

BIBL 501: Old Testament Foundations

Matthew Lynch

May 15-26; 8:30 – 11:30am

3 graduate credit hours; or 3 audit hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course orients students to the theology, literature, and key issues in the Old Testament. It reflects on questions of how Old Testament books are best read together as part of the Christian canon of Scripture, and their ability to shape Christian life and engagement with culture. After addressing key interpretive issues, the course explores the contents of the Old Testament with a focus on the historical context, literary shape, and theological and ethical dimensions of each book. At the end of the course, students should have a new appreciation for the Old Testament as an integrated but diverse whole, and for its status as a “living and active” word for the Christian journey.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Will have been introduced to the different writings that comprise the Old Testament, and should have developed an awareness of the genre, context, and literary settings of the different writings.
2. Should be able to recognize and assess the individual contributions of each Old Testament book to the broader biblical canon.
3. Should have gained a greater appreciation for the tasks of exegesis and application, with their varied difficulties and rewards.
4. Should be able to articulate the ongoing value of the Old Testament for Christian life and mission in the world today.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 May 15 Introduction to the Study of the Old Testament

Day 2 May 16 Reading the Old Testament in Context / Gen 1-11

Day 3 May 17 Gen 12-50-Exodus

Day 4 May 18 Leviticus-Deuteronomy

Day 5 May 19 Introduction to Paul, Galatians

Day 6 May 20 Latter Prophets I: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel

Day 7 May 21 Latter Prophets II: The 12 Minor Prophets

Day 8 May 22 Writings I: Psalms, Lamentations

Day 9 May 23 Writings II: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Day 10 May 24 Writings III: Ruth, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Bible: A contemporary (non-periphrastic) Bible translation (e.g., NIV, NRSV). The NET with full textual notes is an excellent option for getting into the linguistic detail of the Old Testament (<https://netbible.com/buy-now/>), and the *JPS Hebrew-English Reader's Edition* is a nice option for those wanting to engage Hebrew.
- Davis, Ellen F. *Opening Israel's Scriptures*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019. [=OIS]
- Jeannine K. Brown, *Scripture As Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2021), **only** pp. 218-227.

Looking for textbooks? Please [contact](#) the Regent Bookstore, or check out their [direct-fulfillment website, Aerio](#).

Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

