I. Course Description

This course consists of an examination of 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.

II. Objectives

1. To become conversant with general areas of Old Testament introduction (such as canonicity, textual criticism and higher criticism) so that one can defend the biblical text and possibly even discover some positive values for teaching and preaching.

2. To be able to discuss intelligently the historical and critical problems of Genesis through 2 Kings (plus 1 and 2 Chronicles) with the goal of defending the integrity of the biblical record.

3. To overview the basic contents of the Pentateuch and most Historical Books (namely, Genesis through Kings as well as Chronicles) in order to interpret each book properly in light of its historical/cultural background and its literary context--the purpose and structure (or natural outline).

4. Ideally to devote some time to valid application for preaching and teaching these books.

III. Requirements

A. Reading

Besides the text of the Old Testament, three primary textbooks and two additional books (a bibliographic guide and another book for review) are required. The main books will be read according to the class schedule (see IV. below):


Each week the student must turn in a documented list of the amount read in the textbooks, the biblical text and occasional outside assignments. Use the special reading slips obtainable from the seminary. A "pop" quiz may be given at any time over the assigned reading.

B. Two Exams

The nature of these 2 major tests (see below) will be described at a later time.

C. Research paper

Each student will write a research paper of 15 to 25 typewritten pages (doublespaced) using a compact font such as Times New Roman 10 or 12, not Courier New. However this length is only a suggested guideline. The quality of work and not the quantity (either long or short) is the main criterion. However, 12 to 13 pages should probably be an absolute minimum limit for certain subjects more difficult to research.

The term paper should resemble the 5th; 6th or 7th edition of Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Themes, and Dissertations* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987, 1996 or 2007.). Although footnotes are preferred, the notes may be placed at the back of the paper (or at the end of each chapter) if so desired. Papers are normally due when the topic is scheduled for class lecture (see part IV below). An oral presentation summarizing the paper will be required on that day (or some other day for topics not specifically scheduled for class study).

The student should hand out at least an outline of his paper to each class member. He should refrain from reading every word unless he can maintain good eye contact and communicate well without going over the time limit. [See handouts: 1) How to Do A Research Paper and 2) Tentative Term Paper [or Term Topic] Rubric for OT511-512, etc.]

A few suggested paper topics are as follows. Overview of a Bible book emphasizing structure, purpose, historical-cultural background and content (as well as certain critical matters such as authorship and dating if problematic): (1) Numbers ________; (2) Joshua ___________; (3) Ruth ___________; (4) Judges ___________; (5) 1 Samuel ___________; (6) 2 Samuel ___________; (7) 1 Kings ___________; (8) 2 Kings ___________. Other topics include (9) The Tabernacle (with possibly a slide presentation) (Oct. 2 ____________); (10) Date of the Exodus and/or the Route of the Exodus (Oct. 2 ____________); (11) Priests and Levites in the Old Testament (Oct. 2 ____________); (12) The Tithe in the Old Testament and in the ancient Near East (Oct. 30) ____________; (13) The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Old Testament (Nov. 20 ____________); (14) War in the Old Testament & the ancient Near East (including concept of Holy War) Nov. 6 ____________; (15) Monogamy and Polygamy in the Old Testament and in the ancient Near East ____________

3The student's grade will be penalized for failure to turn in a finished report or for going beyond the time framework without prior permission.
(Nov. 13) _____________; (16) An Analysis (or Critique) of Roman Catholic Views concerning Canonicity (Nov. 13? ___________); (17) A Comparison of ancient Near Eastern Law Codes with Old Testament Laws (especially Exod. 20-24 and Deuteronomy)--i.e. similarities and differences and implications (Oct. 30) ___________; (18) A Character Study of the Kings of Israel and Judah (a comparative study summarizing strengths and weaknesses) Nov. 27 _____________.

(19) OT feasts of Israel and possible Messianic significance Oct. 9 ________________

D. Book review of Walter Kaiser, Preaching and Teaching from the O.T. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003). This must be read in its entirety but with special attention to chapters 1-5, chapter 9, the conclusion and the two appendices. There should be a detailed summary of these sections and interaction with Kaiser’s suggested method, particularly for preaching from OT narrative and OT Torah (Law). The length should be at least 4 and preferably 6 pages (single-spaced). Each paragraph needs to include page numbers from Kaiser in parentheses. Do not use footnotes on this review unless you borrow someone else’s ideas in reviewing the book. The due date is Nov. 20.

E. Grading guidelines

Mid-term exam (20 to 25%); final exam (20 to 25%); term paper (25%); reading reports & possible quizzes (12%); book review 10%; daily grade 2% (attendance & class participation); and oral report on paper 1%. Excessive absences will also affect the grade for class participation and for the weekly reading reports. Field trip with report (possibly 10%).

F. Possible field trip to supplement exam grades: (with 3 to 5?? [single-spaced] page report): museum in Ft. Worth (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary): Lecturer(s): Emanuel Tov “The Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls” (Sept. 11); or Kenneth Mathews “The Leviticus Scroll” (*Oct. 9) Possible museum visit during day with lecture at 8:00 pm on Tuesday. Report due 1 or 2 weeks after visit.

IV. Class Schedule (2012)


Assignment: read LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 6-14, 598-614 Hill & Walton, 487(b)-498; also read Archer, 1994 revision; 18, 20; 75-88; [2007: ed. 17, 19, 61-70].

Sept. 11  Introduction to the Pentateuch and also to the Book of Genesis. Study of Genesis chaps. 1-11. **Assignment:** read biblical text; read LaSor, Hubbard, and Bush, 3-6, 15-31, 619-31 [1st ed. = 40-57, 68-86]; Walton, 13-14, 77, 80-83, 85, 97-98, 100-101 Hill & Walton, 57-86a; 94-96; 181-184


Oct. 9  Study of Leviticus. **Assignment:** read all of Leviticus; read LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 80-98 [1st ed. = 149-62]; Kaiser, 146-152; Hill & Walton, 124-140; Walton, 20, 22-23; For extra credit: read R. K. Harrison, Introduction to the Old Testament, 599-613; Longman & Dillard, 81-91 [1st ed. 73-82]' Brief review for exam.

Oct. 16  **MID-TERM EXAM**

Oct. 30 Study of Deuteronomy.

Assignment: read all of Deuteronomy; read LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 111-127 [1st ed.=175-89; Hill & Walton, 162-177 + 362; Walton, 24, 86-87; also Harrison, 635-36, 653-62.

Nov. 6 Study of Joshua and Ruth. Review briefly Date of Exodus and Conquest (if time permits).

Assignment: read all of Joshua & Ruth; read LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 131-37, 138-152; 520-25; 664-66, 670-71 [1st ed.=190-93; 197-212; 611-16]; Hill & Walton, 216-233, 248-254; Walton, p. 38 (plus review 102-103).

For extra credit, Merrill, 93-140; and Archer 308-309 [2007 ed.: 257-258]; Longman & Dillard, 120-132+ 144-150 [1st ed. 107-117 +129-134].

Nov. 13 Study of Judges and (possibly) 1 Sam. 1-7. Assignment: Read all of Judges and 1 Sam. 1-7; Fill out structural outline for Judges (handout). Also read LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 153-64; 168-171 [1st ed.=213-25, 229-34]; Longman & Dillard, 133-143 [1st ed. 119-127]; Hill & Walton, 234-247; Walton, 26,39,104,111.

*Nov. 20 Introduction to 1 and 2 Samuel. Brief study of 1 Samuel 1-31 and 2 Samuel 1-24 (with reference to 1 Chron. 10-29). Due date for book review on Kaiser.

Assignment: read all of 1 and 2 Samuel & 1 Chron. 10-29; read LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 165-192; 672-76 [1st ed.=227-252]; Hill & Walton, 256-275. For extra credit, read Merrill, 189-232, 234-76, 281-82; and Longman & Dillard, 151-166 [1st ed. 135-147].

Nov. 27 Introduction to Kings and Chronicles. Brief overview of 1 Kings 12-22; 2 Kings 1-25 and 2 Chron. 10-36. Then brief review for exam. Fill out evaluation forms (if applicable). ??Partially excused absence for BMA OF TEXAS--(only if attend necessary session).

Assignment: read pertinent chapters of Kings & Chronicles; read LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 197-220; 542-49; 632-40; 683-84 [1st ed. =258-297; 630-37]; Hill & Walton, 278-304; 308-325; Walton, 27, 30-34, 42-46, 65-67, 69, 71-72.

For extra credit, read Merrill, 313, 315-349 and Longman & Dillard, 167-189; 190-201 [1st ed. 149-167; 169-177].

Dec. 4 FINAL EXAM

V. Bibliography for Old Testament Studies

The recommended bibliographic guide by John Glynn will help introduce the student to the vast material written concerning the Old Testament.