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OT 520 Old Testament Introduction

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Syllabus

Course: OT520 X1 (SP 2009)
Title: Old Testament Introduction
Hours: 3.00
Published: Yes, on 12/17/2008
Prerequisites:

None

Department: Old Testament
Faculty: Mr. Edwin Hostetter



Email: edwin.hostetter@asburyseminary.edu
 Office: EXL
 SPO:

Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 Online via ExL.

Maximum Registration: 22

Catalog Description: An introduction to (1) the literature of the Old Testament in its socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts; and (2) critical study of the Old Testament.

Objectives:

OT520
 OT520.X1 Old Testament Introduction spring 2009 Asbury Theological Seminary
 Edwin C. Hostetter (410) 617-2372 edwin.hostetter@asburyseminary.edu

Welcome:

Hello there! I'm Edwin Hostetter, or you may call me Ed. I live just outside Baltimore, Maryland in the United States, and I'll be your instructor for Asbury Seminary's extended learning subject titled Old Testament Introduction, that's OT520.

My life's motto comes from Ezra 7:10. Personalized, it runs "I have devoted myself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws." Ezra was a priest and scribe, who lived around 2500 years ago in Jerusalem. He struggled to help the Jewish people improve their religious community after they had rebuilt God's temple. Since we too must exert effort to maintain our individual and group faith, it's great to be able to observe how somebody from the past (namely, Ezra) dealt with his situation.

Thus, as you can see, the Old Testament does have contemporary significance for us as God's Word. In this Introduction course we will encounter people and events and themes found throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. The biblical content includes stories, songs, laws, letters, and more—about ancient Israel's relationship with God. Hopefully we can learn a lot to enhance our own spiritual standing.

Please let me know via email how I can help you on the class journey. As in my other web-based courses, I'm eager to work with you. It will be fun to get to know each other and to glean many insights from the Bible. You heard in my motto how much I truly enjoy teaching the Old Testament!

Office Hours:

Monday, 8:00-9:00 pm ET (I'll be at "office hour for ot520x1" under the Course Information Center. You can also get there from Chats under Activities.)

Virtual Support Contact Information

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Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2233; Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

For **general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Virtual program**, contact Dale Hale:

ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2393

Accessing Information Commons Materials

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The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm

Materials Requests:

To search the library catalog for available materials, click here:

www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm

Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

Research Questions:

Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

Online Databases:

To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

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Course Description:

An introduction to (1) the literature of the Old Testament in its socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts; and (2) critical study of the Old Testament.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, you should be able to

Itemize the major events of Old Testament history in relative chronological order, as well as the salient features of ancient Near Eastern history.

State the general content of each section of the Old Testament.

Identify key theological motifs as they run through the Old Testament.

Analyze several interpretive techniques to the Old Testament in general.

Evaluate current scholarly positions on such critical matters as the authorship, date and unity of the Pentateuch, the nature of the Deuteronomistic History, etc.

Apply the Old Testament to Christian life and ministry.

Course Requirements:

Six answers of up to 300 words apiece, each in response to another student's question which he or she has based on a chapter from among those designated in the Bergant textbook [see required reading list below]. Before writing every response, post your own question about a different chapter from Bergant for other students to consider answering.

Seven essays of up to 300 words apiece, each on a discussion topic derived by me from the Bandstra textbook [see required reading list below], and seven reactions of up to 100 words apiece, each concerning another student's essay.

One book review of up to 400 words on the Gravett textbook [see required reading list below]. Consult, for example, www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/LCC/HIS/review.html, "How to Write a Book Review," for assistance.

Expectations:

In order to fulfill your assignments properly, you will need to access the course at least once if not twice a week. My aim is to check in every day or two, but I will never go longer than one week without reading your communication. (You are welcome to submit as many posts every module as you wish, although obviously I will grade only the required pair.)

Online Etiquette:

I suggest you consult such webpages as www.netmanners.com/ OR www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html for guidelines on how to conduct yourself within an Internet environment. I don't vouch for these particular sites!

Grading:

Basically I look for analysis (i.e., critical thinking), content (i.e., accurate data), and style (i.e., grammar, etc.). Every question/answer combination--first requirement--and every essay/reaction combination--second requirement--and the review--third requirement--count equally: namely, for one-fourteenth of your course grade.

The four-point system is used to compute grade point standing. The grading system is

A 4.00 Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives

A-

B+

B 3.00 Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives

B-

C+

C 2.00 Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives

C-

D+

D 1.00 Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives

D-

F 0.00 Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

[I count B as the norm. Since only at Lake Wobegon is everybody above average, some of you may fall below the norm.

Feel free always to request feedback beyond what I routinely give each module.]

How To Submit Work:

Please insert all assignments within a message/document rather than attaching as a file.

Post your questions and answers, requirement 1, and your essays and reactions, requirement 2, in the appropriate modules under the Course Information Center. (You can also get there from Forums under Activities.)

Send your book review, requirement 3, via the appropriate module under the Course Information Center. (You can also get there from Assignments under Activities.)

Required Reading:

Barry L. Bandstra, *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, 4th ed. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2009)

Dianne Bergant, *Israel's Story*, 2 vols. (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2006-7)

Sandra L. Gravett et al., *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008)

Supplementary Resources:

Every week I will record an optional minilecture via podcast. You may voluntarily listen to it at www.garageband.com/user/edwinhostetter/podcast/main if you wish.

To the more curious I can recommend consultation of the Wabash Center's "Bible Related Bibliographies" at www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/result_browse.aspx?topic=624&pid=619 for further publications.

Course Schedule:

Spring 2009 session begins Monday February 9 and ends Friday May 22.

MODULE ONE

Between February 9 & 13 eastern time post your biography. Tell us whatever you want to say about yourself. Include a photograph if you like.

MODULE TWO

Between February 14 & 17 eastern time, after reading chapters one and two in Bandstra, post your essay of 300 words or less on what literary features distinguish Genesis 12-50 from 1-11.

Between February 14 & 20 eastern time write your reaction of 100 words or less concerning another student's essay.

MODULE THREE

Between February 21 & 24 eastern time post a question which you base on either chapter one or two in volume one of Bergant.

Between February 21 & 27 eastern time write 300 words or less to answer somebody else's question from a chapter other than the one you asked about.

MODULE FOUR

Between February 28 & March 3 eastern time, after reading chapters three and four and five in Bandstra, post your essay of 300 words or less on how Exodus through Deuteronomy portray the intent of sacrificial offerings.

Between February 28 & March 6 eastern time write your reaction of 100 words or less concerning another student's essay.

MODULE FIVE

Between March 7 & 10 eastern time post a question which you base on either chapter three or four in volume one of Bergant.

Between March 7 & 13 eastern time write 300 words or less to answer somebody else's question from a chapter other than the one you asked about.

MODULE SIX

Between March 14 & 17 eastern time, after reading chapters six and seven and eight in Bandstra, post your essay of 300 words or less on what broad issues concerning group leadership surface in Joshua through Samuel.

Between March 14 & 20 eastern time write your reaction of 100 words or less concerning another student's essay.

MODULE SEVEN

Between March 21 & 24 eastern time post a question which you base on either chapter five or six in volume one of Bergant.
Between March 21 & 27 eastern time write 300 words or less to answer somebody else's question from a chapter other than the one you asked about.

MODULE EIGHT

Between March 28 & April 3 eastern time turn in 400 words or less as your review of Gravett et al.

MODULE NINE

Between April 4 & 7 eastern time, after reading chapters nine and ten and eleven and twelve in Bandstra, post your essay of 300 words or less on how the prophets use the "Yahweh's Day" concept.

Between April 4 & 10 eastern time write your reaction of 100 words or less concerning another student's essay.

MODULE TEN

Between April 11 & 14 eastern time post a question which you base on either chapter one or two in volume two of Bergant.

Between April 11 & 17 eastern time write 300 words or less to answer somebody else's question from a chapter other than the one you asked about.

MODULE ELEVEN

Between April 18 & 21 eastern time, after reading chapters thirteen and fourteen in Bandstra, post your essay of 300 words or less on how Psalms through Job wrestle with retribution theology.

Between April 18 & 24 eastern time write your reaction of 100 words or less concerning another student's essay.

MODULE TWELVE

Between April 25 & 28 eastern time post a question which you base on either chapter three or four in volume two of Bergant.

Between April 25 & May 1 eastern time write 300 words or less to answer somebody else's question from a chapter other than the one you asked about.

MODULE THIRTEEN

Between May 2 & 5 eastern time, after reading chapters fifteen and sixteen and seventeen in Bandstra, post your essay of 300 words or less on what themes are most common in the scrolls, Daniel, and the chronicler.

Between May 2 & 8 eastern time write your reaction of 100 words or less concerning another student's essay.

MODULE FOURTEEN

Between May 9 & 12 eastern time post a question which you base on either chapter five or six in volume two of Bergant.

Between May 9 & 15 eastern time write 300 words or less to answer somebody else's question from a chapter other than the one you asked about.

MODULE FIFTEEN

Between May 16 & 19 eastern time, after reading the Conclusion in Bandstra, post your essay of 300 words or less on why it is not accurate to speak of the apocrypha as extrabiblical.

Between May 16 & 22 eastern time write your reaction of 100 words or less concerning another student's essay.