

BIBL 101 B, Literature of the Old Testament
Paul Anderson
Fall 2009

Description:

The first semester of a two-semester survey of the Bible focusing on selected portions of the Old Testament and various topics of interest. Special attention will be given to major religious themes as informed by considering their historical contexts and literary forms, and the student will be equipped with the necessary skills to do so. Application for today is expected.

Required Texts:

Today's New International Version Study Bible (Zondervan, 2006).

Zondervan Handbook to the Bible (Zondervan, 1999).

Objectives:

- 1) To familiarize the student with the most prominent events, themes and personalities of the Old Testament.
- 2) To introduce methods and resources for biblical study to enable the student's meaningful interpretation of Old Testament texts.
- 3) To highlight the unfolding of God's redemptive and saving work in human history, and to draw upon the Scriptures as a unique resource of God's engaging our lives today.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based upon four kinds of assignments, and it will be conducted on a 100-point scale: 90-100, A; 80-89, B; 70-79, C; 60-69, D; 0-59, F.

- 1) Three exams during the semester (50 points total):
 - a) Exam #1 (15 points), Oct. 2.
 - b) Exam #2 (15 points), Nov. 6.
 - c) Exam #3 (20 points), Tuesday, Dec. 15 @ 8:00 am.
- 2) Weekly quizzes over Bible reading on Mondays (Each is worth 2 points. The lowest score is dropped automatically; 26 points total—no make-up quizzes; a written alternative exists).
- 3) Your choice of two out of three 8-point projects (16 points total):
 - a) Project #1 (8 points), due Sept. 25.
 - b) Project #2 (8 points), due Oct. 30.
 - c) Project #3 (8 points), due Dec. 4.
- 4) Personal journal/notebook and in-class essays over your applied reflections on the biblical text—open notes, not open book (8 points—1 point a piece; lowest two scores will be dropped)

5) Extra Credit option (3 points possible). A five-page paper on ways that God's Spirit has spoken to you through the Old Testament this semester. Due *in class*, Dec. 11.

Assignments:

1) The exams will consist of objective questions (although the final will have two essay questions), and they will cover class notes, readings from the *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible* and material covered in the *TNIV Study Bible* introductions before each book, plus any tables or charts that are relevant to our study. Study sheets will be passed out before exams, and students may benefit from studying together. Students may arrange to take exams ahead of schedule, but not after without penalty.

2) The Monday quizzes will consist of five objective questions over the reading of the biblical text itself. The specific readings are assigned on the syllabus. There will be *no make-up quizzes*. The lowest score of the fourteen quizzes will be dropped automatically.

Outline/essay option: students may turn in their own outline/essay of the text for two points in lieu of the quiz, or if one misses a quiz, or if one performs poorly on a quiz. To do so, one should write *his or her own (original) outline of the text assigned* (please cite major and minor sections in your own terms; include chapters and verses), as well as a *one-page essay* (at least) describing the main themes of the text(s) assigned and what the content means to you personally. Such an outline/essay will be worth two points also, and it will be due by the end of that week. Otherwise, points are deducted for late make-up outlines and essays.

3) The projects will be described two weeks in advance, and students will be expected to utilize the resources in the library. Late projects will forfeit points for tardiness. Students should carry out *their choice of two of the three projects*; or, if they choose to do all three projects, the best two out of three scores will be included for their grades.

4) Because we want students to engage the Bible personally and meaningfully, I expect students to keep a personal journal or notebook for recording a) important details in the text, and b) how particular passages speak to you personally. Write out fully one or more biblical texts from that week's reading that will become a part of your life and memory, and ponder prayerfully the texts' meanings to you personally. You will be given the opportunity to write out your reflections on in-class short essays throughout the semester.

5) Regular class attendance is expected, and engagement in class discussion is expected; students will be responsible for acquiring any content missed, even in the case of excused absences.

If there is any way I can help you, don't hesitate to ask. Nothing would please me more to serve you in your growing knowledge of the holy Scriptures and meaningful interpretation for today. The God who inspired the Bible still speaks through them today—listen for how God is speaking to you as you read, interpret, and apply the biblical text for today.

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QUIZ, EXAM, PROJECT AND READING SCHEDULE

Aug.	31	Course introduction and welcome!
Sept.	2	Zondervan Handbook, 14-23
	4	Zondervan Handbook, 26-43; TNIV Study Bible, introduction and 1-5
	7	Genesis 1-11 – Quiz ; Zondervan Handbook, 46-69
	9	Serve Day!
	11	Zondervan Handbook, 115-27
	14	Genesis 12-50 – Quiz
	16	Zondervan Handbook, 130-57
	18	Zondervan Handbook, 92-113
	21	Exodus 1-34 – Quiz
	23	Zondervan Handbook, 159-92
	25	Project #1 due
28	Leviticus 1-7; Numbers 9-14, 20-24; Deuteronomy 6-9, 18-19, 31-34 – Quiz	
30	Zondervan Handbook, 193-219	
Oct.	2	Exam #1
	5	Joshua 1-11; Judges 6-9, 13-16; Ruth 1-4 – Quiz
	7	Zondervan Handbook, 220-37
	9	No Class, Mid-Semester Holiday
	12	1 Samuel 1-20; 2 Samuel 1-24 – Quiz
	14	Zondervan Handbook, 238-54
	16	Zondervan Handbook, 255-75
	19	2 Chronicles 1-36 – Quiz
	21	Zondervan Handbook, 276-307
	23	Zondervan Handbook, 308-43
	26	Job 1-24, 38-42 – Quiz ; Zondervan Handbook, 344-58
28	Zondervan Handbook, 359-92	
30	Project #2 due; Zondervan Handbook, 393-407	
Nov.	2	Jeremiah 1-19; Ezekiel 33-34 – Quiz
	4	Zondervan Handbook, 439-72
	6	Exam #2
	9	Isaiah 1-12, 36-66 – Quiz
	11	Zondervan Handbook, 409-38
	13	Re-read Isaiah 40-55
	16	Daniel 1-12; Nehemiah 8-13 – Quiz
	18	Zondervan Handbook, 473-82
	20	No class—reading day!
	23	Hosea 1-14; Amos 1-9 – Quiz
	25	Zondervan Handbook, 483-95
27	Thanksgiving Break!	
30	Jonah 1-4; Micah 1-7; Habakkuk 1-3 – Quiz	
2	Zondervan Handbook, 496-506	
Dec.	4	Project #3 due
	7	Zechariah 1-14; Malachi 1-4 – Quiz
	9	Zondervan Handbook, 507-514
	11	Extra credit due (essay optional)
	15	Final Exam @ 8:00 am