



The Story of the Old Testament

BIBLE 2203

Spring 2025 (Wednesdays, Jan 29-April 30, 6:00-9:00 pm)

Location: Lakeview Church of Christ, Tacoma, WA

Instructor: Mark McLean, Ed.D.

Office Hours: by appointment

Phone: (360) 621-6385 (Call or text)

Email: markmclean640@gmail.com

Course Description:

This course is a three credit-hour survey of the Old Testament. Special attention will be given to the flow of God's interaction with the nation of Israel through the Old Testament era. Appropriate historical and cultural backgrounds will be addressed when introducing the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament canon. Major theological doctrines and high-profile characters of the Old Testament will be studied within their historical context.

Course Objectives:

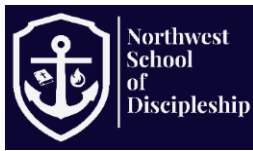
1. Information: Students will gain a foundational knowledge of the content and historical context of the books of the Old Testament.
2. Exploration: Students will critically evaluate the impact of Old Testament characters on their Christian worldview, with applications to their own lives.
3. Transformation: Students will learn to apply the foundational teachings of the Old Testament to a life of discipleship and living the ways of Jesus.

Christian Worldview & Teaching Philosophy:

This course is an Oklahoma Christian University Bible course offered for credit at the Northwest School of Discipleship (NWSD), based in Tigard, Oregon. NWSD is a church-based educational initiative that seeks to help transform believers into the image of Christ through offering courses grounded in the three essential features of discipleship: Knowledge, Affection, Obedience.

Required Texts:

- Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer, Encountering the Old Testament, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-8010-4953-8



- Memory work will be from the ESV Bible, Crossway, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-4335-0241-5

Course Requirements:

1. Quizzes (30%):

Expect a quiz or exam class meetings as outlined in the course schedule. Quizzes will be given over readings in Encountering the Old Testament, readings in the Bible, and memory work as assigned in the class schedule. Quizzes may use true-false, multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, or paragraph essay questions. A student is permitted one excused absence for the term. Excused absences are for illness or family emergencies and require securing approval from the instructor PRIOR to the class missed. Quizzes will NOT be made up, but students with one excused absence will not have their one “zero” score averaged into their quiz grade. Unexcused absences receive zero credit for their quiz grade for the day.

2. Class Participation (5%):

Students are expected to actively participate in discussions, debates, and other class activities. Excellent participation requires near-perfect attendance, a demonstrated knowledge of assigned readings, and active oral engagement in class discussion.

3. Reflective Essays (25%):

Three **required** reflective essays will be written, worth a total of 25% of the total course grade. A reflective essay is NOT a research paper, but rather personal reflections on your reading and thinking about the biblical text. Each essay should be 800 words or more in length and must be written in your own words. The essay will be graded on content, appropriate engagement of the biblical text, clarity of reasoning, and adherence to the standards of formal writing and proper English grammar. Subject matter for each essay and further instructions on this assignment will be addressed in a handout on the first day of class. Failure to turn in one or more reflective essays will result in a failing grade in the class, no matter how many points the student has in other areas of class work (exams, quizzes, and class participation). Essays are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day.

4. Exams (40%):

There are two major exams in the course: A Mid-Term and a Final. Each exam is worth 20% of the total course grade. The exams may include objective questions (true-false and multiple choice), fill in the blank statements, short answer, matching, and essay questions. The exams may cover material from class discussions, your assigned readings, and required memory work.

Grading Scale:

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59 and below



Oklahoma Christian University Policies

This course is accredited through Oklahoma Christian University and consequently the following policies apply:

Oklahoma Christian University Policy on Academic Honesty

Cheating

Cheating on examinations, assignments, roll sheets or other course related work or activities undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Cheating is one form of academic dishonesty. Cheating triggers the Consequences for Academic Dishonesty.

Plagiarism

One particular form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the transmission of another's ideas, words, or materials as one's own and/or the failure to credit accurately the ideas, words, or materials of another. Plagiarism also includes passing off another person's work as one's own. Plagiarism undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Plagiarism is one form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism triggers the following consequences.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

1. First offense: the mandatory consequence for academic dishonesty with regard to an examination or assignment is zero (0) credit. Faculty have discretion to assign appropriate consequences for academic dishonesty other than on examinations or assignments. Faculty must send documentation of the first offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the CAO, and the Dean of Students.
2. Second offense: the mandatory consequence for a second incident of academic dishonesty, in the same course, during the same term, is a failing grade (F) in the course. Faculty shall provide documentation of the second offense to the appropriate academic leader, dean, CAO, and the Dean of Students.
3. Appeal: A student accused of academic dishonesty may appeal the determination using the process for Grade Appeals, found below.
4. Multiple Course Violations: When a student has been academically dishonest in more than one (1) course the Academic Appeals Committee may assign consequences up to and including suspension from the University. The Academic Appeals Committee will inform the CAO and the Dean of Students in writing of consequences imposed and will report annually on its activities to the University's Academic Affairs Committee. 5.



Faculty should maintain the highest standards of academic honesty both in and out of the classroom. Faculty must report and apply the rules regarding academic dishonesty to the appropriate channels.

Copyright/Fair Use notice

Course materials provided or made available to students in class, online or via email are the property of Oklahoma Christian University, the instructor and other copyright holders and are made available for the sole use of students enrolled in this class during the semester in which the student is enrolled. Students may keep one copy (print or digital) for personal use only and may not distribute the materials in any media format to any person without the express permission of the Oklahoma Christian University and the instructor. Original materials posted and authored by students may not be distributed under any circumstances.

Sources of Help

Tutoring	Student Success 405.425.5907 www.oc.edu/academics/student-success/
Writing Lab	Writer's Block http://writersblock.oc.edu/
Research Help	Library 405.425.5312 Ask a Librarian (libanswers.oc.edu) library.oc.edu
Information Technology	Support Central



405.425.5555

support.oc.edu/home

Blackboard Help Link in Blackboard (usually on left side)

Calling & Career Office Day Six (located directly below Admissions)

Career counseling, strengths analysis, resume and portfolio building, interview mastery, network building, career search/ landing, and more.

405.425.5961

www.oc.edu/daysix

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Sharon Powell (405-425-1876) before your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, Sharon Powell, and the Office of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this course.

Testing Center

A number of special circumstances may require students to take a test outside of the classroom. You may qualify to use the Testing Center if: 1) you have testing accommodations that allow for additional support; 2) you are a student athlete and are unable to test during the scheduled time; or 3) other circumstances that prohibit you from taking an exam in the classroom environment. Please contact studentsuccess@oc.edu for more information or questions.

Policy and Procedures Addressing Sexual Harassment (Title IX)

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian community unequivocally committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected and providing a campus environment that is free of unlawful discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct. [OC's Policy and Procedures Addressing Sexual](#)



Misconduct are compliant with Title IX, which states, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Sexual harassment is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trusts, and interferes with learning and productive work. Refer to the Student Handbook in MyOC for more information.

Students are encouraged to immediately seek available assistance and report incidents of sexual misconduct as defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy to the Title IX Coordinator:

Title IX Coordinator	405.425.6463
Tamie Willis	titleix@oc.edu

Students have access to confidential services through OC’s Counseling Center.

OC Counseling Center	405.425.5250
-----------------------------	--------------

Class Schedule Jan 29-April 30, 2025, Bible 2203

Class	Encountering the OT textbook	Scripture readings assigned	Memory verses tested (cumulative)	Assignments and notes	Class topics/texts covered
Jan 29	Pp 1-12		Mt 5:17, Rom 7:7, 15:4, Gal 3:23-25, Heb 8:13, 9:15-17		Syllabus and course introduction; Christians and the OT
Feb 5	Pp 13-43, 48-51	Gen 1-11	Gen 1:1, 1:26, 12:1-2		Gen 1-11
Feb 12	Pp 63-130	Gen 12-15, Ex 20	Ex 20:5, Lv 10:1, 19:22, Dt 6:4-5		Gen 12-50, Ex, Lv, Num, Dt
Feb 19	Pp 131-168	Josh 1-4, Ruth 1-4	Josh 24:15, Ruth 1:16	Reflections Essay # 1 due	Josh, Judges, Ruth
Feb 26	Pp 169-238	I Sam 8-10	I Sam 8:19-20, 15:22, I Kg 2:2-3, II Kg 5:13		I & II Sam, I and II Kings, I & II Chron,
Mar 5	Pp 239-278	Esther	Ezra 6:3, Esther 4:14		Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Mar 12	No new readings	No new readings		Mid-term Exam (Comprehensive to date)	
Mar 19	Pp 279-317	Ps 1, 23, 51, 88, 90, 100, Prov 1-2,	Job 42:2-3, Ps 1:1-2, 19:1, 19:7, 23:1, Ecl 12:13		Job, Ps, Prov, Ecl, SoS
Mar 26	Pp 318-364	Isa 6, 11-12, 40, 53	Is 6:1, 7:14, 53:6	Reflections Essay # 2 due	Intro to OT prophets, Isaiah
Apr 2	Pp 365-390	Jer 1-6, 12, 18, 31	Jer 1:5, 31:33		Jeremiah, Lamentations
Apr 9	Pp 391-428	Ez 1-4, Dan 1-6	Ez 33:7, Dan 3:17-18		Ezekiel, Daniel
Apr 16	Pp 429-466	Amos 1-5	Hosea 14:1, Amos 5:24, Micah 6:8, Malachi 2:15-16, 3:8	Reflections Essay # 3 due	Minor Prophets
Apr 23	No new readings	No new readings			Intertestamental period



					Review for final exam
Apr 30	No new readings	No new readings		Final Exam (Comprehensive)	