

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

OBST 515

OLD TESTAMENT ORIENTATION I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the current status of research in studies relative to the Pentateuch and Historical Books. Special attention will be given to biblical introduction, hermeneutics, and the acquiring of a strategic grasp of the historical setting, literary genres, and structure of each book, as well as areas of particular critical concern.

RATIONALE

OBST 515 (along with OBST 520) is foundational for graduate-level study in the Old Testament under Liberty University School of Divinity. This course helps the student understand the Old Testament and related issues so that s/he can effectively minister to the Church and local community.

I. PREREQUISITES

None

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

Disclaimer: The above resources provide information consistent with the latest research regarding the subject area. Liberty University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical or political positions found in these resources.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (high speed recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

III. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the arguments, purposes and major themes of the Pentateuch and the Historical Books.
- B. Write an exegetical commentary on the book of Ruth which includes introductory matters (background, authorship, date, setting, etc.), literary features, an exegetical outline, expository comments and applications.
- C. Identify major critical issues related to the authorship and historicity of the Pentateuch and Historical Books, and defend an evangelical view of Scripture.
- D. Explain how the theological message of the Pentateuch and Historical Books contributes to the theological message of the Bible.

- E. Apply OT legal and narrative materials with literary and theological sensitivity.
- F. Value the importance of the Old Testament for spiritual growth and ministry.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings, Bible readings and lecture presentations which include audio and visual lectures.

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1 on Monday.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will read articles associated with each Discussion Board Forum and answer the questions found in the corresponding instructions for his or her thread. The student will post a thread interacting in a critical, but collegial manner with the associated article. In addition to the thread, the student must reply to one classmate's thread by engaging specific issues, questions, or passages related to the thread. The reply must be a minimum of 200 words. **The reply is a collegial analysis of what the other student has written and not about the viewpoint of the student who is writing the reply.** The student must use current Turabian format to cite any outside sources that are referenced, but there is no minimum number of citations required.

- D. Old Testament Exegetical Commentary: Ruth

The student will write a 1750-2250 word exegetical commentary on the Old Testament (OT) book of Ruth, in current Turabian format, that will include 5 major components that will be submitted separately: 1) an introduction to the historical setting; 2) an exegetical outline of the book; 3) an exegetical commentary on Ruth for chapters 1-2; 4) an exegetical commentary on Ruth for chapters 3-4; as well as 5) a list of 6-8 applications to the Christian life. The student will receive basic feedback on each component of the commentary as it is submitted so as to improve the paper prior to the final submission.

Title Page and Bibliography (Week 2)

The student will submit a title page in current Turabian format along with a bibliography containing a minimum of 6 scholarly sources.

Introduction and Outline (Week 3)

The student will submit an introduction that s/he wishes to use to begin the commentary that will provide readers a thorough understanding of the books historical setting. The introduction must be a minimum of 200 words and be written in current Turabian Format. In addition, the student will also be responsible to provide an exegetical outline of his/her commentary that will be based on paragraph units. The paragraph divisions will be provided for this assignment.

Commentary Part 1 (Week 4)

The student will submit an initial exegetical commentary, in current Turabian format, for Ruth Chapters 1 and 2. The framework must reflect the exegetical outline that was produced in the previous assignment. The commentary should be balanced throughout the two chapters with a minimum word count of 700 words. The commentary should

reflect engagement with at least 4 of the 6 scholarly resources.

Commentary Part 2 (Week 5)

The student will submit an initial exegetical commentary, in current Turabian format, for Ruth Chapters 3 and 4. The framework must reflect the exegetical outline that was produced in the previous assignment. The commentary should be balanced throughout the two chapters with a minimum word count of 700 words. The commentary should reflect engagement with at least 4 of the 6 scholarly resources.

Final Commentary (Week 6)

The student will submit a final draft of the exegetical commentary, in current Turabian format, supplying both the edited commentary of the entire book of Ruth Chapters 1 through 4. The commentary must engage a minimum of 6 scholarly sources and provide a bibliography. The commentary must follow current Turabian style. This commentary will be 1750-2250 words of exegetical commentary (approximately 7-9 pages), excluding title page, table of contents, footnotes and bibliography. The final draft of the exegetical commentary will be submitted on Wednesday of week 7.

E. Reading Reports (8)

The student will complete the required reading each week to report the completion each week on the Blackboard.

F. Presentation Reports (8)

The student will complete the required visual and audio presentations each week and report the completion each week on the Blackboard.

G. Interactive Quizzes (2)

The student will complete 2 online, interactive quizzes that are based on the arguments and purposes of the Pentateuch and Historical books. The student will be able to take these quizzes as many times as desired in order to reach the highest grade that is desired.

H. Exams (4)

The student will take 4 exams throughout the duration of this course. Each exam will cover the reading and study material from the 2 most recent modules/weeks preceding it and are not otherwise cumulative. Each exam will be made up of 3 parts: 30 multiple-choice, 30 true/false questions and 1 essay question. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes and have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit.

V. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

| | |
|---|-----|
| Course Requirements Checklist | 10 |
| Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 pts ea.) | 200 |
| Report on the assigned reading (8 at 10 pts ea.) | 80 |
| Report on audio/visual lectures (8 at 10 pts ea.) | 80 |
| Old Testament Exegetical Commentary: Ruth | |
| Title Page and Bibliography | 20 |
| Introduction and Outline | 40 |
| Commentary Part 1 | 40 |

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|----------------------------|-------------|
| Commentary Part 2 | 40 |
| Final Commentary | 80 |
| Quizzes (2 at 50 pts. ea.) | 100 |
| Exams (4 at 80 pts. ea.) | 320 |
| Total | 1010 |

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Resubmission and Extra Credit

No assignment can be turned in twice. The first submission must be graded. No assignment can be redone and resubmitted. No additional extra credit assignments will be permitted. No test can be taken a second time.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

OBST 515

Textbooks: Hamilton, *Handbook on the Pentateuch* (2015).

Hamilton, *Handbook on the Historical Books* (2001).

Walvoord & Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary of the Old Testament* (1985).

Textbook readings parallel Bible readings.

| MODULE/ WEEK | READING & STUDY | ASSIGNMENTS | POINTS |
|-------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Read Hamilton (2015) chs. 1-2 Review: Walvoord & Zuck (BK) Genesis and Exodus Bible Readings: Genesis-Exodus Video presentations 1-3 Audio presentations 1-4 | Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Reading Report 1 Presentation Report 1 | 10 0 100 10 10 |
| 2 | Read Hamilton (2015) chs. 3-4 Review BK: Leviticus and Numbers Bible Readings: Leviticus-Numbers Video presentations 4-5 Audio presentations 5-9 | Exam 1: Genesis to Numbers OTECR: Title Page & Bibliography Reading Report 2 Presentation Report 2 | 80 20 10 10 |
| 3 | Read Hamilton (2015) ch. 5 Read Hamilton (2008) ch. 1 Review BK: Deuteronomy and Joshua Bible Readings: Deuteronomy- Joshua Video presentations 6-7 Audio presentations 10-14 | DB Forum 2 OTECR: Introduction and Outline Reading Report 3 Presentation Report 3 | 100 40 10 10 |
| 4 | Read Hamilton (2008) chs. 2-3 Review BK: Judges and Ruth Bible Readings: Judges and Ruth Video presentations 8-9 Audio presentation 15 | Exam 2: Deuteronomy to Ruth OTECR: Commentary Part 1 Reading Report 4 Presentation Report 4 | 80 40 10 10 |
| 5 | Read Hamilton (2008) chs. 5-6 Review BK: 1-2 Samuel Bible Readings: 1-2 Samuel Video presentations 10-11 Audio presentations 16-17 | OTECR: Commentary Part 2 Arguments and Purposes Quiz 1 Reading Report 5 Presentation Report 5 | 40 50 10 10 |

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|--------------|--|--|----------------------|
| 6 | Read Hamilton (2008) chs. 7-8 Review BK: 1-2 Kings Bible Readings: 1-2 Kings Video presentations 12-13 Audio presentation 18 | Reading Report 6 Presentation Report 6 Exam 3: 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings | 10 10 80 |
| 7 | Read Hamilton (2008) ch. 8 Review BK: 1-2 Chronicles Bible Readings: 1-2 Chronicles Video presentations 14-15 Audio presentations 19-20 | OTECR: Final Paper and Applications Reading Report 7 Presentation Report 7 | 80 10 10 |
| 8 | Read BK: Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther Review Hamilton (2008) chs. 10-11 Bible Readings: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther Video presentations 16-18 Audio presentations 21-23 | Exam 4: 1 Chronicles to Esther Reading Report 8 Presentation Report 8 Arguments and Purposes Quiz 2 | 80 10 10 50 |
| TOTAL | | | 1010 |

DB = Discussion Board

BK: Walvoord and Zuck, Bible Knowledge Commentary

OTECR: Old Testament Exegetical Commentary: Ruth

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday of Week 8**.