutions*. [933 V386a V.1 and 933 V386a V.2]

Vos, Howard. *An Introduction to Bible Archaeology* [220.93 V959]

Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament : Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible* [222.507 L533k].

Wiseman, Donald J. "Archaeology and the Old Testament." In *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol 1., p. 309-335. [REF]

Wright, G.E. *Biblical Archaeology* [220.93 W949b]

Yamauchi, Edwin M. *The Stones and the Scriptures* [220.93 Y19s]

_____. *Persia and the Bible*. [220.93 Y19p]

(See also encyclopedia articles, especially in Zondervan, the new ISBE, and the Anchor Bible Dictionary).

Primary sources for quotations of ancient documents



(at least one of these works MUST be cited)

Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*. [REF 291.24 A541]

Hallo, William W. and K. Lawson Younger, eds. *The Context of Scripture*, 3 vols. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997-2003 [REF 220.95 C761h; also part of included with LOGOS]

Primary sources of material written by archeological specialists

The Biblical Archaeologist Readers (3). [220.93 F8755]

Negev, Avraham. *The Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land*, 3rd. ed. (1990). [NL]

Stern, Ephraim. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Expeditions in the Holy Land* (1993) [NL]

Thomas, D. Winton, ed. *Archaeology and Old Testament Study*. [NL]

Encyclopedia & periodical articles [esp. in *Biblical Archaeology Review*]

Grading Policy

1. Grading scale:

94-100	A	90-91	B+	81-82	C+	64-72	D
92-93	A-	85-89	B	80-75	C	0-63	D-
		83-84	B-	73-74	C-		

2. Grade weighting:

Reading	10%
Quizzes.....	25%
Worksheets.....	15%
Tests/Final Exam.....	30%
Research Paper	30%

3. Late work policy: All reading reports and projects will receive a 4% late penalty per day after the due date. Extensions will be given on a case-by-case basis.

4. Program Grade Requirements: In order to graduate, a student must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (including a maximum of two Cs) in any MA program, or a minimum grade point average of 2.5 in the MDiv program.

Makeup Policies

Quizzes/Tests must be taken when scheduled or in advance of an absence. Quizzes missed due to absences will be assessed the standard seminary 4% per day late penalty.



First half of the Semester Schedule

The semester schedule will be added when completed...



Appendix A

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, and it can exist in many forms. For example, the following would be considered a sample of academically dishonest activities that might occur in this class:

- ◆ Sharing advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Receiving advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Using a previous student's old tests or quizzes as a study guide for this semester's tests and quizzes.
- ◆ Handing in the same paper or substituting a similar paper in more than one class without permission.
- ◆ Plagiarism. Representing the words or unique thoughts of another as your own.
- ◆ Submitting as your own, materials that have been enhanced by another.

Academic penalties for academic dishonesty range from an F grade on the particular evaluation to an F grade in the course. Also, a range of serious disciplinary penalties may apply.

Academic Success Center. Once source for academic help in any course is the Academic Success Center. If you require specific targeted academic help for any reason contact the Academic Success Center located in the Cedarholm Library. If you would like more information regarding targeted academic help, please contact the Academic Success Center director at academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Program Director, in the Library, (ph. 920/206-2340) or email academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

Library Services. The Maranatha Cedarholm Library is committed to providing services to distance education students that are equivalent to residential students. Read about the library services that are available to you through Cedarholm Library. You can search the library resources by clicking on the Library link found under Quick Links on the sidebar in MyMaranatha.

Netiquette: Netiquette refers to the standards of behavior for online communication.

- All communication in discussion forums and through email should be respectful and professional.
- If someone asks you a question in a discussion forum, take the time to respond.
- If a coursemate or the instructor sends you an email, acknowledge that you received it by responding with a quick email.
- Your posts should be related to the course content. If you would like to chit-chat with someone, use email or the Virtual Café
- found on the Collaboration page.
- Don't type your posts in ALL CAPS. This makes the reader think you are yelling.

Technology Problems:

Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for missing an assignment. Technology will break down and fail at some point. Its failure is a normal process life, not an emergency. As you plan ahead



and manage your time, assume that technology will fail, especially if you wait until the last minute to do an assignment!

When you have a problem with MyMaranatha or any other MBU website, please contact support@mbu.edu. If you are having difficulties navigating this course or have questions about how to use technology required for this course, please send me a quick email (andrew.goodwill@mbu.edu).

STRONGER TOGETHER

Our shared commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy campus makes it possible for MBU to continue face-to-face instruction this semester. Your acceptance of personal responsibility for your health (through consistent patterns of personal behavior and hygiene) and your learning (through diligent effort) are essential to advance your education, even amid the inconveniences and sacrifices we are called on to make. Please note the following course policies:

- If you are showing any symptoms of illness, do not leave your room or come to class. Immediately contact the student health center for instructions and assistance.
- If you are not able to attend class in person due to symptoms of illness, please feel free to attend the class virtually. You must notify me before class starts so I can start the Zoom meeting and activate the camera. A link is provided in our MyMaranatha course. If you contact me before class, we will start the Zoom session and a recording will be made available even if you cannot attend live.
- You can only be counted as present for live attendance (in-class attendance or live virtual attendance; i.e. your live face showing on the screen). Unless you are enrolled as a virtual student, virtual attendance will only count in the case of illness, symptoms, or quarantine. This will be verified by the Student Health Center so you must contact them for your virtual attendance to count. Delayed viewing of the recording does not count as present but will help you keep on track academically.
- Sit only in seats designated by faculty to maintain physical distancing.
- Until further notice, masks must be worn whenever you are inside a building, which includes class time. Exemptions on file with the Student Life Office will be honored.
- Use a sanitary wipe to clean your desk or table surface prior to each class. Classrooms are cleaned regularly throughout the day, but you should still wipe off the surfaces you will touch prior to taking your seat.
- If you are diagnosed as COVID-positive and required to isolate while you recover, don't worry! You will be well-supported. Please let me know and we will make every effort to help you keep up academically until you are released to rejoin the class.