

Old Testament I

Munster Bible College
6-11 Feb 2023
Cork Baptist Church

MUNSTER
BIBLE COLLEGE



For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures. (Romans 15:4)

...from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)

LECTURER

Kevin Gabriel, ThM

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COURSE CONTENT

A survey of the first half of the Old Testament (Genesis - 2 Kings), including relevant introductory matters, a survey of each book, major themes and interpretive questions, and application to life and ministry.

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES

Develop a greater understanding of the storyline and contents of the OT by:

- Understanding the shape of the OT canon
- Gaining a basic understanding of the message and structure of each OT book
- Recognizing major themes, events, and characters in the OT

Gain a basic understanding of current issues in OT scholarship by:

- Understanding the history of the OT text and canon
- Examining the relationship between the OT and its ancient Near Eastern context
- Evaluating major claims of critical scholarship related to authorship of the OT

Develop further ability to study and teach the OT by:

- Understanding how individual passages and books fit into the larger story of the Bible
- Gaining skills needed to study passages of the OT in-depth
- Understanding the OT law and its application to the church today

Grow in a love for God, his Word, and his church by:

- Understanding how the OT looks forward to Jesus Christ
- Applying the OT to daily life in obedience to God
- Deepening love and commitment to Christ and his church

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

A **physical copy** of the Bible for Bible reading. (Because you will be reading extensive portions, I suggest using a fluid translation such as the CSB [my favourite!], NLT, or NIV. I would suggest using a translation you have **not** read extensively in the past, in order to see things from a fresh perspective.)

DIPLOMA ONLY: Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Word Became Fresh: How to Preach from Old Testament Narrative Texts*. Ross-shire: Mentor, 2012.

DIPLOMA ONLY: Richter, Sandra L. *The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry Into the Old Testament*. Westmont: IVP Academic, 2008.

CERTIFICATE ONLY: Motyer, Alec. *A Christian's Pocket Guide to Loving the Old Testament*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2015.

DIPLOMA COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

ATTENDANCE (5%): Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students missing any class meetings for legitimate reasons are expected to watch the recorded lectures.

TEXTBOOK READING (20%): Students are required to read all assigned portions of the textbooks listed under “Required Textbooks” above. At the end of the course, students will complete a report verifying that they have completed all reading assignments. (Due 29 April.)

OT READING REFLECTION (25%): Students are required to read the books of Genesis-2 Kings (except Ruth) in their entirety. Before beginning to read, students should view the document on Schoology providing instructions regarding this assignment. Students will complete this assignment, which includes brief introductions and reflective questions for each book, as they work through their Old Testament reading. (Due 29 April.)

DEEP DIVE (25%): Students will follow a step-by-step process to study an OT passage in-depth and consider how they would teach this passage in their local church context. See the instructions in the document on Schoology. (Due 11 March.)

BOOK ANALYSIS (25%): Students will select a book of interest (from the list posted on Schoology), read the book, and follow the detail instructions (in a separate document on Schoology) to complete a book analysis. This is similar in content to a book review, but is completed in a short-answer Q&A format, focused more specifically on your own thoughtful analysis and engagement with the material. (Due 8 April.)

CERTIFICATE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

ATTENDANCE (10%): Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students missing any class meetings for legitimate reasons are expected to watch the recorded lectures.

TEXTBOOK READING (20%): Students are required to read all assigned portions of the textbooks listed under “Required Textbooks” above. At the end of the course, students will complete a report verifying that they have completed all reading assignments. (Due 29 April.)

OT READING REFLECTION (35%): Students are required to read the books of Genesis-2 Kings (except Ruth) in their entirety. Before beginning to read, students should view the document on Schoology providing instructions regarding this assignment. Students will complete this assignment, which includes brief introductions and reflective questions for each book, as they work through their Old Testament reading. (Due 29 April.)

DEEP DIVE (35%): Students will follow a step-by-step process to study an OT passage in-depth and consider how they would teach this passage in their local church context. See the instructions in the document on Schoology. (Due 11 March.)

GRADING SCALE

96-100%	A	85-89%	B	73-75%	C	63-66%	D
93-95%	A-	80-84%	B-	70-72%	C-	60-62%	D-
90-92%	B+	76-79%	C+	67-69%	D+	0-59%	F

STUDENT SUPPORT

Students are welcome to reach out to the lecturer with questions related to the course material and assignments. Contact information is provided on the first page of the syllabus.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A computer with basic internet access and word processing software will be needed for this course.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Unless there is written permission from the lecturer ahead of time, points received for any late assignment will be reduced by 25% for every two days late.
2. All assignments must be completed for a student to pass the course.
3. Students are asked to refrain from using their personal devices for any reason other than class-related work during the course.
4. **Respect for Divergent Viewpoints:** Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed through class assignments and discussion boards. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.
5. **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual property theft or literary theft (i.e., plagiarism). Students who conduct any part of their participation in the course in a fraudulent or deceptive manner are guilty of cheating. Students caught in either of these acts of academic misconduct will be reported to the Board of MBC, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.
6. **Special Needs:** As an institution, we strive to work with students and any challenges they face to the full degree possible. If there are any physical or mental challenges that might need special accommodation, please contact the instructor prior to or on the first day of class.
7. **Grievances and Grade Disputes:** If a student has a concern about a grade that he or she received, the student is expected to request clarification from instructor via email. If the student still has significant concern, he or she may contact the Board of MBC.
8. **Course and Syllabus Modification (Disclaimer):** This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, activities, evaluation criteria, policies and procedures, and other information necessary for students to complete this course. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.