

North Portland Bible College--Portland, Oregon
OT 101 Old Testament Survey I—Introduction to the Torah
Fall 2015

Instructor: Alan Cushway B.S., M. Div., Th.M. Certificates in: Jewish Learning, Historical Geography of the Holy Land.

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Course Description:

This course examines the essential themes, structure and background of The Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy), with a view to aiding the learner in an interpretation and application of the message. Attention will be given to how each book connects to the New Covenant text and speaks of Messiah.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the major themes of each book and how those themes develop and expand through Scripture.
2. Understand the importance of the literary form of the book and how it affects our approach to understanding its message
3. Explore the Messianic themes and follow their development into the New Covenant Scripture.
4. Integrate into a personal journal the cultural, historical and spiritual impressions received from the reading or study of any of the texts.

Course Requirements

Reading: All assigned reading is to be completed before the end of the semester, but if possible before each class. A handout will be given out at quarter's end for the student to record their degree of completed reading.

Any additional readings or handouts will be for information or research only.

Required Textbook: The required text is "What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About", by Jason S DeRouchie. Any standard translation of the Holy Scripture is fine.

Major Assignments

1) Completion of text reading and Bible reading. The assigned reading from the text will be the section relating to the particular Scriptural book we are studying that week, with the exception of the first week.

2) Personal Spiritual Journal--This assignment gives you the opportunity to interact personally and spiritually with the text, that is, how it affects you in your spiritual journey. It is not primarily an interpretative assignment so much as a relational exercise. You may explore a word or phrase that interests you, or write impressions of some section or the book as a whole. These are personal reflections and observations. The journal should contain a minimum of 7

entries over any of the material presented in class. Journal may be handed in early. **Journal Due by Nov. 20.**

3) Parsha Study (Final Exam)--The student will select one parsha (portion) from any of the first five books (Gen. to Deut.) for a comprehensive study. This should be 3-5 pages, preferably typed double space. It is to contain the following: (1) a summary of the parsha's contents, (2) historical background information relevant to the section, (3) the significance of the section to the book (4) any themes, direct quotes or imagery developed in the New Testament, (5) any Messianic themes or prophecies (6) what you personally learned from the text.

The paper should reflect appropriate outside research, reflection, source citations and bibliography. A minimum of 4 documented sources are required.

Parsha Study due by Dec. 4th but can be turned in earlier.

Course Expectations and Policies

Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend a minimum of 8 of the 10 scheduled classes (Catalog pg. 13). Please inform the instructor of planned absences in a reasonable time frame. In crisis situations, call NPBC and/or instructor as soon as prudent. In the event of inclement weather, first call the college and confirm if classes are still to be held. Personal judgment regarding your own situation must be considered. No penalty in attendance will be incurred for such decisions by the student.

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Letter grades will follow the "Academic Policies" section of the Catalog (pg. 13)

Grades will be weighed based upon the following percentage criteria:

1. Attendance and class participation 20%
2. Reading Assignments 30%
3. Personal Journal 25%
4. Parsha Study (Final Exam) 25%

Late assignment policy

A grace period of 2 (two) days will be given for incomplete assignments. .

Upon completion, students must e-mail or call the instructor by 3:00 PM of the 2nd day. A 5% grade reduction per day will be given for work turned in after the 3:00 pm cut off.

Written Assignments:

The format for all papers will follow the MLA standards listed in the Student Handbook. All work must have a **Bibliography**, and appropriate **source citation**.

Academic Integrity in writing:

All written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and constitutes a serious breach of scholarship standards at North Portland Bible College. When quoting the work of an author or an author's ideas are used in your paper, document, document, and document.

WEEKLY CLASS OUTLINE

Readings from textbook by Arnold and Beyer hereafter are identified as “AB”

Week # 1 Class introduction. Introduction to the Torah and its Hebrew world view.

Introduction to Genesis

Oct. 2 —no reading

Week # 2 Genesis continued

Oct 9 AB 77-100

Week # 3 Exodus

Oct 16 AB 103-115

Week # 4 Leviticus

Oct 23 AB 117-126

Week # 5 Numbers

Oct. 30 AB 127-139

Week # 6 Deuteronomy

Nov. 6 AB 141-154

Week # 7 Joshua/Judges

Nov 13 AB 167-187

Week # 8 Ruth, I Samuel

Nov. 20 AB 187-207

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 27

Week # 9 I & II Samuel continued

Dec 4 AB 209-220 **Parsha Study Due**