Course Number: OT512x
Course Title: Old Testament Introduction and Survey II
Professor: Dr. Thom South
Date: Spring Semester, 2009

Course Description:
This course is an historical and interpretative study of the Poetic and Prophetic writings of the Old Testament as well as Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther. Special emphasis is given to the historical background, the literary structure, and the suggested purposes of these books.

Required Textbooks:

Course Objectives:
Upon the completion of this course the student should:
1. Be conversant with historical and critical problems of the poetic and prophetic books of the Old Testament (as well as Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther);
2. Be able to defend the integrity and inspiration of the biblical record of the poetical and prophetic books;
3. Have an understanding of the basic contents of the poetic and prophetic books of the Old Testament and find in them a source for teaching and preaching;
4. Be able to survey the poetical and prophetic books of the Old Testament with emphasis on the historical-cultural background, literary structure (or natural outline) and suggested purposes of each book;
5. Have an awareness of resources and a basic proficiency for doing research in the area of Old Testament studies related to the poetic and prophetic books.

Course Requirements:
1. Reading -
   *Bible:* The student should read through the poetic and prophetic books (and Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther) of the Old Testament to become familiar with their content. Try to read each book in one sitting, as much as possible, to help see the overall scope of the book. A modern translation might make this easier. The biblical books should be read in preparation for the class and reviewed before the class period in which those books will be covered. See the class schedule for dates.
   *Required Texts* - The sections of the required texts that deal with the poetic and prophetic 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 for each weekly class period. The student should peruse the charts in Walton’s book to be familiar with the content of those appropriate for this
Supplemental Books and sources: In addition to the required texts the student will benefit from reading and consulting the following sources:


An updated bibliographical list (some annotated) of Old Testament commentaries is available at [http://www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). Look under “communities” in the menu bar near the top of the page. Follow the link: For Pastors–Pastor Helps–Building a Library and scroll to the books that have selected bibliographies available.

**Journal Articles:** Each student must read three (3) scholarly journal articles on the poetic and prophetic books of 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 textbooks or from a periodical index. Reports on the journal articles will be turned in as annotated bibliographies (see requirements below).

**Other:** Reading 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.

Several articles on Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Song of Solomon published in the theological journal *Bibliotheca Sacra* and written by BMA Seminary professor Greg W. Parsons are required reading. Copies of these articles will be made available to the students.

**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 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). 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**

Two 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 in class discussions.
3. Term Paper

Each student is required to write a 15-20 page research paper. The paper should conform to the 6th 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 May 4, 2006. 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 (and similar internet sites) is not a reliable source and should not be included in the bibliography as a 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:

- The problem of how to understand and utilize the imprecatory Psalms
- The use of Psalms in worship
- Geographical setting of the Book of Job (i.e., location of the land of Uz)
- Temple in the Old Testament (e.g., trace the history of Solomon’s temple to its fall and being rebuilt as the second temple)
- Dead Sea Scrolls with special emphasis on the Book of Isaiah
- Ezekiel’s temple (especially whether the sacrifices are literal, chapters 40-48)
- The Problem of dating Ezra and Nehemiah
- Prophecy in the Old Testament and Ancient Near East
- Old Testament Apocalyptic Prophecies (esp. Daniel)
- Annotated bibliography on preaching and teaching from prophetic literature (perhaps restricted to Major Prophets or Minor Prophets)
- Study of a particular book [This study should include a study of the basic structure, nature, purpose, historical background (with archaeological insights), and any problems of interpretation, date or authorship. Suggested resources for preaching, teaching or other tips for further study may be included.]

Song of Solomon Ecclesiastes Amos
Daniel Hosea Esther
Zechariah Habakkuk Lamentations
Nehemiah Ezra Malachi
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.

An extended outline of each paper should be copied and made available to every student in the class. This material should include the bibliography and other significant and helpful information.

4. Annotated Bibliography

Each student must read three (3) scholarly journal articles related to the poetic and prophetic books of the Old Testament (total of 50 pages minimum). Articles should be from three different periodicals or journals. Ideas for journal articles may be gleaning from bibilographical 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 (consult other students for suggestions). The annotated bibliography should include a complete bibliographical entry with a summary of the article and 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 two tests (15% each); research paper (30%); annotated bibliography (15%); reading reports (10%); class attendance, participation and quizzes (10%); miscellaneous (including punctuality, attitude, etc.)(5%).

Class Schedule

The class is scheduled to meet from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. 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.

January 27 - Review Syllabus; Introduction to Course; How to do a research paper; Introduction to the Hebrew poetry and the poetic books
Read: Archer, chapter 32, p. 481-85; LaSor, chapter 17 (p. 231-42),

February 3 - Psalms

February 17 - Wisdom literature - Proverbs

February 24 - Job
Read: review the book of Job as much as possible (using a modern translation) in a single

March 3 - Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

March 10 - Introduction to the Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah
Read: The 6 biblical books; Archer chapters 21-22, LaSor chapters 16,18,19,20,26, and 27; Walton, pp. 52-56.

March 17 - Isaiah

March 31 - Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah and Lamentations
Read: The biblical books; Archer, chapters 25-26; LaSor, chapters 23, 24, and 39.

April 7 - Ezekiel and Daniel
Read: Ezekiel and Daniel; Archer, chapters 27-29; LaSor, 25 and 43; Walton, pp. 57, 68, 75, 105-6.

April 14 - Ezra Nehemiah and Esther
Read: E/N/E; Archer, chapter 30; LaSor, chapters 40, 42.

April 21 - Spring Break --- No class

April 28 - Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
Read: The last three OT books; Archer, chapter 31; LaSor, chapters 28, 29, 30.
Review for Final Exam

May 5 - 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 May 11, 2006. 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. Answering telephones of text messages during classtime will result in a reduction in grade.