SYLLABUS
OT511--OLD TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION AND SURVEY
B. M. A. Theological Seminary   July 19-23, 2010
[Master's in Motion Class]
Professor--Dr. Greg W. Parsons

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, four 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): 1. Gleason L. Archer, Jr., A Survey of Old Testament Introduction, updated & revised ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994). ISBN 0-8024-8200-7 or 0-8024-8201-5. Note: this is not the latest revised edition.


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1 This syllabus is tentative and may be changed as needed.  
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   By Monday noon July 19, the student must turn in the reading checklists for the 13 separate assignments (as summarized below), which list pages to be read in the textbooks, the biblical text and occasional outside assignments. Please use these special reading checklists designed specifically for this class (which may be obtained from the seminary). Besides the scheduled quizzes, a "pop" quiz may be given at any time over the assigned reading or lectures for the day.

B. Exams

Two exams are scheduled (see below). The nature of these major tests will be described at the beginning of the class week.

C. Research paper

Each student will write a research paper of **15 to 25** typewritten pages (double-spaced) 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. Twelve pages, however, should probably be an absolute minimum limit.

The research paper should resemble the 5th or 6th edition of Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Themes, and Dissertations* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987, or 1996). 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 due 6 weeks after class—postmarked or send electronically by Sept. 3.** [See handout *How to Do A Research Paper.*]

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 ____________
9. The Tabernacle ____________
10. the Route of the Exodus ____________
11. Priests and Levites in the Old Testament ____________
12. The Tithe in the Old Testament ____________

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3The two articles from *Bibliotheca Sacra* by A. Ross & R. Chisholm may be accessed through FirstSearch (contact library for password) by choosing the search engine ATLA Religion.
and in the ancient Near East __________; (13) The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Old Testament ____________; (14) War in the Old Testament & the ancient Near East (including concept of Holy War) ____________; (15) Monogamy and Polygamy in the Old Testament and in the ancient Near East ____________; (16) An Analysis (or Critique) of Roman Catholic Views concerning Canonicity ___________; (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 ___________; (18) A Character Study of the Kings of Israel and Judah (a comparative study summarizing strengths and weaknesses) ____________. (19) OT feasts of Israel and possible Messianic significance ________________.

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 summary and interaction with Kaiser’s suggested method, particularly for preaching from OT narrative and OT Torah (Law). The length should be about 4 to 6 pages (single-spaced). Each paragraph needs to include page numbers from Kaiser in parentheses. Do not use footnotes on this review but use parentheses within text to refer to the pages in Kaiser. If you find a review by someone else of Kaiser, be sure to give footnote credit, but do not overuse. The due date is 2 weeks after class is over (postmarked ~Aug. 6 and/or sent electronically by that day).

E. Grading guidelines
Two exams (20% each); research paper (25%); reading reports & quizzes (~20%); book review 10%; daily grade ~5% (attendance & class participation); No more than one day's absence is allowed or the student will not be permitted to finish the class.

IV. Class Schedule (for summer 2010)
Introduction: The tentative daily schedule is from 8:30 a.m. to possibly 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. (with periodic breaks). This is subject to slight change depending on the specific material covered and considerations of student and teacher comfort.

Monday July 19
#1: 8:30 to 10:30 am Brief review of course syllabus. Brief look at “How to Do A Research Paper.” Lecture: The language of the Old Testament. Canon and canonicity. Assignment: (1): Read Archer, [1994 revision; 18, 20; 75-80]; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 6-14, 598-614; Longman & Dillard, 13-18; 29-37 [1st ed. 17-21; 29b-36]. (2) Turn in #1 and #2 choices of a term paper topic (by 10:00 or at least noon today--first come, first served). (3) Turn in reading checklist of pages read in textbooks and Bible for each of the ~13 sessions listed. You must have read all required material in the Bible and the textbooks.

#2: 10:45 to 12:45?? Introduction to Textual Criticism (or so-called "lower criticism") and Higher Criticism. Assignment: read Archer, [1994 revision; 41-73; 557-62; 89-98; 111-12]; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 6-14, 614-618 [1st ed.= 26-39, 58-67]; Walton, 90-93, 96.
Also read Bruce K. Waltke, "The Textual Criticism of the Old Testament," 211-228 in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, vol. 1: Introductory Articles, ed. by Frank E. Gaebelein [or read the reprint of Waltke's article in R. K. Harrison, et.al, Biblical Criticism, 47-82.]

For extra credit, read Archer (revised) 571-82.


#4 4:00 to 5:45 or 6:00 Study of Genesis chaps. 12-36 (and probably 37-50). Assignment: read whole book of Genesis 1-50 and fill in the blanks of structural handout?; read Archer, 227-33; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 32-51 [1st ed= 88-116]; Longman & Dillard, 59-60 [1st ed. 53b-55a]; Kaiser, 139-145; Walton, 15-18, 76-78. 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Possible review for quiz.

Tuesday July 20
8:30 a.m. Possible review and/or quiz (if not already given).

#5 9:00 or 9:15 to 11:15 Study of Exodus 1-24

#6 ~12:15 to 2:15 p.m. Brief study of Exodus 25--40 (including brief study of the tabernacle). The Date of the Exodus.

#7 2:45 to 4:45 p.m. Study of Leviticus.
Assignment: read all of Leviticus; read Archer, 257-63; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 80-98 [1st ed.=149-62]; Longman/ Dillard, 81-91 [1st ed. 73-82]; Kaiser, 146-152; Walton, 20, 22-23.
5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Possible quiz and brief review for exam.

Wednesday July 21
8:30 to 10:30 a.m. MID-TERM EXAM

10:45 to 12:30 p.m. Study of Numbers.
1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Study of Deuteronomy.

Assignment: read all of Deuteronomy; read Archer, 271-83; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 111-127 [1st ed.=175-89]; Longman & Dillard, 102-119 [1st ed. 91-106]; Walton, 24, 86-87.

3:45 to 5:45 p.m. Study of Joshua and Ruth. Possibly briefly Date of Exodus and Conquest.


5:45 to 6:15. Possible review for quiz (if not already given).

Thursday July 22
8:30 to 9:15 a.m. Possible quiz (if not already given).
9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Study of Judges and (possibly) 1 Sam. chaps. 1-7.

Assignment: Read all of Judges & 1 Sam. 1-7; Fill out structural outline for Judges (handout). Also read Archer, 298-306; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 153-64; 168-171 [1st ed.=213-25, 229-34]; Longman/ Dillard, 133-143 [1st ed. 119-127]; Walton,26,39,104,111.

11:45 a.m. Tentative class luncheon? (details given later)

1:00 to 3:15 p.m. 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).

Assignment: read all of 1 and 2 Samuel & 1 Chron. 10-29; read Archer, 311-15; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 165-192; 672-76 [1st ed.=227-252]; Longman & Dillard, 151-166 [1st ed. 135-147]; Extra credit, read Merrill, 189-232, 234-76, 281-82.

3:45 to 5:45 p.m. 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).

Assignment: read pertinent chapters of Kings & Chronicles; Archer, 317-25, 449-55, 546; LaSor, Hubbard, & Bush, 197-220; 542-49; 632-40; 683-84 [1st ed. =258-297; 630-37]; Longman & Dillard, 167-189; 190-201 [1st ed. 149-167; 169-177 ]; Walton, 27, 30-34, 42-46, 65-67, 69, 71-72; for extra credit, read Merrill, 313, 315-349

Friday July 23

9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Possible quiz? and/or brief review for final exam. Fill out evaluation forms (if applicable).

~10:30 to 11:30 p.m. Supervised study time and/or library work

~12:30 to 2:30 p.m. FINAL EXAM
V. **Bibliography for Old Testament Studies**

The *required* (and highly recommended) bibliographic guide by John Glynn, *Commentary and Reference Survey* (see above p. 1) will help orient the student to the vast information available on the Old Testament. Don’t forget to check sources mentioned in your other textbooks. Consult the class handout, “How to Do a Research Paper,” for further suggestions for finding resources (including some on the Internet).