



Munster Bible College
Old Testament I: Genesis–Esther
4–9 March 2019

COURSE INFORMATION

Lecturer: J. Michael Thigpen, Ph.D.

michael.thigpen@biola.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the Old Testament, in English Bible, from Genesis to Esther, including an exposure to relevant introductory issues, an examination of literary genres, and application to life and ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT OUTCOMES

By the completion of this course including class participation, class assignments (referred to as “Tasks”), and class readings the following objectives and learning outcomes will be assessed and demonstrated:

1. **ESSENTIAL COURSE OBJECTIVE:** Students will gain a basic understanding of Old Testament studies including the nature of the Old Testament canon, the literary types of the Old Testament, and the content and structure of the books from Genesis to Esther.
 - a. **RELATED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students will demonstrate having gained a basic understanding of these subjects by:
 - i. Summarizing and evaluating course readings (fulfilled by Book Review, Special Readings and Interactions).
 - ii. Recalling basic facts and explaining key passages and themes (fulfilled by Exam, OT Essays).
 - iii. Making use of the course material to teach others (fulfilled by OT Essays, OT Theme Lesson).

LEARNING TASKS AND ASSESSMENT

Old Testament Readings (All Students)

The foundation of everything that will occur in this course is the time you will spend reading from the Old Testament. Without sufficient time in the text itself, class lectures, discussions and outside readings will be ineffective. *It is to your advantage to read as much as possible of Genesis–Esther before class.* Reading of Genesis–Esther should be completed by 25 May 2019. (Due date for certificate students is 25 May 2019.)

Book Review (Diploma Students)

Students will read Elmer A. Martens, *God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology*. 4th edition, (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2015) and submit a 1,500–2,500 word book review. Additional instructions on the format and content of the review will be provided in the assignment instructions. The book review should be submitted by 25 May 2019.

Special Readings and Interactions (Diploma Students)

Students will engage a variety of journal articles and book chapters in order to begin to engage the larger field of Old Testament studies. Each reading will be accompanied by a guide and a set of reading questions. The assigned readings should be read prior to the session in which they will be discussed. The reading questions should be submitted by 25 May 2019.

Exam (Diploma Students)

One examination will be given over the course of the semester. The exam will include material from class discussions, lectures, and required reading assignments. The exam should be completed by 30 April 2019.

OT Essays (All Students)

Students will apply principles and content from the course in 3 short writing assignments. Each essay will be 500–1,000 words in length. These assignments are designed to help students think about how to communicate what has been learned in this course to others. The essays should be submitted by 30 April 2019. (Due date for certificate students is 25 May 2019.)

OT Theme Lesson (Diploma Students)

Students will choose a key theme from *God's Design* and creating a lesson plan (1,200–1,500 words) for teaching the theme. Students may choose to prepare the lesson for an adult teaching setting (Sunday school, Bible study, or sermon). Additional details on the lesson format and required content will be provided during the course. The Theme Lesson should be submitted by 25 May 2019.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts

- Bible - Any standard translation (not a paraphrase) e.g. NIV, NASB, ESV, etc.
- Elmer A. Martens. *God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology*. 4th ed. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2015. ISBN: 149821858X

Recommended Texts

- Dumbrell, William J. *The Faith of Israel: A Theological Survey of the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. ISBN: 080102532X
- Motyer, Alec. *Roots: Let the Old Testament Speak*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2010. ISBN: 1845505069
- House, Paul R. and Eric Mitchell. *Old Testament Survey*. 2nd ed. Nashville: B&H, 2007. ISBN: 0805440364

Special Readings

- Block, Daniel I. "How Many Is God? An Investigation into the Meaning of Deuteronomy 6:4-5." *JETS* 47.2 (2004): 193–212.
- Galil, Gershon. "The Message of the Book of Kings in Relation to Deuteronomy and Jeremiah." *BSac* 158 (2001): 406–14.
- Martens, Elmer A. "Theology of Numbers." *Direction* 29.1 (2000-4): 54–63.
- Merrill, Eugene H. "The Theology of the "Chronicler": What Difference Does It Make? *JETS* 59.4 (2016): 691–700.
- Sprinkle, Joe M. "Law and Narrative in Exodus 19–24." *JETS* 47.2 (2003): 235–52.
- Thigpen, J. Michael, "Worship in the Book of Joshua: Trust and Obedience as Worship to Yahweh." In *A Biblical Theology of Worship: Exegesis for Everyday Worshipers*. Edited by Benjamin K. Forrest, Walter C. Kaiser and John R. Markley. Grand Rapids: Kregel, forthcoming.
- Thigpen, J. Michael. "Our Representational Reign: Royal Leadership in the United Monarchy." Pages 125–40 in *Biblical Leadership: Theology for the Everyday Leader*. Edited by Benjamin K. Forrest and Chet Roden. Biblical Theology for the Church. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2017.
- Way, Kenneth C. "The Meaning of the Minor Judges: Understanding the Bible's Shortest Stories." *JETS* 61.2 (2018): 275–85.

COURSE GRADING

Requirement	Weight
Book Review	30%
Special Readings & Interactions	30%
Exam	15%
OT Essays	10%
OT Theme Lesson	15%
Total	100%