



To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

OT 417 Old Testament Introduction

Fall Semester, 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry E. Shepherd, Ph.D.
Office Phone: (780) 431-5250
Home Phone: (780) 434-1164
Email: jerry.shepherd@taylor-edu.ca

SCHEDULE: Tuesdays, 8:30 AM – 12:15 PM

CREDITS: 3 [90 hours of work outside of class time]

DESCRIPTION:

A survey of the contents, message, form, and background of the Old Testament. Attention will be given to the major theological themes in this literature.

TARGET STATEMENTS:

Knowledge: Students will

- Demonstrate in writing (their current) understanding of the Old Testament in its various ancient Near Eastern contexts: literary, historical, geographical, cultural, religious, and sociological.
- Provide written evidence of their appreciation for the continuing claim the Old Testament has as a canonical document of the Church.
- Give examples of their awareness of the different approaches and perspectives from which the Old Testament may be studied.
- Convey in writing their understanding of the Old Testament in its canonical and Christological contexts.

Character: Students will

- Provide insights as to how they know, worship and enjoy the God who has gone to such great lengths to reveal himself to us in the Holy Scriptures and in his Christ.

Ability: Students will

- Identify one or more organizing questions they use as they read the assigned OT books that demonstrate their understanding of the OT's role in their own Christian heritage.

TEXTBOOK(S):

Dillard, Raymond B., and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

ISBN-10: 0310263417
ISBN-13: 978-0310263418

Also available on Kindle

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class attendance and contribution. Though there is no actual percentage attached to this requirement, unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.
2. Reading of the assigned textbook. No percentage is attached to this requirement, but failure to do the assigned reading could lower your grade. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate your completion of this assignment. (25 hours)
3. Reading of the following Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah. Again, there is no percentage attached to this requirement, but the level of compliance could raise or lower your final grade. (25 hours)
4. Completion of study questions. You will be given sets of study questions on the Dillard and Longman text. These are to be turned in weekly and will also constitute a study guide for the midterm and final exams. (20%; 25 hours)
5. Midterm exam on October 23. The exam will be based on all lectures and assigned reading to that point of the course. (40%; 7 hours)
6. Final exam on December 11. This will be on all reading and lectures from the point of the midterm. (40%; 8 hours)

EVALUATION:

Assignment 1	00%
Assignment 2	00%
Assignment 3	00%
Assignment 4	20%
Assignment 5	40%
Assignment 6	40%

The study questions are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. Unless there is a valid excuse, late assignments will be charged a penalty of 5% per regular school day.

The work on the study questions must be your own. While it is certainly permissible to work together on them, the answers must still be ones that you yourself have looked up and understand.

It is my desire to be as helpful to you as possible. Please feel free to call me at any time (within reason), or email me with questions or problems that you may be having. I will pray for you and request that you do the same for me. Let us be sure to encourage one another as together we grow in the knowledge of our great God and prepare for service in his Church.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Just to reinforce the above, excessive, unexcused absences and lack of participation may adversely affect your grade.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. MOODLE

Taylor Seminary's Moodle is located on a shared platform with our partner seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access: <https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is the first initial of your first name and your last name - all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log-in as jcalvin

The default enrolment key is the course code (all in lowercase, with no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number.

For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca

2. COURSE WRITING

Formatting

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

Research Language.

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to "man" generically or to "mankind," "men," "he"; rather use "humankind," "humanity," "person," etc.)

Plagiarism.

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: "To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work" (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee.**

3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a "W" will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an "F" will be recorded on the student's transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Importance of the Old Testament

Brief Historical Overview

Expanded Historical Overview

Creation and Fall

Patriarchs, Exodus, Conquest

Kingdom, Exile, Restoration

Critical Methodologies

Source Criticism

Redaction Criticism

Tradition Criticism

Textual Criticism

Canon

Covenant

Relationship between the Testaments

Law

Sacrifice and Atonement

Violence

Prophecy

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Sep 4	First Class
Sep 11	Dillard & Longman, chs. 1-2
Sep 18	Dillard & Longman, chs. 3-5
Sep 25	Dillard & Longman, chs. 6-9
Oct 2	Dillard & Longman, chs.10-12
Oct 9	Dillard & Longman, chs. 13-15
Oct 16	Modular Week – No Class
Oct 23	Midterm Exam
Oct 30	Dillard & Longman, chs. 16-18
Nov 6	Dillard & Longman, chs. 19-21
Nov 13	Dillard & Longman, chs. 22-24
Nov 20	Dillard & Longman, chs. 25-36
Nov 27	Dillard & Longman, chs. 25-36
Dec 4	Dillard & Longman, chs. 25-36
Dec 11	Final Exam