



OT 502: Old Testament Studies II

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Course Description

The continuation of OT 501. Covers Job through Malachi.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to...

1. Identify the key issues in the critical study of the Old Testament, specifically in regard to Job through Malachi.
2. Interpret the Old Testament books of Job through Malachi in their own literary, historical, and theological settings with relevance and meaning applicable for today.
3. Articulate clearly in writing the purpose and message of each book of the Old Testament from Job to Malachi.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of issues dealing with the canon of the Old Testament.
5. Show the significance of the Old Testament as the foundation for the New Testament.
6. Discuss the meaning of Old Testament theological truths for contemporary living.

Required Textbooks

The Bible (I will be teaching from the NASB)

Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*. Revised and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. (hereafter referred to as ROT)

Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988. (hereafter COS)

Course Requirements

Reading: The student is expected to have read at least once the book(s) that will be discussed in class each day. Please take notes as you read, getting a general idea of the flow of the book and some of the major topics, teachings, etc., within the book. Furthermore, by the end of week 1, the student should have completed the assigned reading in Bruce (pp. 17–114) in preparation for a test on **Friday, January 8**. As for reading Barton, the professor will be providing a reading guide that each student will complete while reading through the text. This will be due **January 29** by 5:00 pm.

Tests: Two tests will be given. The first will cover the lecture material through the first week as well as the reading from Bruce. The second will be a take home test given at the end of the class and due **January 29** by 5:00 pm. These will cover basic material presented on the biblical books. Any and all class notes and lectures are testable.

Response Papers: The student is expected to write a series of shorter papers in response to questions provided by the professor. These papers may include, for example, a description of a particular book or a development of a particular topic/issue.

The purpose of these papers is to cause the student to reflect upon what has been discussed in class and to present a well thought out answer to the question(s). Although these papers are not necessarily research papers, these answers should reflect graduate level writing. Among other things, this implies that there are (1) a clear thesis statement, (2) reasonable arguments, (3) appropriate textual references, and (4) a clear flow to each paper. This will require time to take-in what we have discussed, to read all or part of the book once again in light of this question and the issues that are raised in class, and to frame up a clear and concise answer to the question. At times this will mean that more than one question for a paper should be related to one another.

With such expectations, waiting until the last minute to write these papers would not be wise. My recommendation is to write the papers as the class is going while the material is still fresh in your mind.

These questions will be provided in class. Specific expectations of style and content will be provided, as well.

Response Papers will be due **February 5**.

Course Evaluation

Reading & Participation	25%
Tests	25%
Response Papers	50%

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance in class is a necessary part of instruction in this course, particularly in a module. Students are allowed one absence during the semester. More than one absence (unless excused by the professor) may have adverse consequences for one's grade. See the note below about quizzes and attendance.

Cheating & Plagiarism. Cheating and plagiarism will be met with zero tolerance! Each student is expected to fulfill the requirements of this course with honesty and integrity. Those who commit such offenses shall automatically receive a failing grade for their assignment and be recommended for course failure. Please review the Academic Dishonesty Policy attached.

Make-up Work. Late reading and late response papers will result in a lower grade.

Office Hours

My posted office hours are as follows:

Tue 2–4 pm
Wed 2–4 pm

These are open hours that I am available to meet without an appointment. You can also meet with me by appointment. During this class, I will be available at your request in the afternoons after class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY*

SHEPHERDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CARY, NC

*(Adapted from “Academic Dishonesty,” The Master’s College, Santa Clarita, CA)

Ephesians 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good. . . .

Seminary education is based upon certain shared values concerning the nature of learning and the pursuit of knowledge. One of the most basic assumptions is the respect for intellectual property and right of recognition for this pursuit of knowledge. Violation of this basic assumption includes such practices as cheating, plagiarism, abuse of technology, falsification of research data, unapproved collaborative research, and other deceptive academic practices. Sometimes these abuses are unintentional, but much intentional abuse is found in higher educational institutions, even Christian seminaries.

Policy Guidelines

In an attempt to clarify the problem and offer consequences for participation in such activities, the following materials are offered as both a warning and as a guideline to avoid unconscious participation in questionable practices. Of course, questions regarding the appropriateness of any debatable activity should be cleared in advance with an instructor. Certainly students preparing for the Lord’s work need to make sure that truth and honesty pervade their lives.

Definitions

Plagiarize—to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own; to use someone else’s material without crediting the source (see Merriam-Webster Dictionary On-Line).

Cheat—to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to violate rules of honesty as on an examination (see Merriam-Webster Dictionary on-Line).

Unquestionable Violations of Academic Integrity

The faculty will generally approach the following cases with severe academic penalties.

Violation

Standard Consequence

Copying answers directly from another student

F for the assignment,
and probable F for the course.

“Cribbing” answers in any form to be accessed during the examination.

F for the assignment,
and probable F for the course.

Usage of a substitute person for writing an exam or term paper.

F for the assignment,
probable F for the course,

Altering answers on a returned exam for re-submission	F for the assignment and probable F for the course.
Unauthorized access to faculty files (electronic and or paper)	F for the course and probable expulsion.
Unauthorized discussion of exam content	F for the course for both parties.
Usage of purchased or pre-existing term paper	F for the assignment, probable F for the course, and possible expulsion.
Falsification of reading report	F for the assignment, and possible F for the course

Questionable Violations of Academic Integrity

The issues below are deemed unacceptable by most faculty members and will result in confrontation with the student over potential charges of academic dishonesty. In most cases, such unacceptable practices will result in at least a warning, and possibly an F for the assignment.

Violation

Significant amount of continued writing after the conclusion of an exam

Multiple submission of the same assignment or paper without approval

Technological manipulation of electronic text by copy and paste without citation

Usage of a source without documentation or citation credit

Artificial additions and inflation of bibliographic sources

Deliberate alteration of time and date on late assignments

Exaggerated computer problems or technical problems due to procrastination.