



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYB1008HS
Course Name: Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture for the Church, part 1
Campus: Online

Instructor Information

Instructor: Andrew Witt Teaching Assistant:
E-mail: andy.witt@mail.utoronto.ca E-mail:
Office Hours:

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

Give the course code and title of any pre-requisite or requisite courses.

Course Description

Introduction to Old Testament literature and history, with an emphasis on application within the Church.

Course Methodology

Lectures, readings, online discussions, thematic paper, inductive study, readings notes, final exam

Course Outcomes

| COURSE OUTCOMES | COURSE ELEMENT | PROGRAM OUTCOMES |
|--|--|---|
| By the end of this course, students | This outcome will be achieved through these course elements: | This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate basic knowledge of the content of particular books in the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, | Lectures, readings, assignments | MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.1 |

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, and Ezra-Nehemiah; | | |
| • Exercise basic exegetical skills necessary for interpreting Old Testament passages effectively and faithfully today through inductive Bible study methods; | Lectures, readings, discussion board questions | MTS: 1.2 MDiv: 1.2 |
| • Identify historical and current issues in Old Testament scholarship, particularly different kinds of methodology; | Lectures, readings, book review assignment | MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.1 |
| • Identify major events and periods in Israelite history and the influence of the major powers of the Ancient Near East on the Old Testament; | Lectures, readings, final exam | MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.1 |
| • Understand how knowledge of the biblical world influences one's reading of the Old Testament | Lectures, readings, assignments | MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.1 |

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

Copies of required and books for the term have been ordered in stock at Crux Books, located underneath Leonard Hall at Wycliffe. It is the bookstore for all of TST, and we encourage you to buy your books from them. You can visit their store from 10-7 M-F, or order from them online at www.cruxbooks.com.

- Longman, Tremper III, and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Second Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. 528 pp. ISBN-13: 9780310263418. \$34.99hb, \$7.99ebook on Zondervan website. **Note: the *full* introduction is required, not the *quick* introduction.**
- Bartholomew, Craig G. and David J. H. Beldman, eds. *Hearing the Old Testament: Listening for God's Address*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012. 475 pp. ISBN-13: 9780802865618. \$32.00pb.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009. 448pp. ISBN-13: 9780310518082. \$18.99pb, \$11.99ebook on Zondervan website.
- Sailhamer, John H. *The Books of the Bible. Zondervan Quick Reference Library*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. 96pp. ISBN-13: 9780310500315. \$9.99pb, \$3.99ebook on Zondervan website.
- A modern translation of the Old Testament is also required. We would recommend either the NRSV for its academic textual decisions; the ESV for its readability; the KJV for its beautiful English and closeness to Hebrew "feel"; and the JPS for its unfamiliarity to Christian readers.

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

Class Schedule

For Readings: Longman & Dillard is abbreviated **LD**, Bartholomew and Beldman as **BB**. The full bibliographic details of other readings can be found below in the "Assigned Bibliography" section. Your other two required textbooks are also a vital part of the course, even though they have not been assigned specific readings in the schedule. Reading the Bible Book-by-Book is meant to be read alongside your various Bible readings as a supplement. The authors wonderfully introduce each book and provide helpful hints and strategies for reading. It is meant to complement the more technical focus of your Longman and Dillard textbook. Books of the Bible will play an important role in your final exam (cf. the final exam section below).

Week 1 (January 11–17) Unit 01 Lecture: Foundations for Studying the OT: What is the Old Testament?
Readings: BB, Dempster, "Canon and Old Testament Interpretation" (154-179); Sailhamer, "Messiah and the Hebrew Bible"

Week 2 (January 18–24) Unit 02 Lecture: Foundations for Studying the OT: The Old Testament, its Ancient Context, and Meaning. *Readings:* BB, Wenham, "Hearing the Pentateuch" (231-253); Dozeman, "Authorship of the Pentateuch"

Week 3 (January 25–31) Unit 03 Lecture: The Beginning (Genesis 1-11). *Readings:* LD, *Genesis* (38-62); Sailhamer, "Exegetical Notes"; Wenham, "The Coherence of the Flood Narrative". *Bible Readings:* Genesis 1–11.

Week 4 (February 1–7) Unit 04 Lecture: The Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50). *Readings:* Alexander, "The Royal Lineage in Genesis"; Sailhamer, "Genesis"; Anderson, "Joseph and the Passion of Our Lord"; *Bible Readings:* Genesis 12–50.

Week 5 (February 8–14) Unit 05 Lecture: The Exodus from Egypt (Exodus 1-18). *Readings:* LD, *Exodus* (63-80); Zevit, "Three Ways to Look"; Blumenthal, "Ten Plagues". *Bible Readings:* Exodus 1–18.

Week 6 (February 15–21) READING WEEK. Mini-lecture: The Nature and Purpose of Sacrifice. *Readings:* LD, *Leviticus* (81-91); Wenham, "The Theology of OT Sacrifice." *Bible Readings:* Exodus 19-40; Leviticus.
February 19: Reading Notes #1 Due

Week 7 (February 22–28) Unit 06 Lecture: A Year at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-Num 11). *Readings:* LD, *Numbers* (92-101); Wright, "Preaching from the Law"; Wenham, "Sanctuary Symbolism in the Garden of Eden Story." *Bible Readings:* Numbers. **February 26: Book Review Due**

Week 8 (February 29– March 6) Unit 07 Lecture: Leaving Mount Sinai (Deuteronomy). *Readings:* LD, *Deuteronomy* (102-119); BB, "Ethics and Old Testament Interpretation" (204-229); Moberly, "A Love Supreme". *Bible Readings:* Deuteronomy.

Week 9 (March 7–13) Unit 08 Lecture: Conquest and Capitulation: Joshua and Judges. *Readings:* LD, *Joshua* (120-132), *Judges* (133-143); BB, Provan, "Hearing the Historical Books" (254-276; Webb, "The Wars of Judges". *Bible Readings:* selections from Joshua and Judges.

Week 10 (March 14–20) Unit 09 Lecture: The Rise and Fall of David. *Readings:* LD, *Ruth* (145-150), *Samuel* (151-166); Kaminski, "Preaching from Historical Books"; Long, "The Fall of the House of Uzzah". *Bible Readings:* Ruth, selections from 1-2 Samuel.

Week 11 (March 21–27) Unit 10 Lecture: 1-2 Kings. *Readings:* LD, *Kings* (167-189); BB, Wright, "Mission and Old Testament Interpretation" (180-203). *Bible Readings:* 1-2 Kings.

Week 12 (March 28–April 3) Unit 11 Lecture: 1-2 Chronicles. *Readings:* LD, *Chronicles* (190-201); Fee & Stuart chapter on 1-2 Chronicles; *Bible Readings:* 1-2 Chronicles (selections). **April 1: Thematic Paper Due**

Week 13 (April 4–10) Unit 12 Lecture: Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther. *Readings:* LD, *Ezra-Nehemiah* (202-212), *Esther* (213-223); BB, Boda, "Biblical Theology and Old Testament Interpretation" (122-153). *Bible Readings:* Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah. **April 8: Reading Notes #2 Due**

Week 14 (April 11–17) Exam Week. **April 14-15: Final Exam**

A Typical Week in the Course

- (1) Previous Friday at 8:00AM: The introductory video, lecture, and readings will be posted onto Blackboard in the appropriate unit folder.
- (2) Monday morning: The instructor will send out an announcement reminding you what you have been assigned for the week.
- (3) Wednesday night by midnight (EST): Students will post their answer to the weekly discussion board. Answers will typically be around 200-250 words.
- (4) Friday morning at 8:00AM: The unit for the next week of the course will be posted, giving students the weekend to prepare, if they so choose.
- (5) Friday night by midnight (EST): Starting on Thursday, students will be given a few days to respond and interact with each other's posts. Your responses to posts will make up a part of your total participation mark. Typical responses can range in length, from 100-200 words.
- (6) Friday night by midnight (EST): Bigger assignments, such as papers and reading notes, will be due during the appropriate week, as noted in the schedule above.

Evaluation

Requirements

This is an online course which will be administered through the University of Toronto's Portal (Blackboard) system. Students are expected to log into the course website regularly (<http://portal.utoronto.ca>), where one can access class lectures and the forum for discussing material throughout the course (further instructions for online contribution will be provided).

Each week the instructor will post a short video introducing the material for the course, as well as a written lecture. Participation in the course is very important, and is encouraged through online discussion of assigned readings. On top of these, students will also be evaluated through an inductive paper, an exegesis paper, reading notes, and a final exam.

All assignments will need to be submitted as PDF or DOC files to the instructor at his email address.

Grades

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| Book Review Paper | 15% | Reading Notes | 20% |
| Thematic Paper | 20% | Final Exam | 25% |
| Online Participation | 20% | | |

See below for a breakdown of assignments

Grading System

| Letter Grade | Numerical Equivalents | Grade Point | Grasp of Subject Matter |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| A+ | 90–100% | 4.0 | Profound & Creative |
| A | 85–89% | 4.0 | Outstanding |
| A- | 80–84% | 3.7 | Excellent |
| B+ | 77–79% | 3.3 | Very Good |
| B | 73–76% | 3.0 | Good |
| B- | 70–72% | 2.7 | Satisfactory |
| FZ | 0–69% | 0 | Failure |

Grades without numerical equivalent:

| | |
|-----|--|
| CR | Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value |
| NCR | Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation |
| SDF | Standing deferred (a temporary extension) |
| INC | Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value |
| WDR | Withdrawal without academic penalty |
| AEG | May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value |

Policy on Assignment Extensions

The two term papers, reading notes, and final exam will all be due by Midnight (EST) on the day noted below in the course schedule. Any late online participation results in a mark of zero. Extensions must be sought before the due date and will only be given in exceptional circumstances. **Do not ask me for an extension the night before or the day an assignment is due.** For the two term papers and reading notes, a 1% deduction will be taken off a student's assignment for each day late (including weekends). There are no deductions for the final exam: you must take it during the open time or receive a zero.

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Turnitin.com. Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

Bibliography

Assigned Bibliography

Alexander, T. Desmond. "The Royal Lineage in Genesis." Pages 134-145 in *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch. Third Edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. **PDF provided.**

Anderson, Gary A. "Joseph and the Passion of Our Lord." Pages 198-215 in *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Edited by E. F. Davis and R. B. Hays. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003. **PDF provided.**

Blumenthal, Fred. "The Ten Plagues: Debunking Egyptian Polytheism." *Jewish Biblical Quarterly* 40 no. 4 (2012): 255-258. **PDF provided.**

- Davis, Ellen F. "'Take Your Son': The Binding of Isaac." Pages 50-64 in *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 2001. **PDF provided.**
- Dozeman, Thomas B. "The Authorship of the Pentateuch" *Dialogue* 32 no. 4 (Wint 1999): 87-112. **PDF provided.**
- Kaminski, Carol M. "Preaching from the Historical Books." Pages 57-114 in *Preaching the Old Testament*. Edited by Scott M. Gibson. Grand Rapids: Baker Boks, 2006. **PDF provided.**
- Long, Thomas G. "The Fall of the House of Uzzah...and Other Difficult Preaching Texts." *Journal for Preachers* 7.1 (1983): 13-19. **PDF provided.**
- Moberly, R. W. L. "A Love Supreme." Pages 7-40 in *Old Testament Theology: Reading the Hebrew Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. **PDF provided.**
- . "Living Dangerously: Genesis 22 and the Quest for Good Biblical Interpretation." Pages 181-197 in *The Art of Reading Scripture* (ed. Davis and Hays). **PDF provided.**
- Sailhamer, John. "Exegetical Notes: Genesis 1:1-2:4a." *Trinity Journal* 5 (1984): 73-82. **PDF provided.**
- . "Genesis," in *The Complete Literary Guide to the Bible* (ed. Leland Ryken and Tremper Longman III; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993), 108-120. **PDF provided.**
- . "The Messiah and the Hebrew Bible." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44 (2001): 5-23. **PDF provided.**
- Taylor, Marion Ann. "'Cold Dead Hands upon Our Threshold': Josephine Butler's Reading of the Story of the Levite's Concubine, Judges 19-21." Pages 259-273 in *The Bible as a Human Witness to Divine Revelation*. Edited by R. Heskett and B. Irwin. New York/London: T&T Clark, 2010. **PDF provided.**
- Webb, Barry G. "The Wars of Judges as Christian Scripture." *Ref. Theo. Review* 67 (2008): 18-28. **PDF provided.**
- Wenham, Gordon J. "Sanctuary Symbolism in the Garden of Eden Story." Pages 19-25 in *Proceedings of the Ninth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Division A: The Period of the Bible*. Jerusalem: World Union of Jewish Studies, 1986. **PDF provided.**
- . "The Coherence of the Flood Narrative." *Vetus Testamentum* 28 (1978): 336-348. **PDF provided.**
- . "The Theology of Old Testament Sacrifice." Pages 75-87 in *Sacrifice in the Bible*. Edited by R. T. Beckwith and M. J. Selman. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1995. **PDF provided.**
- Wright, Christopher J. H. "Preaching from the Law." Pages 47-63 in *Reclaiming the Old Testament for Christian Preaching*. Edited by J. R. Kent Greville, Paul J. Kissling, and Laurence A. Turner. Downer's Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2010. **PDF provided.**
- Zevit, Ziony. "Three Ways to Look at the Ten Plagues." *Bible Review* 6 no. 3 (June 1990). **PDF provided.**

Recommended Readings for Further Study (not assigned)

Two standard guides for biblical exegesis include Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers, Revised and Expanded Edition* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2009); Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors, Fourth Edition* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox

Press, 2009); John H. Hayes and Carl R. Holladay, *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook, Third Edition* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007). Another introductory guide is Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Fourth Edition* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014).

For preaching (and reading with an eye towards preaching) the Old Testament, a number of excellent books have been published in recent years. We would recommend *The Art of Reading Scripture* (eds. Ellen David and Richard Hays; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003) and *Preaching the Old Testament* (ed. Scott Gibson; Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006);

For a brief overview of modern OT commentaries, see Tremper Longman III, *Old Testament Commentary Survey* (5th edition; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013), as well as Brevard S. Childs, *Old Testament Books for Pastor and Teacher* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1977). A good introduction to the various critical methodologies employed in both Old and New Testament studies is *To Each Its Own Meaning: An Introduction to Biblical Criticisms and their Application* (ed. Stephen R. Haynes and Steven L. McKenzie; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1993). We would also recommend John Barton, *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study, Revised and Expanded* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997). For those seeking to delve deeper into the history of OT criticism, an excellent resource written at an introductory level is Mark S. Gignilliat, *A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism: From Benedict Spinoza to Brevard Childs* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).

Breaking Down the Assignments: Book Review Paper (due Feb 26) – 15% of final mark

The book review paper is aimed toward helping you fulfill the third course objective. The focus on the book review is Genesis 1-2. I have chosen two patristic and two contemporary scholars to choose from for the review. The two patristic writers had an enormous impact on how Christians thought about Genesis 1-2 until the time of the Reformation. Basil's literal reading of the chapter and his use of contemporary scientific understanding of nature provides a rather interesting view into earlier Christian reading and apologetics (even we disagree on some of his facts in the modern world). While Ambrose's work is longer, it had the greater impact in the Western church; Basil's had the bigger impact in the Eastern Church, and Ambrose makes much use of it in his own work. The two modern approaches give us a glimpse into the changing nature of the evangelical understanding of the creation account. John Sailhamer makes an attempt to free up the Hebrew of Genesis 1 which according to him has been "bound" by the earliest English translations. He offers a reading which attempts to read Genesis 1 within the larger shape of the Pentateuch. John Walton's book offers a complementary but different approach, pointing out some of the important aspects of the account as an ancient cosmogony, in comparison to other ancient Near Eastern "creation" accounts.

Choose **one** of the following for your book review:

- John Sailhamer, *Genesis Unbound: A Provocative New Look at the Creation Account* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1996; Colorado Springs, CO: Dawson Media, 2011). **Will need to purchase.**
- John Walton, *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate* (Downer's Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2009). **Three copies in U of T library system, one on hold at Graham.**
- Basil the Great, *Exegetical Homilies* (trans. Sister Agnes Clare Way; FOC 46; Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1963): 1-150.
This is in the public domain, with a free PDF found [here](#).
- St. Ambrose, *Hexaemeron, Paradise, and Cain and Abel* (trans. John J. Savage; FOC 42; New York: Fathers of the Church, 1961): 1-283.
This is in the public domain, with a free PDF found [here](#).

Resources for Helping Write a Book Review

http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library_archives/theological_resources/theological_guides/writing_theological_reviews.html

<https://www.trentu.ca/history/workbook/bookreviews.php>

Use the following headings in your paper, and be sure to devote an appropriate amount of space so that each section reflects its value (e.g., if you state the theme of the book in only two sentences, you cannot expect the full 25%):

1. Introduction (15%)
2. Summary of Key Arguments (35%)
3. Evaluation/Analysis (35%)
4. Conclusion (15%)

The content for each of these sections is described well in the above link to Trent University's summary of a book review.

Things to Note:

- Grammar, spelling, and style will account for part of your mark. Be sure to proof-read!
- Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, 12-pt Times New Roman black font, and **no more than seven pages** (not including the title page or bibliography). The rule of thumb for this style requirement is about 250 words per page, so **the maximum** length for your review is 1,750 words. Points will be deducted if you go over this amount: 1 point for every 100 words over (e.g. 1760 words is -1, and 1940 words is -2).
- I urge you to follow the directions. It will make my reading and marking of them a much more enjoyable experience.

Breaking Down the Assignments: Thematic Paper (due Apr 1) – 20% of final mark

For the thematic paper, choose **one** of three options:

Option #1. Discuss how the call of Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 is pivotal to Genesis–2 Kings. Your paper should consist of four sections (make sure there are these four sections). In the first, discuss the biblical text and outline the Lord's promises to Abram. In the second, discuss how the passage relates to the rest of Genesis (both before and after the passage). In the third, discuss how the passage relates to Exodus-Deuteronomy. In the fourth, discuss how the passage relates to Joshua–2 Kings. The primary purpose of this assignment is to ensure that you have a grasp on Genesis–2 Kings as a whole.

Option #2. Discuss God's concern for the outsider (the poor, the widow, the orphan, the marginalized, etc.) in Genesis–2 Kings. Your paper should consist of three sections (make sure there are these three sections). In the first, discuss the theme of the marginalized or outsider in Genesis. In the second, discuss the theme of the marginalized or outsider in the law, and in the third, the theme of the marginalized in Joshua–2 Kings. The primary purpose of this assignment is to ensure that you have a grasp on Genesis–2 Kings as a whole and the importance of God's care for outsiders within it. Obviously one cannot include everything in a paper like this; look for examples that are typical or especially pertinent.

Option #3. Discuss the theme of land and landlessness in Genesis to 2 Kings. Your paper should consist of three sections (make sure there are these three sections). In the first, discuss the theme of the land in Genesis. In the second, discuss the theme of the land in Exodus to Deuteronomy, and in the third, the theme of land in Joshua–2 Kings. The primary purpose of this assignment is to ensure that you have a grasp on Genesis-2 Kings as a whole and the importance of the theme of land in this material. Again, look for examples that are typical or especially pertinent.

Note: whichever option you choose, **secondary literature** (annotated Bibles, commentaries, etc.) **is not permitted**; only atlases/dictionaries may be consulted for technical matters. This includes your textbooks and the course lectures. The thematic paper is meant to be a product of your own careful reading of the biblical texts. Per the plagiarism policy, I may require you to submit your paper to turnitin.com.

The final paper is to be typed, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, 12-pt. Times New Roman black font, and between 8 to 10 pages (not including title page or bibliography for approved references). It is to your benefit to keep the thematic paper in mind as you go through the class, taking notes accordingly. As with the book review, the maximum of 10 pages is also a maximum of 2,500 words. Points will be deducted if you go over this amount of **words**: 1 point for every 100 words (e.g. 2520 words is -1; 2680 is -2).

Breaking Down the Assignments: Online Participation (due weekly) – 20% of final mark

Each week there will be an online participation portion of the course in which the students will reflect on questions related to the readings. Questions could come from a specific biblical text, an essay, or topic or theme mentioned in the textbooks. Students will typically be asked to post their answer to a discussion board and then respond to the answers of their peers. The instructor will likely divide the class into small groups for discussion, switching the groups around at reading week. Your mark for this portion of the course will be calculated by gauging your timeliness in posting, as well as your engagement with other students. Videos, lectures, readings, and questions will be posted on Friday morning for the next week. For instance, the questions for Week 2 (Jan 18-24) will be posted on Friday, Jan 15. This will allow for weekend participation for those of you constrained by work commitments. During most weeks, initial posts on the discussion board will be due on Wednesday by midnight (EST), with follow-up responses due Friday by midnight (EST).

Breaking Down the Assignments: Reading Notes – 20% of final mark

There will be two sets of reading notes due based on your readings each week. They are to be typed notes (single spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman, 1" margins), which should run between 400-500 words, which is roughly one page *per weekly reading*. The aim of the study notes is to keep you on a good pace, and to help you in your own preparation for the final exam. All of your multiple choice questions will be pulled from the assigned Reading Notes chapters. In your notes, summarize each section of the chapter succinctly, attempting to mimic the length of your summary with the length of the section within the chapter. For instance, if a section in the textbook takes 2 pages out of 10, roughly 20% of your readings notes should be given to that section. At the end of the notes, list a few questions which still stand out to you. The first set of reading notes will be due during Reading Week (by Feb 19) and the second during the final week of the course (by Apr 8). So, by Feb 19 at midnight, email me one PDF or Word file containing all the notes for that part of the term. By Apr 8, email me the notes for the remaining readings.

The first set of notes will include Reading Notes from the following: Dempster reading (Wk 1), Dozeman reading (Wk 2), LD reading on Genesis (Wk 3), Sailhamer and Alexander readings (Wk 4), LD reading on Exodus (Wk 5), and LD reading on Leviticus (Wk 6). [*roughly 6-7 pages total, approx. 2500-3000 words*]

The second set of notes will only come from LD chapters: Numbers (Wk 7), Deuteronomy (Wk 8), Joshua and Judges (Wk 9), Ruth and Samuel (Wk 10), Kings (Wk 11), Chronicles (Wk 12), Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther (Wk 13). [*roughly 7-8 pages total, approx. 3000-3500 words*]

Breaking Down the Assignments: Final Exam (due by Apr 15) – 25% of final mark

Your final exam will take place on Blackboard. I will give you a 48-hour window within which to write the exam on April 14-15. Within this window, once you start the exam, you will be given a time limit in which you must complete the exam (no more than 2 hours, likely less). You can only take the exam one time, and once you start the exam you must complete it during that session. It is **highly recommended** that you do not take the exam over a Wi-fi connection, since that connection may drop out. Take the final exam using a wired connection.

The exam itself will be closed book and closed note; that is, you cannot use anything but your brain to take the exam. This is an honor system: you are in *seminary* writing an exam on the Old Testament, don't cheat. The goal of the exam is to test your introductory knowledge of the content of the Old Testament, not to stump you. Focus will be on key themes, major characters, important events, and significant places. If you pay attention to your readings and study for the exam, you should do just fine. The exam will be broken down into several parts:

- (1) (60%) A multiple-choice portion based on the content of the Old Testament. Every question in this section will be taken from your Reading Notes readings. Taking quality reading notes throughout the term, then, will provide great preparation for this portion of the test.
- (2) (20%) A chronological ordering portion based on key OT events within the biblical narrative. There will be 20 events listed in two sets of ten events, you will have to put each set of ten events in the correct order. One set of events will be from the Pentateuch, and the other set from Joshua-Esther.
- (3) (20%) A fill-in-the-blank book of the Bible identification for OT books covered in this term. Using Sailhamer's *Books of the Bible* as a guide, I will provide a description of a book and you must be able to type the name of the book described. You must spell the name of the book correctly in order to get credit.
- (4) Extra Credit (+5%): for extra credit points, write out *all* of the books of the Old Testament in their typical Protestant ordering: Torah, History, Poetic, Prophets. This is an all or nothing extra credit.

Optional Alternative to the Final Exam: Instead of writing the final exam, I am giving you an alternative. Make a handwritten copy of one of the following sections of the OT using either the NRSV, ESV, NIV, KJV, or JPS translations: Genesis, Joshua-Judges-Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, or 1-2 Chronicles. Your writing *must be legible* and this needs to be an unabridged, exact copy of the book you choose. This cannot be typed. If you choose this alternative, **start early**; scribal activity takes quite a bit of time. You must submit the original handwritten document, which I will scan and mail back to you. This completed assignment will earn you a 95 on the final exam, provided it is a good copy of the book.