COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

Old Testament Survey

Christian Studies 111

(3 hours credit)

9:00-9:50 & 11:00-11:50 MWF; C-6

Dr. Ray Van Neste

Fall 2010

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. To enhance students' understanding of the Bible as the sacred literature of the Christian faith.

B. To help students comprehend the historical background and continuity of the biblical revelation by introducing them to the primary "movers, shakers, and events" in the Old Testament.

C. To introduce the student to some basic principles that will equip one to interpret accurately the meaning of biblical passages in their literary and historical context.

D. To familiarize the student generally with the contents of each Old Testament book.

E. To encourage the student to grow in ability to perceive and apply the relevance of biblical truth to modern living.

F. To hold forth the wonder and beauty of the Old Testament so as to entice the student to a lifetime of eager reading of Scripture.

G. *To encounter the* ***awesomeness of God*** *in the narratives, prophecies and songs of the Old Testament.*

II. SCOPE OF THE COURSE

A. The course begins with a consideration of the nature of the Bible and some principles of interpretation of Scripture.

B. The course progresses with a survey of the literary and geographical background of the Old Testament.

C. The course then keys on the evolution of the Old Testament documents giving specific attention to key events in the history of the Old Testament that inspired the writings.

D. Major types of Old Testament literature such as the Law, The Prophets and the Writings will be presented generally.

E. The way in which all of the Old Testament points to Christ will be explored.

III. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

A. The primary textbook for the course is *The Holy Bible*. A modern translation is suggested.

B. The second required text is *The Symphony of Scripture*, by Mark Strom.

C. The third required text is *Old Testament Survey, Course Notebook*, by Ray Van Neste.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance Requirement. According to the University catalogue, ‘regular and successive attendance is expected of all students in all lecture, laboratory, and seminar courses.’ Simply put, missing or skipping class hurts the student for several reasons.
   * First, pop quizzes cannot be made up and will receive a zero grade if the absence is unexcused (see ‘Attendance Policy’ below).
   * Secondly, the exams will be primarily based on classroom lectures. Even if you get the notes from a friend it will not be the same as being present in the class.
   * Third, excessive unexcused absences will be penalized as follows (each day in summer equals 2 classes):

3 classes missed – final grade lowered 5 points

4-5 classes missed – final grade lowered 10 points

6-7 classes missed – final grade lowered 15 points

8 or more absences – fail the class

* + No student can get credit for the course if he/she misses more than 12 class periods, whether or not these absences are excusable. The content and purpose of the class cannot be fulfilled with that many absences.

1. Textbook Reading Assignments. The student is required to complete **all** textbook reading assignments and supplemental reading assignments as indicated in the class schedule. For your encouragement in completing these readings periodic pop quizzes will be given. ☺
2. Quizzes. Pop quizzes may be given and will cover the reading assignment for *that given day*, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. No quizzes can be made up.
3. Reading of the Old Testament. The student will be expected to read the entire Old Testament during the course of the semester. It will be best to pace this reading so as to be roughly in line with the class lecture. The amount of reading will be reported at the end of the semester for a portion of the grade. A Reading Report form is included in the Course Notebook.
4. ‘Mini-projects. Various ‘mini-projects’ will be assigned throughout the course usually involving contemplation or application of concepts discussed in class. Some of these are included in the back of the Course Notebook. Other projects may also be assigned.
5. Exams. Four major exams will be given. The material for the exams will be taken from class lecture and assigned reading.

V. Grading for the Course

A. The official grading policy of Union University as stated in the current College Catalogue will be employed for this course (unless the professor states otherwise).

Grading Scale - letter grades will be given as follows:

**A = 95-100 B = 85-94 C = 75-84**

**D = 65-74 F = below 65**

B. Determination of the final grade will be an average of the following sources:

Three exams (15% each) 45%

Final exam 20%

Pop quizzes and projects 30%

OT Reading report 5%

VI. SPECIAL PROJECTS

A. Since this is a survey course no major projects or research papers will be assigned.

B. Students should not plan this course as part of the Honors Program.

C. The Christian Studies Department does not assign extra work to make up grade deficiency.

VI. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

A. The lecture is the basic instructional approach of this course. Lectures are intended both to prompt students' questions and to encourage subsequent dialogue with the professor and fellow students. Small study-groups may also be utilized. Various visual aids will be employed to assist the student in the learning process.

B. Periodic examinations are regarded as both instructional and testing measures.

VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

A. Regular class attendance is required for the successful completion of the course. The student is expected to attend classes regularly in keeping with the attendance policy of Union University (see the current College Catalogue).

B. Class absences will be considered as excused or unexcused. Tardiness will also be noted. Three unexcused tardies will count as one absence.

C. The student who misses an exam due to absence from class will be given a zero for the exam unless an **acceptable** written excuse for the absence is given to the professor. Only then may a missed exam be made up.

D. A **written** excuse for class absence must be given to the professor **at the next class** attended after absences. *It is the student’s responsibility to provide the instructor with the written excuse. If a written excuse is not given to the instructor by the time of the next class attended, the absence will be unexcused.*

E. Permission will be granted to take the make-up only to those with justifiable excuses such as emergencies, illness, bereavement, or official college functions approved by the Academic Affairs Office. The professor reserves the right to determine the validity of all non-college approved absences.

F. Whenever a student has advance knowledge that a scheduled exam will be missed, the professor should be informed. In the case of an unexpected absence from an exam the student must notify the professor at the earliest possible opportunity, before the exam if possible. Failure to do so could result in a penalty.

G. Excessive absences by a student will be reported to the Director of Student Support Services for counsel with the student.

IX. TECHNOLOGY

1. Cell phones/Pagers: Cell phones and pagers should be switched off (not “vibrate”) unless the student has a real, pressing need to receive an anticipated call during class. Students who believe they have such a need should contact me prior to class and explain the nature of their need. I will make a decision regarding whether to allow the student to maintain an active cell phone/pager based upon the nature of the student’s expressed need.

Cell phone conversations, if allowed, must be taken outside the classroom when class is in session.

1. Laptop Computers will not be allowed in this class.
2. Audio/Video Recording- Any recording of the class must have permission from the professor.
3. POLICY ON CHEATING

The Christian Studies Department strongly advises the student to heed college policy regarding the matter of cheating (see the current College Catalogue or Student Handbook). The professor enforces this policy. Cheating on any assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

1. CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION

In the event that this course is no longer able to meet face-to-face, students should log onto to Blackboard and the read the announcement and instructions posted there.

1. ACCOMODATION STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I will make appropriate accommodations to meet documented needs. In addition, beyond the scope of ADA, there may be other accommodations that I would be willing to make given your individual situation or need. Please talk with me about your individual request following the first class meeting.

XI. APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PROFESSOR

I heartily encourage you to make an appointment with me for any reason. I want to be available to assist you with any problem you may have. If you have an emergency or a pressing spiritual matter please come by my office or call me at home (664-9803) or at work (ext. 5532). Also, at your convenience come by and check my office schedule on the door in order to plan an appointment time (Jennings 341). I consider this semester both a great responsibility and a tremendous blessing. My desire is for us to learn together in an atmosphere of faithful devotion and hard work.

The professor retains the right to alter any requirement or aspect of this syllabus at any time during the semester.

Old Testament Survey – CHR 111

COURSE SCHEDULE

MWF 9:00-9:50 & 11:00-11:50 PAC C-6

Fall 2010

Dr. Ray Van Neste

Page numbers refer to the Strom text. The projects listed are found in the course notebook.

Week 1

Aug 25 Introduction to the Course

27 OT: What is it?, Where did it come from?(pp. 15-22);**Proj. 1**

Week 2

30 What do we do with it? **Proj 2**

Sept 1 OT World **Proj 3**

3 Intro to Pentateuch, Creation (pp. 23-30) **Proj 4-5**

Week 3

**6 Labor Day**

8 Man,

10 Fall**; Proj 6**

Week 4

13 Flood, Babel; **Proj 7-8**

15 Intro to the Patriarchs, (pp. 31-38); **Proj 9**

17 Abraham, Isaac & Jacob; **Proj 10**

Week 5

20 Joseph

22  **EXAM #1**

24 Exodus- Moses & Egypt (pp. 39-48); **Proj 11**

Week 6

27 The Law; **Proj 12**

29 The 10 Commandments & Leviticus (pp. 49-58); **Proj 13-14**

Oct 1 Numbers (pp. 59-73); **Proj 15**

Week 7

4 Deuteronomy; **Proj 16**

6 Intro to Historical Books & Joshua (pp. 74-80); **Proj 17**

8 Judges; **Proj 18**

Week 8

11 Ruth (Ortlund article)

13 **EXAM #2**

**14-15** **Fall Holiday**

Week 9

**18 Fall Break**

20 Samuel (pp. 81-93)

22 Saul & David; **Proj 19**

Week 10

25 David

27 Solomon; **Proj 20**

29 Divided Kingdoms

Week 11

Nov 1 Divided Kingdoms (cont.)

3 Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther; **Proj 21**

5 Job

Week 12

8 Psalms (pp. 94-102); **Proj 22-23**

10 Proverbs (pp. 103-113); **Proj 24-25**

12Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon (Waltke article, Myers article)

Week 13

15 **EXAM #3**

17 Jeremiah and Lamentations (pp. 124-39); **Proj 26**

19 Ezekiel**,** Daniel; **Proj 27-28**

Week 14

22 Minor Prophets I- Hosea to Obadiah; **Proj 29-30**

**24-26 Thanksgiving Holidays**

Week 15

29 Minor Prophets II- Jonah to Habakkuk (pp. 140-56); **Proj 31-32**

Dec 1 Minor Prophets III Zephaniah to Malachi **Proj 33**

3 Conclusion; **Proj 34**

**COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM**

December 6; 2-4 pm (for 11:00 class)

December 9; 8-10 am (for 9:00 class)

(Student Information)

Name: Church Affiliation:

Box #:

Phone (local):

Home Town:

What do you want to learn in this class?

Are you dealing with any unusual circumstances at this time which could hinder your progress in the class? If so, please explain.

Other comments: