

**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 650**

#### **GENESIS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of Genesis with particular emphasis on the major themes and events: creation, flood, patriarchal narratives, and the Abrahamic Covenant. Attention will be given to significant historical and archaeological details relative to the cultural milieu as well as to crucial theological concepts found in key chapters in the book.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course provides the student with the knowledge and tools to understand and apply this foundational Old Testament book of beginnings. The ministerial student should be able to properly understand and interpret this Old Testament book for preaching, teaching, and/or counseling.

#### **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 Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:  
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Describe the general themes and contents of Genesis.
- B. Describe the major critical issues and interpretive problems in Genesis with due attention to literary genre.

- C. Discuss the general cultural, geographical, historical, and religious background for Genesis in its ancient Near East context.
- D. Use the book of Genesis as an aid in understanding Christian theology and devotionally in his/her personal walk with Christ.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and 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 (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will complete 4 Discussion Board Forums throughout the course. The student is required to post a thread of at least 500 words. For each thread, assertions must be supported with primary evidence from the Bible and with at least 2 secondary sources from the course materials or presentations. The student must then post 2 replies of at least 225 words each. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

- D. Critical Analyses (2)

Students will complete a critical analysis of both *Genesis: History, Fiction, or Neither?* and *The Bible Among the Myths*. Both of these analyses must completely satisfy the two-part prompt below.

### Part 1

In part one of each critical analysis, the student will summarize the major highlights of the book he or she is delineating, pointing out how the author(s) is(are) making his(their) case. The student must identify the style/organization of the author's(s') argument and how the argument unfolds. This portion of the analysis must take up at least 2 pages (double-spaced using Times New Roman 12-pt font with 1-inch margins) and include proper, current Turabian format for any references used.

### Part 2

In part two of each critical analysis, the student must critically engage the contents of the book being investigated. Strengths and weaknesses of the author's(s') presentation need to be identified, along with counterarguments and possible areas of further study. This portion of the analysis must take up at least 2 pages (double-spaced using Times New Roman 12-pt font with 1-inch margins) and include proper, current Turabian format for any references used.

- E. Quizzes (4)

The student will complete 4 quizzes throughout the course. Questions are drawn from the presentations and readings throughout the course. Each quiz consists of 50 true/false and multiple-choice questions. The quizzes are open-book and open-note but must be completed within 1 hour and 30 minutes.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Critical Analyses (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Quizzes (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

**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. Extra Credit**

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

**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 Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://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](mailto: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 650**

Textbooks: Oswalt, *The Bible among the Myths* (2009).  
 Ross, *Creation & Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis* (1997).  
 Wenham et al., *Genesis: History, Fiction, or Neither?* (2015).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Ross: chs. 1–3 Wenham et al.: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Quiz 1	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Ross: chs. 5–11 Wenham et al.: chs. 3–Conclusion Genesis 1–5 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Critical Analysis 1	100 100
<b>3</b>	Ross: chs. 12–18 Bible Readings 1 presentation	Quiz 2	100
<b>4</b>	Ross: chs. 19–27 Bible Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	100
<b>5</b>	Oswalt: chs. 1–5 Ross: chs. 28–36 Bible Readings 1 presentation	Quiz 3	100
<b>6</b>	Oswalt: chs. 6–10 Ross: chs. 37–45 Bible Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Critical Analysis 2	100 100
<b>7</b>	Ross: chs. 46–53 Bible Readings 1 presentation	Quiz 4	100
<b>8</b>	Ross: chs. 54–68 Bible Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 4	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB=Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.