**BS-112 – Introduction to the Old Testament**

**Course Syllabus**

**Appalachian School of Theology**

**Dover Baptist Association**

**Spring 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Jim Goebel

Office Phone for Dover Baptist Association: (804) 550-1980

Church Office Phone for Dr. Jim Goebel: ([804) 843-2484](tel:804.843.2484)

E-mail for Dr. Goebel: pastorjim@fbcwestpoint.org

**Class Meeting Place, Dates, and Time**

Meeting Place: Dover Baptist Association Building, 11006 Lakeridge Pkwy, Ashland, VA 23005

Mailing Address for Dover Baptist Association: P.O. Box 6128, Ashland, VA 23005

Email Address for Dover Association: [dover.info@doverbaptist.org](mailto:dover.info@doverbaptist.org)

Dates: Each Monday Night beginning January 20th and ending May 5th.

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

**Course Description**

This course is an application of the critical methodology to the history, literature, and religion of the ancient Hebrews. Attention is given to the historical context, the development and the message of the Hebrew faith.

**Learner Center Outcomes / Course Objectives**

As a result of enrollment, intense study, and participation, each class member will:

1. Identify and list, in order, all 39 books of the Old Testament.
2. Familiarize themselves with the: key terms, major events, concepts, and people of the Old Testament.
3. Gain insight into the historical and theological foundation of the Old Testament.
4. Obtain a better understanding of the purpose and message of the Old Testament.
5. Develop a deeper appreciation for and better understanding of the history and religion of the Hebrew people as presented in the Old Testament.
6. Acquire confidence in their understanding and use of Old Testament Scriptures in their personal lives and ministries.
7. Increase their appreciation for, and understanding of, the New Testament by better understanding the foundational message and concepts of the Old Testament.
8. Enhance and improve their ability to help others mature in the areas of bible study, leadership, and ministry.
9. Cultivate and integrate their learning experiences into the formation of a Christian worldview.

**Required Texts and Materials**

1. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey,* EBS,2nd Edition, Bill T. Arnold and Brian E. Beyer, Baker Academic, copyright 2008, Grand Rapids, MI,
2. The Bible – KJV, NIV, NASB, HCSB

**Teaching Methodology**

1. The teaching methods that will be employed throughout our course of study will include: lecture, discussion, group projects, and take home tests.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Week 1 Jan. 20 Course Introduction & Syllabus Overview

Textbook, Chp. 1 – 2: pgs. 1-59 – What is the Old Testament &

Why Study it? Where and When Did the Events of the Old

Testament Take Place?

Bible – The Book of Genesis

Week 2 Jan. 27 PART ONE: ENCOUNTERING THE PENTATEUCH

Textbook, Chp. 3 – 5: pgs. 63-101

Introduction to the Pentateuch: The Birth of God’s People; The

Prelude to Israel, The Patriarchs: Ancestors of Israel’s Faith

Bible – The Book of Genesis

Week 3 Feb. 3 PART ONE: ENCOUNTERING THE PENTATEUCH

Textbook, Chps. 6 – 9: pgs. 103-156 – Exodus: A Miraculous

Escape; Leviticus: Instructions for Holy Living; Numbers: Failure

in the Desert; Deuteronomy: Restoring the Covenant

Bible – Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy

**DISTRIBUTION OF TEST #1 – THE PENTATEUCH**

Week 4 Feb. 10 PART TWO: ENCOUNTERING THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

Textbook, Chps. 10 – 12; pgs. 157-193

Introduction to the Historical Books: The History of Israel’s Nationhood; Joshua: Conquest and Division; Judges and Ruth: Israel’s Moral Crisis

Bible: Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Week 5 Feb. 17 PART TWO: ENCOUNTERING THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

Textbook, Chps. 13 – 14; pgs. 195-220

1st Samuel: God Grants a King; 2nd Samuel: David’s Reign;

Bible: 1st and 2nd Samuel

Week 6 Feb. 24 PART TWO: ENCOUNTERING THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

Textbook, Chps. 15 – 16; pgs. 221-249

1st Kings: The Glory of Solomon and the Beginning of the End; 2nd

Kings: The End of National Israel.

Bible: 1st and 2nd Kings

Week 7 March 3 PART TWO: ENCOUNTERING THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

Textbook, Chps. 17 – 18; pgs. 251-277

1st and 2nd Chronicles: A Look Back; Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther: A Time to Rebuild

Bible: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

**DISTRIBUTION OF TEST #2 – THE HISTORICAL BOOKS**

Week 8 March 10 **READING DAYS: NO CLASS**

Week 9 March 17 PART THREE: ENCOUNTERING THE POETICAL BOOKS

Textbook, Chps. 19 – 21; pgs. 281-312

Introduction to the Poetical Books: The Literature of God’s People; Job: One Man’s Search for Justice; Psalms: The Songbook of Ancient Israel

Bible: Job, Psalms

Week 10 March 24 PART THREE: ENCOUNTERING THE POETICAL BOOKS

Textbook, Chps. 22 – 23; pgs. 313-335

Proverbs: Advice on Living in God’s World; Ecclesiastes and

Song of Songs: Israelite Faith in Everyday Life

Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Week 11 March 31 PART FOUR: ENCOUNTERING THE PROPHETS Textbook, Chps. 24-26; pgs. 339-381

Introduction to the Prophets: Voices of God’s Servants; Isaiah 1 – 39: Prophet of Judah’s Royal Court; Isaiah 40 – 66: Great Days are Coming.

Bible: Isaiah

Week 12 April 7 PART FOUR: ENCOUNTERING THE PROPHETS

Textbook. Chps. 27-28; pgs. 383 – 405

Jeremiah 1 – 20; Studying with God’s Call; Jeremiah 21 – 52 and Lamentations: Dealing with Disaster

Bible: Jeremiah, Lamentations

Week 13 April 14 PART FOUR: ENCOUNTERING THE PROPHETS

Textbook Chps. 29 -31; Pgs. 407 -438

Ezekiel 1 – 24; Rough Days are Coming; Ezekiel 25 – 48; God’s Planning and Exciting Future; Daniel: The Kingdom of God –

Now and Forever

Bible: Ezekiel, Daniel

Week 14 April 21 **Spring Break – No Class**

Week 15 April 28 PART FOUR: ENCOUNTERING THE PROPHETS Textbook, Chps. 32-34; pgs. 439-473

Hosea, Joel, and Amos: A Call for Repentance & a Promise for Blessing; Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, & Zephaniah: God’s Plan for the Nations; Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi: Rebuilding a People

Bible: Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**DISTRIBUTION OF TEST # 3 – THE PROPHETS**

Week 16 May 5 Final Class

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**I. Learning Activities and Evaluation for Students Enrolled in Our Associate’s Program**

1. Attendance – 20% of final grade.

* Students are expected to attend all class sessions.
* If for any reason it is not possible to attend a class, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor beforehand, or in case of an unavoidable emergency, at the earliest opportunity.
* The policy of the Appalachian School of Theology is: *Any student who misses four or more class sessions will automatically be assigned a final grade of “F” for the course.*

2. Reading & Participation – 30% of final grade.

* There will be regular reading assignments from the text, the Bible, and other sources in preparation for the class.
* Class participants are expected to do all of the assigned readings prior to each session and come to class prepared to critically discuss the main themes covered in their reading assignments.

3. Tests – 50% of final grade: There will be ***3 take home tests*** during the course of the class.

**II. Learning Activities and Evaluation for Students Enrolled in Our Bachelor’s Program**

1. Attendance – 20% of final grade.

* Students are expected to attend all class sessions.
* If for any reason it is not possible to attend a class, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor beforehand, or in case of an unavoidable emergency, at the earliest opportunity.
* The policy of the Appalachian School of Theology is: *Any student who misses four or more class sessions will automatically be assigned a final grade of “F” for the course.*

2. Reading & Participation – 20% of final grade.

* There will be regular reading assignments from the text, the Bible, and other sources in preparation for the class.
* Class participants are expected to do all of the assigned readings prior to each session and come to class prepared to critically discuss the main themes covered in their reading assignments.

3. Tests – 50% of final grade: There will be ***3 take home tests*** during the course of the class.

4. Book Review – 10% of final grade

* Students who are enrolled in our Associate’s and Bachelor’s Program will read and prepare one book review focusing on *the Feasts of Israel or Old Testament Theology.* This book review is expected to be 3 -5 pages (approximately 500 to 750 words) in length. The issue you focus on and the book you choose to write a review on must be approved by our Academic Dean, Tammy Lane, [academicdean@astva.org](mailto:academicdean@astva.org)

**III.** **Learning Activities and Evaluation for Students Enrolled in the Master’s Degree Program**

1. Attendance – 20% of final grade.

* Students are expected to attend all class sessions.
* If for any reason it is not possible to attend a class, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor beforehand, or in case of an unavoidable emergency, at the earliest opportunity.
* The policy of the Appalachian School of Theology is: *Any student who misses four or more class sessions will automatically be assigned a final grade of “F” for the course.*

2. Reading & Participation – 20% of final grade.

* There will be regular reading assignments from the text, the Bible, and other sources in preparation for the class.
* Class participants are expected to do all of the assigned readings prior to each session and come to class prepared to critically discuss the main themes covered in their reading assignments.

3. Tests – 45% of final grade:

* There will be ***three take home tests*** during the course of the class.

4. Research Paper- 15% of final grade:

* Students who are enrolled in our Master’s Program will prepare one academic research paper addressing “*What You Believe to be the Purpose and Function of the Old Testament Prophets.*” A thesis statement in the introduction should indicate the purpose of the paper and you should prove the thesis throughout the paper. The paper must be 10 -12 pages in length, double spaced and size 12 font. The student should use 10 to 12 sources including books, commentaries, and articles. Please note that *Wikipedia* is not a credible source. If you have any questions please contact our Academic Dean, Tammy Lane, [academicdean@astva.org](mailto:academicdean@astva.org) or our President, Steve Collins, [president@astva.org](mailto:president@astva.org)

**III Late Assignments** –

* Unless approved by the facilitator, all assignments are due on the dates listed in the syllabus or as given in class.
* Late assignments, not approved by the facilitator, shall have 5 points deducted for each day that passes following the due dates.

**IV Extra Credit Work** – **Applicable to Students Enrolled in all Degree Programs**

* Teaching Plan for the book of Obadiah – Any student desiring extra credit may submit an overview and teaching outline of the book of Obadiah. The paper should contain an: (1) introduction to the book (2) overview of the book – that highlights the major themes (3) teaching outline (4) summary.
* Discussion Board Forum – Students will be given extra credit for their participation in an on-line discussion forum if available. Instructions will be given for this in our class setting.

\*A copy of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers (6th edition)* by Kate L.

Turabian, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1996 is available for

use by the students.

\*All students are expected to familiarize themselves with *the plagiarism*

*statement* at the bottom of this page.

**PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is an important part of the educational process. As such, honesty and accountability are vital to each student who truly wishes to learn and honor God in the process. With this in mind:

* Students are expected to write their own work. While students are encouraged to study and talk with fellow students and the instructor, each student must write their own assignments.
* If you borrow more than 3 or 4 words in a row from another source, it should be properly referenced using quotation marks and full bibliographic information, including page numbers. When you borrow ideas but not actual words, you may cite the source at your discretion to help your reader follow up on your writing.

**THE SCHOLASTIC GRADING POLICY**

A+ 98 – 100 (4.3) The student has demonstrated the mastery of the

A 95 – 97 (4.0) material and its application.

A- 93 – 94 (3.7)

B+ 90 – 92 (3.3) The student has demonstrated above average

B 87 – 89 (3.0) mastery of the material and its application.

B- 85 – 86 (2.7)

C+ 82 – 84 (2.3) The student has demonstrated the required mastery C 79 – 81 (1.7) of the material and its application.

C- 77 – 78 (1.7)

D+ 74 – 76 (1.3) The student has demonstrated below average D 71 – 73 (1.0) mastery of the material and its application.

D- 69 – 70 (0.7)

F 68 – below (0.0) The student has failed to master the material and its application.

P Passing WP Withdrew Passing

I Incomplete WF Withdrew Failing