

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 640

APOLOGETICS AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation of key issues in the study of the Old Testament with a focus upon defending the truthfulness of the Old Testament. Focused attention will be given to the historicity of Old Testament narratives, issues in archaeology, and the compatibility of the God of the Old Testament with the God of the New Testament.

RATIONALE

Since the Enlightenment, there have been a multitude of critics of the Bible and of the Old Testament especially. OBST 640 will provide a foundation for defending and trusting the God and history revealed within the pages of the Old Testament. Furthermore, OBST 640 will provide the opportunity for students to develop an effective understanding of the issues of an Old Testament apologetic.

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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Identify apologetic issues in current scholarship that pertain to the Old Testament.
- B. Analyze the validity of criticism aimed at the historicity of the Old Testament.
- C. Defend the historicity of the Old Testament.

- D. Discuss exegetically and apologetically pertinent Old Testament texts in their literary and cultural contexts.
- E. Outline the primary characteristics of God which are found in both the Old Testament and New Testament.
- F. Generate a theological polemic for the God of the Old Testament being the same as the God of the New Testament.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook 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 (5)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 150–250 words. The student's thread must reference at least 1 source from the module/week's reading.

- D. God of the OT Paper

The student will write a 10–12-page research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the God of the Old Testament being the same as the God of the New Testament. The paper must use at least 5 references, including 2 journal articles, 2 commentaries, and an exegetical analysis of at least 1 key passage.

Step 1

The student will produce an annotated bibliography of at least 10 sources, including at least 2 journal articles and 2 commentaries.

Step 2

The student will develop an outline for his or her research paper that includes major and minor subheadings. Each heading must include an estimated page length and a few bullet points. The student must clearly indicate which section includes his or her exegetical analysis.

Step 3

The student will submit the completed 10–12-page research-based paper in current Turabian formatting.

E. Outline of the Attributes of God

The student will write a 5-page research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the primary characteristics of God found in both the Old and the New Testament. The student will select 6 attributes, including the justice of God, and provide references from both the Old and the New Testament for each attribute. The paper must include at least 2 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible, and at least 1 systematic theology.

F. Quizzes (4)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the module/week in which it is assigned. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 10 true/false questions, and have a 20-minute time limit.

G. Exams (2)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the module/week in which it is assigned. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 2 essay questions, and have a 60-minute time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (5 at 80 pts ea)	400
God of the OT Paper: Step 1	20
God of the OT Paper: Step 2	20
God of the OT Paper: Step 3	200
Outline of the Attributes of God	100
Quizzes (1 at 30 pts, 3 at 10 pts ea)	60
Exams (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
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. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@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](#).

D. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the LUSD Writing Guide and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

OBST 640

Textbooks: Block, *Israel* (2008).

Charles, *Reading Genesis 1–2* (2013).

Copan, *Is God a Moral Monster?* (2011).

Cowan & Wilder, *In Defense of the Bible* (2013).

Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (2003).

Seibert, *Disturbing Divine Behavior* (2009).

Wright, *The God I Don't Understand* (2016).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Block: Selected Readings Copan: chs. 1–2 Cowan & Wilder: chs. 2–5 Seibert: ch. 1 Bible Readings 4 presentations 3 websites	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Quiz 1	10 0 80 30
2	Block: Selected Readings Cowan & Wilder: ch. 9 Seibert: chs. 3–5, 9–10 Bible Readings 3 presentations	God of the OT Paper: Step 1 Exam 1	20 100
3	Charles: chs. 1–3, 5, 7 Bible Readings 2 presentations 2 websites	DB Forum 2 God of the OT Paper: Step 2	80 20
4	Kitchen: ch. 6 Bible Readings 1 presentation 1 website	Outline of the Attributes of God Quiz 2	100 10
5	Block: Selected Readings Kitchen: ch. 5 Seibert: ch. 7 Bible Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Quiz 3	80 10

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
6	Copan: chs. 15–18 Cowan & Wilder: ch. 13 Seibert: ch. 11 Wright: chs. 4–5 Bible Readings 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 4 Quiz 4	80 10
7	Kitchen: ch. 4 Bible Readings 1 website	God of the OT Paper: Step 3	200
8	Block: Selected Readings Copan: chs. 7–9, 12–13 Cowan & Wilder: ch. 13 Bible Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 5 Exam 2	80 100
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**.