Course Number & Title: OT511x  Old Testament Introduction and Survey
Professor: Dr. Thom South (phone: 501-328-5776; email: tsouth@bmats.edu or tsouth@cbc.edu)
Date: Fall Semester, 2011

Course Description:
This course consists of an examination of the Old Testament introductory problems (including canonicity, textual criticism, and higher criticism) and an historical and interpretative study of the Pentateuch and other historical books. Special emphasis is placed on the structure and purpose of these books.

Required Textbooks:

Course Objectives:
Upon the completion of this course the student should:
1. Be able to defend the biblical text and enhance teaching and preaching with basic areas of Old Testament introduction (such as canonicity, textual criticism and higher criticism)
2. Be able to discuss intelligently the historical and critical problems (issues) of Genesis through 2 Chronicles and defend the integrity of the biblical record
3. Find in the Old Testament text a source for teaching and preaching
4. Be able to defend the integrity and inspiration of the biblical text
5. Provide an overview of the Pentateuch and the historical books of the Old Testament and be able to summarize chronologically the events recorded in them.
6. Be able to interpret the Old Testament historical books in light of their historical, cultural, and literary background and structure
7. Know the purpose and structure of each of the historical books of the Old Testament and the natural outlines of the books.

Course Requirements:
1. Reading - *Bible*: The student should read through the Pentateuch and historical books of the Old Testament to
become familiar with their content. Try to read as much as possible of each book in one sitting to help see the overall scope of the book. A modern translation might make this easier.

Required Texts - The sections of the required texts that deal with the historical books and the background material should be read before coming to class. See the class schedule for the specific chapter and/or pages in the textbooks to be read. The student should peruse the charts in Walton’s book to be familiar with the content of those appropriate for this class.

Supplemental Books and sources: In addition to the required texts the student will benefit from reading and consulting the following sources:


A good updated annotated bibliography for Old Testament study is available at http://www.bible.org. Click the “Pastor Helps” button and then select “Building a Library.”

For map studies several excellent sources are available:

- *Crossway ESV Bible Atlas*. Crossway, 2010

Other: Assignments from the supplemental texts and other sources may be made to correspond with the class content on a weekly basis. Reading these assignments will help the student to be prepared to participate in class discussions.

Reading Reports on assigned reading should be turned at the beginning of each weekly class session. Each report should include the reading assignments for the class sessions that day as presented in the class schedule below. Each report should include the Scripture read, text book pages read and extra reading related to the topic(s) for that session. Reports may be turned in on standard reading report slips (obtainable from the seminary office or professor) or printed with appropriate information (i.e., name of book and author, pages read related to that day’s assignment). The material should be read before the class and then reviewed the day of class so that the student will be familiar with the specific material for each session. Students are responsible for the material assigned for each session and are subject to a quiz at anytime. Extra reading assignments for specific subjects may be made later, which may be reported to receive extra credit

2. Exams

Three exams will be given. See the class schedule for the approximate times for the exams. The nature and content for the exams will be explained later.
3. Term Paper

Each student is required to write a 15-20 page research paper (no fewer than 12 pages or more than 25). The paper should conform to the 5th, 6th, or 7th edition of Kate L. Turabian’s
++(Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1973 or 1987, 1996). Quality of research and presentation of the topic is more important than the form of the paper. The criteria for grading the paper is as follows: organization (outline, arrangement of topics) 10%; bibliography (number and variety of sources, format) 15%; format (appearance, grammar, form) 10%; content (presentation of topic 15%, evidence of research 20%, accomplish purpose of paper 20%) 55%; Miscellaneous (promptness to deadline, general observations, oral report) 10%. Research papers will be due no later than November 29, 2011. An oral presentation of the paper will be required on the day the topic is scheduled for class lecture (see schedule below). Sufficient research should be done by the time the book or topic is discussed in class (see class schedule) to make the oral presentation and provide an outline of the paper to each member of the class.

Each student should come to class with a tentative topic for the term paper on the second week of class. First, second, and third choices should be considered as each subject will be assigned only to one student. Topic selections will be finalized by the end of class on the second week. Topics will be assigned on a “first come, first served” basis. A minimum of 10 resources should be referenced for each paper and included in the bibliographical listing. Resources for the research may come from the internet, but only 3 internet sources may be used in the paper. For each internet source used, there must be at least three other sources consulted (books and/or scholarly journal articles). [NOTE: Wikipedia and similar sites are not reliable research sources.] At least three scholarly journal articles on the topic should be referenced. All sources referenced for research should be included in the “Selected Bibliography.”

Suggested topics for the term paper are:

Overview of a book with emphasis on structure, purpose, historical-cultural background, critical issues (authorship, date, etc), and content: ____ Numbers, ____ Joshua, ____ Ruth, ____ Exodus, ____ Judges, ____ Deuteronomy; ____ 1 Samuel, ____ 2 Samuel, ____ 1 Kings, ____ 2 Kings,

Other topics include: ____ The Tabernacle; ____ The Date of the Exodus &/or The Route of the Exodus; ____ The Holy Spirit in Genesis; ____ Priests and Levites in the Old Testament; The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Old Testament; ____ War in the Old Testament and the Ancient Near East; ____ Monogamy and Polygamy in the Old Testament and the Ancient Near East; ____ Development of the Old Testament Canon: an analysis of different views; ____ A Comparison of the Old Testament Law Codes with Ancient Near Eastern Law Codes; ____ The kings of Israel and Judah: a comparative study with emphasis on character strengths and weaknesses; ____ Theophanies in the Old Testament; ____ Languages of the Ancient near East and their impact on the Old Testament and Old Testament Studies; ____ Creation Stories from the Ancient Near East Compared to the Genesis Record, ____ A Character Study of the Kings of Israel and Judah (a comparative study summarizing strengths and weaknesses), ____ Old Testament Feasts of Israel and possible Messianic significance.

NOTE: Other topics may be approved by the professor if sufficient research material is available and the topic is significant to OT studies. The overview of a particular biblical book may be easier than the other topics for beginning students.

4. Book Review

Walter Kaiser’s book Preaching and Teaching from the OT must be read in its entirety with special attention given to chapters 1-5, chapter 9, the conclusion and the two appendices. There should be a summary and interaction with Kaiser’s suggested method for preaching from OT
Narrative and OT Torah (Law). The review should be 8 - 10 pages double-spaced. References to Kaiser’s page numbers should be included with each paragraph in parentheses. Footnotes should not be used for Kaiser’s book. If ideas are borrowed for someone else’s review or comments, those references should be footnoted.

**Grading:**
Grades will be determined by three tests (15% each), research paper (30%), Book review (10%), reading reports (10%), and class participation and quizzes (5%).

**Class Schedule**
The class is scheduled to meet from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. One break, at least, will be taken during each class period. The tentative weekly schedule may be adjusted to allow for discussion of pertinent topics related to the course subject but not specifically listed in the syllabus.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

**August 30** - Review Syllabus; The Language, Canon, and Inspiration of the Old Testament
   Archer chapters 1, 2, 3, 5; LaSor chapters 44, 45, 46
**September 6** - Textual Criticism and Higher Criticism; Geography and Archaeology of the Old Testament; Introduction to the Pentateuch
   Archer chapters 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13; LaSor chapters 1 (pp. 3-14), 47 (pp.606-18) 48-50
**September 13** - Genesis 1-11
   Archer 14-15 (pp. 193-226); LaSor 2; Hamilton (pp. 17-85)[pages are from first edition]
**September 20** - Genesis 12-50
   Archer 15 (pp. 227-33); LaSor 3; Hamilton (pp. 87-138)
**September 27** - Introduction to Exodus, date of the Exodus, Exodus 1-18 (From Egypt to Sinai)
   Archer 16; LaSor 4 & 5 (pp. 63-72); Hamilton (pp. 141-91)
**October 4** - Exodus 19-40 (Law from Sinai & Tabernacle)
   LaSor 5 (pp. 72-79); Hamilton (pp. 193-223, 227-240)
   Review for Exam 1
**October 11** - Exam 1 (6:00 - 7:00)
   Leviticus
   Archer 17 (257-63); LaSor 6; Hamilton 243-311
**October 18** - Numbers & Deuteronomy
   Archer 17 (264-70) & 18; LaSor 7 & 8; Hamilton 315-373, 377-473
**October 25** - Joshua
   Archer 19 (285-97, 299); LaSor 9-10, 50 (pp. 664-66, 670-71)
**November 1** - Judges -Ruth
   Archer 19 (298-309); LaSor 11, 38 (520-25)
   Review for Exam 2
**November 8** - Exam 2 (2:00 - 3:00)
   1 Samuel
   Archer 20 (311-15); LaSor 12
**November 15** - 2 Samuel
   LaSor 13 (182-91)
**November 22** - 1 & 2 Kings
LaSor 13 (191-96), 14; Archer 20 (317-26)

November 29 - 1 & 2 Chronicles
LaSor 41, 49; Archer 30 (449-55, 546)
Review for Final Exam

December 6 - Final Exam

Miscellaneous Information
Due date - All written assignments are due on the date assigned. Any work turned in late will be lowered a minimum of one letter grade. No work will be accepted more than one week late. All written reports and student assignments must be turned in by November 29, 2011. No written work will be accepted after that date.

E-mail - My e-mail address is < tsouth@cbc.edu, or tsouth@bmats.edu > in case you have questions or need to contact me before or after the class sessions.
Cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class. Texting during class will result in points being subtracted from the daily grade.