

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 520

OLD TESTAMENT ORIENTATION II

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the current status of research in studies relative to the poetic and prophetic 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

This course provides an introduction to the literature and message of the Old Testament that is foundational to graduate-level study of the Old Testament in the seminary program.

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 (high speed recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>
- F. The Holy Bible

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will be able to:

- A. Identify the major themes and general contents of the Prophetic and Poetical Books.
- B. Analyze the literary features of Hebrew poetry and their significance for interpreting Old Testament texts.
- C. Identify major critical issues related to the authorship and historicity of the Prophetic and Poetical Books and defend an evangelical view of Scripture in the context of these issues.
- D. Apply the teachings of the Old Testament to issues related to key theological and ethical issues related to the practice of the Christian life.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings, Bible readings and video presentations. Supports Learning Outcomes A and C.
- 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. Supports Learning Outcomes A, B, C, D.

- D. Old Testament Interpretive Commentary: Jonah
- The student will write a 2500 minimum word interpretive commentary on the Old Testament (OT) book of Jonah, in current Turabian format, that will include the following major components: 1) an introduction to the historical setting (approximately 200 - 300 words); 2) an exegetical outline of the book (that provides structure for the commentary with content oriented subheadings); 3) an interpretive commentary on Jonah for chapters 1-4 (approximately 500 words per chapter); as well as 4) a conclusion that supports at least 3 applications to the Christian life drawn from the interpretive analysis performed in the commentary (approximately 300 – 500 words). The student will submit a title page and bibliography in module week 2 containing a minimum of 5 scholarly sources (that will provide a basis for research in the interpretive commentary), and the completed commentary will be submitted in module week 7. Supports Learning Outcomes A, B, C, D, E.
- E. Reading Reports (8)
- The student will complete the required reading each week and report the completion each week in Blackboard. Supports Learning Outcomes A and C.
- F. Presentation Reports (8)
- The student will complete the required visual presentations each week and report the completion each week in Blackboard. Supports Learning Outcomes A and C.
- G. 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 2 objective parts: 30 multiple-choice and 30 true/false questions. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes and have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit. Supports Learning Outcomes A, B, C, D.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points	
Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 75 pts ea.)	150
Report on the assigned reading (8 at 12 pts ea.)	96
Report on visual presentations (8 at 6 pts ea.)	48
Old Testament Interpretive Commentary: Jonah	
Title Page and Bibliography	26
Final Commentary	200
Exams (4 at 120 pts. ea.)	480
	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](#).

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 Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

OBST 520

Textbooks: Estes, *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms* (2010).

Chisholm, *Handbook on the Prophets* (2009).

Read textbooks in correspondence to the Bible readings.

MODULE /WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Read Estes: Psalms Bible Reading: Psalms View Presentation: Psalms	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Reading Report 1 Presentation Report 1	10 0 75 12 6
2	Read Estes: Proverbs and Ecclesiastes Bible Readings: Proverbs and Ecclesiastes View Presentation: Proverbs and Ecclesiastes	Exam 1 Jonah: Title Page and Bibliography Reading Report 2 Presentation Report 2	120 26 12 6
3	Read Estes: Job, Song of Songs Read Chisholm: Lamentations Bible Readings: Job, Song of Songs, Lamentations View Presentation: Job, Songs of Songs, Lamentations	DB Forum 2 Reading Report 3 Presentation Report 3	75 12 6
4	Read Chisholm: Isaiah and Daniel Bible Readings: Isaiah and Daniel View Presentation: Isaiah and Daniel	Exam 2 Reading Report 4 Presentation Report 4	120 12 6
5	Read Chisholm: Jeremiah and Ezekiel Bible Readings: Jeremiah and Ezekiel View Presentations: Jeremiah and Ezekiel	Reading Report 5 Presentation Report 5	12 6

MODULE /WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
6	Read Chisholm: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah Bible Readings: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah View Presentations: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah	Reading Report 6 Presentation Report 6 Exam 3	12 6 120
7	Read Chisholm: Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah Bible Readings: Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah View Presentations: Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah	Jonah: Interpretive Commentary Reading Report 7 Presentation Report 7	200 12 6
8	Read Chisholm: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi Bible Readings: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi View Presentations: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Exam 4 Reading Report 8 Presentation Report 8	120 12 6
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**.