

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 Baptist Theological Seminary. This course helps the student understand the Old Testament and related issues so that he or she can effectively minister to the Church and local community.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

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>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

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

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Identify the major themes and general contents of the Pentateuch and the Historical Books.
- B. Analyze the literary features of Hebrew narratives and their significance for the study of Old Testament historical texts.
- C. Identify major critical issues related to the authorship and historicity of the Pentateuch and the Historical Books and defend an evangelical view of Scripture in the context of these issues.

- D. Explain how the theological message of the Pentateuch and the Historical Books contributes to the larger theological message of the Bible as a whole.
- E. Apply Old Testament legal and narrative materials with literary and theological sensitivity.
- F. Value more greatly the importance of the Old Testament for personal spiritual growth and Christian teaching and ministry.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings, Bible readings, and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

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

- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will read an article 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 of 700–800 words interacting in a critical manner with the associated article. In addition to the thread, the student must reply to 1 classmate’s thread, engaging specific issues, questions, or passages related to the thread. The reply must be 200 words. 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. OT Ethics Essay

The student must write a 1500–1800-word reflection on 1 of three ethical issues related to the study of the Old Testament provided in the instructions. The essay must include a minimum of 6 scholarly sources and a bibliography. The essay must follow current Turabian style.

- E. OT Research Paper

The student must write a 1600–1800-word research paper on one of the topics provided. The student must choose his or her topic and present a well-researched analysis and discussion of the chosen topic. A minimum of 7 scholarly sources and a bibliography are required. The paper must follow current Turabian style.

- F. Exams (4)

The student will take 4 exams throughout the course, which will each cover the Reading & Study material from the 2 most recent modules/weeks. Each exam has 2 portions: an objective portion with 33–38 matching, multiple-choice, and true/false questions, and a portion with 1 essay question. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes and have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
OT Ethics Essay	200
OT Research Paper	200
Exams (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
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. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. 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](#).

E. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

F. Course Changes

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

G. 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: Alexander, *From Paradise to the Promised Land* (2012).

DeRouchie, *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About* (2013).

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

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Alexander: chs. 7–8, 10–12 DeRouchie: ch. 2 Bible Readings 3 presentations 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Alexander: chs. 13–15 DeRouchie: ch. 3 Bible Readings 1 presentation	Exam 1	100
3	Alexander: chs. 16–21 DeRouchie: chs. 4–5 Bible Readings 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 2	100
4	Alexander: chs. 22–23 DeRouchie: chs. 6–7 Hamilton: Joshua (pp.16–83) Bible Readings 1 presentation	Exam 2	100
5	DeRouchie: chs. 8, 15 Hamilton: Judges (pp. 97–169), Ruth (pp. 187–204) Bible Readings 1 presentation	OT Ethics Essay	200
6	DeRouchie: ch. 9 Hamilton: 1 Samuel (pp. 211– 265), 2 Samuel (pp. 297–345) Bible Readings 1 presentation	Exam 3	100

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
7	DeRouchie: ch. 10 Hamilton: 1 Kings 1–11 (pp. 379–409); 1 Kings 12—2 Kings (pp. 415–468) Bible Readings 4 presentations	OT Research Paper	200
8	DeRouchie: chs. 23–25 Hamilton: 1–2 Chronicles (pp. 477–495; Ezra—Nehemiah (pp. 503–523); Esther (pp. 529–545) Bible Readings 2 presentations	Exam 4	100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

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**.