

Old Testament Survey
Western Reformed Seminary (www.wrs.edu)
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Fall 2006

COURSE INFORMATION

SCOPE: OT Survey will focus on the historical and poetic books of the OT. The prophetic books are covered in detail in another evening course, and will be given cursory attention here through readings and the course syllabus. Prophetic literature discussion will be limited to that initiated by students at the end of the term.

TEXTS:

- 1) Genesis through Song of Solomon in the English Bible.
 - Due to the length and nature of the writings, you may skip the Psalms and Proverbs.
 - You may wish to read the monarchial narratives in the form of Crockett's *A Harmony of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles*
- 2) *A Survey of the Old Testament* by Hill and Walton

REPORTS: Each of three written reports should be a minimum of three typewritten pages (double spaced). The bibliography should include at least four non-internet references. You may substitute a topic of your choice if approved by the instructor.
Submit one report of your choice for each deadline.

October 10 (Pentateuch)

- 1) Defend one particular creation theory or survey the various creation theories.
- 2) Explain the possible effects that Noah's flood had upon geo-chronology.
- 3) Defend one of the standard dates and routes of the Exodus, or survey the strengths and weaknesses or the two proposed dates.

November 7 (Historical Narratives)

- 1) Develop a biblical ethic for God's command and Joshua's effort to exterminate the Canaanites.
- 2) Develop what you think happened to Jephthah's daughter.
- 3) Develop the idea of a kinsman-redeemer as depicted in Ruth.
- 4) How have scholars been able to establish the dates of OT events? What about apparent date contradictions?

December 5 (Wisdom and Poetic Literature)

- 1) The authorship and dating of the book of Job.
- 2) The classification and authenticity (viz., inspiration) of the Psalm titles.
- 3) What can the Christian say about imprecations in the Psalms?
- 4) Is the message of Ecclesiastes sub-biblical? Why is its message taken as divine revelation?
- 5) What are the main methods of interpretation of the Song of Solomon?

EXAMS: -October 24 take-home mid-term exam is due back

(Be sure to finish Hill and Walton Intros plus 1-13, and OT books through II Chronicles)

-December 12 final exam

(Finish Hill Walton, 14-41)

SCHEDULE:

September 5 = Genesis; Hill and Walton, Intros – 1
September 12 = Genesis–Exodus; H&W 2
September 19 = Exodus–Numbers; H&W 3-5
September 26 = Deuteronomy–Joshua; H&W 6-8
October 3 = NO CLASS (Presbytery meeting); H&W 22-32
October 10 = Judges–Ruth; H&W 9-10
October 17 = I and II Samuel; H&W 11
October 24 = I and II Kings; H&W 12; Midterm Exam Due
October 31 = I and II Chronicles; H&W 13 & 33-35
November 7 = Ezra-Esther; H&W 14-15 & 36-39
November 14 = Job; H&W 16-17
November 21 = Job-Psalms; 18
November 28 = Psalms; 19-20
December 5 = Proverbs-Song of Solomon; 21 & 40-41
December 12 = Final Exam in Class

GRADING:

Exams: 60%
Readings: 15%

Reports: 20%
Attendance: 5%

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**It is hereby acknowledged that considerable use has been made of the outlines in Norman L. Geisler's *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Where his work is paraphrased or cited verbatim, the reference will be marked with "NLG/APSOT."

**A "JAB" notation will be crediting excerpts from John Battle's 1975 OT History notes from Faith Theological Seminary.