Course Number: OT511x
Course Title: Old Testament Introduction and Survey
Professor: Dr. Thom South
Date: Fall Semester, 2008

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.

Textbooks:

Course Objectives:
Upon the completion of this course the student should:
1. Be conversant 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
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. Have an understanding of the basic contents of the historical books of the Bible 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
7. Know the purpose and structure of each of the historical books of the Old Testament.

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.”

**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, textbook pages read and extra reading related to the topic(s) for that sessions. 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 4th or 5th edition of Kate L. Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Themes, and Dissertations (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1973 or 1987). 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) 10%. Research papers will be due November 25, 2008. Students who write an overview of an Old Testament book will be expected to have sufficient research done by the time that book is discussed in class (see class schedule) to significantly contribute to or lead the class discussion on that book. Other research topics will assist the student with his/her contribution to class discussions also.

   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 is not a reliable research source.] 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; ______ 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.

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 an easier topic for beginning students than the other topics.

4. Annotated Bibliography

Each student must read three (3) scholarly journal articles on the Old Testament (total of 50 pages minimum). Articles should be from three different periodicals or journals. Ideas for journal articles may be gleaned from bibliographical information in text books or from a periodical index. Only one (1) article in the annotated bibliography may also be used in the research paper. Articles may be used from suggested topics for other research papers. The annotated bibliography should include a complete bibliographical entry with a summary of the article with critical interaction (stating positive and/or negative aspects of the article. Each article entry should be approximately one page in length (single spaced, typed).

Grading:

Grades will be determined by three tests (15% each), research paper (30%), annotated bibliography (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 26 - Review Syllabus; The Language, Canon, and Inspiration of the Old Testament
   Archer chapters 1, 2, 3, 5; LaSor chapters 44, 45, 46

September 2 - Textual Criticism and Higher Criticism; Introduction to the Pentateuch
   Archer chapters 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13; LaSor chapters 1 (pp. 3-14), 47 (pp.606-18) 48

September 9 - Genesis 1-11
   Archer 14-15 (pp. 193-226); LaSor 2; Hamilton (pp. 17-85)[pages are from first edition]

September 16 - Genesis 12-50
   Archer 15 (pp. 227-33); LaSor 3; Hamilton (pp. 87-138)

September 23 - 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)

September 30 - Exodus 19-40 (Law from Sinai & Tabernacle)
   LaSor 5 (pp. 72-79); Hamilton (pp. 193-223, 227-240)
   Review for Exam 1

October 7 - Exam 1 (6:00 - 7:00)

Leviticus
   Archer 17 (257-63); LaSor 6; Hamilton 243-311

October 14 - Numbers & Deuteronomy
   Archer 17 (264-70) & 18; LaSor 7 & 8; Hamilton 315-373, 377-473

October 21 - Joshua
   Archer 19 (285-97, 299); LaSor 9-10, 50 (pp. 664-66, 670-71)

October 28 - Judges -Ruth
   Archer 19 (298-309); LaSor 11, 38 (520-25)
   Review for Exam 2

November 4 - Exam 2 (6:00 - 7:00)
   1 Samuel
   Archer 20 (311-15); LaSor 12

November 11 - 2 Samuel
   LaSor 13 (182-91)

November 18 - 1 & 2 Kings
   LaSor 13 (191-96), 14; Archer 20 (317-26)

November 25 - 1 & 2 Chronicles
   LaSor 41, 49; Archer 30 (449-55, 546)
   Review for Final Exam

December 2 - 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 25, 2008. No written work
will be accepted after that date.

E-mail - My e-mail address is <tsouth@cbc.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.