

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

120.515 Old Testament Introduction Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Auckland
Lecturer: Charles Erlam

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level: 5, 15 credits

COURSE OVERVIEW

- a. Overview of the Old Testament, the historical geography of Ancient Israel, and sources and approaches used in studying the Old Testament
- b. Creation and the Primeval Prologue (Gen 1-11)
- c. The Patriarchal Narratives (Gen 12-50)
- d. The Exodus and the Sinai Covenant (Exodus)
- e. Israelite religion and wilderness wanderings (Leviticus – Deuteronomy)
- f. Conquest and Settlement (Joshua, Judges, Ruth)
- g. The monarchy from Saul to Solomon (1&2 Samuel)
- h. The divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah (1&2 Kings)
- i. The eighth century prophets (Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah)
- j. The exile and its impact on Israel's faith (Jeremiah, Lamentations)
- k. Exilic and post-exilic prophecy (Ezekiel, Daniel)
- l. Restoration and reconstruction (Ezra, Nehemiah)
- m. Poetry and Wisdom literature (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs)

Students will be required to read selected passages from the Bible and from the course materials BEFORE coming to class each week (except for week 1). Students will be required to confirm at the beginning of each class session that they have completed their reading.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

Assessment tasks involve the following:

i. Participation in online discussion

Learning outcomes: 1, 4
Due dates: 11.59PM Sunday of Weeks 2, 3, 6, 8, 11 and 12
Percentage weighting: 20%

The online discussion requires you to engage with various themes and topics. Typically these tasks will require you to prepare an initial post of no more than 200 words, followed by a response to at least one other student's post of at least 50 words. The second and subsequent posts must be made within one week of your initial post. Specific instructions will accompany each online discussion task. Students are expected to complete all online discussions in a timely manner. All online discussions will count toward your final grade.

ii. Content Tests

Learning outcomes: 1.
Due dates: Content test A is due by 11.59 Sunday at the end of semester week 3

	Content test B is due by Midnight Sunday at the end of semester end of week 5
<i>Percentage weighting:</i>	20% (10 % for each test)

The student will complete **two** content tests, each worth 10% of the final grade. Each content test is comprised of 20 multi-choice questions. You will have 20 minutes from the time you start the test to complete it. If you are not happy with your result, you may have up to 2 additional attempts at the test over a period of one week, i.e. a total of 3 attempts for each content test. This will enable you to improve your grade and to go back and revise aspects of the course you are uncertain of. N.B. the questions are selected randomly from a pool of over 100 questions. This means that no test will be identical. Your highest grade of the three attempts will be the one that is recorded.

Content Test A

The first content test will test the student's learning of Modules 1-2, and selected portions of the Old Testament from Gen 1-11.

Content Test B

The second content test will test the student's learning of Modules 3-4, and selected portions of the Old Testament from Gen 12-50 and Exodus.

iii. Survey

<i>Learning outcomes:</i>	3
<i>Due date:</i>	End of Week 9
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	20%
<i>Length:</i>	600 words maximum for steps 1-7

The student will complete a survey of a biblical book: Either 1 Samuel or 1 Kings

The survey requires the student to examine the content, structure and key themes of the book, and then to reflect on this in light of further reading of a textbook. The instructions below outline the steps for working through this assignment.

A. Before you read the textbook...

1. *Read through or listen to the biblical book in one sitting.* Then record your first impressions of the book. Every writer has specific purposes in mind for writing. These determine the material the writer chooses to include and what he/she chooses to leave out. What do you think is the main purpose of the book, and what are its major themes?
2. *Structure.* The writer's purpose also influences the way material is arranged. Read through the book again, and divide it up into smaller structural units. Don't be limited by the chapter divisions or headings. These are not part of the inspired text. But you will need to show which verses are included in each of your sections. Think about how each section relates to another. Look for key structural markers.
3. *Read through each section again and summarise the content of each section into a one sentence statement that captures the essence of that section.*
4. *Identify the key text(s) for the book.* This could be a text that sums up the book, gives structure to the book, or creates a pivot on which the whole book turns.
5. *Create a title that sums up the whole book.*
6. *Now consider what contribution this book makes to the whole of the Old Testament.*
7. *Finally, in one sentence, jot down what you think God might be saying to you through this book.*

8. Present your findings in a chart or table that communicates what the book is about and what you discovered in steps 1-7. (maximum of 500 words for your chart or table)

B. Now read the relevant chapter of *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. by Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman III (2006). These chapters will be provided on Moodle.

9. *Reflection*. What new insights did you gain from reading the textbook? Did any part of this chapter challenge your thinking? If so, why? Make sure you reference correctly. (300 words for section 9).

iv. Essay

<i>Learning outcomes:</i>	2, 3, 4
<i>Due date:</i>	11.59PM Sunday at the end of Study Week 1
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	40%
<i>Length:</i>	1500 words
<i>Expected Sources:</i>	Minimum 3, taken from Indicative Bibliography

Choose **ONE** of the following four topics, and write a 1500 word essay on it, following the instructions given, and making use of the indicative bibliography provided for your chosen topic.

- i. **Discuss the four major covenants of the Old Testament (Noah, Abraham, Moses, David). In your discussion, identify the important formal features of each covenant, and consider whether these covenants are “conditional” or “unconditional”. Summarise their respective contexts and meaning, and the contribution of each to the development of the idea of covenant throughout the Old Testament.**

For this topic, you will need to read carefully and study the biblical material about the four covenants. As well as your own study of the covenants as recorded in the Old Testament, a good place for further information will be Bible dictionaries and theological dictionaries (obviously start by looking up “covenant”). When you are ready to dig deeper, you may find the following helpful as well:

Faley, Roland J. *Bonding with God : a reflective study of biblical covenant*. Mahwah NJ.: Paulist Press, 1997.

Mckenzie, Steven L. *Covenant*. St Louis, MO.: Chalice, 2000.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward. *The covenants of promise: a theology of the Old Testament covenants*. Nottingham: InterVarsity, 1985.

Meadors, Edward P. *Creation, sin, covenant, and salvation : a primer for biblical theology*. Eugene, Or.: Cascade, 2011.

Nicholson, Ernest W. *God and his people: covenant and theology in the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1986.

Horton, Michael Scott. *God of promise : introducing covenant theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

- ii. **Explore the ethical difficulties associated with the conquest of the Promised Land, and discuss the idea of ḥērem (devoted) as justification for these. Summarise ways in which Christians reconcile these difficulties with our wider understanding of the character of God.**

This is quite a complex topic, so you will need to be prepared to do some careful thinking as you interact with the biblical material (particularly in Joshua) and also as you do your wider research through reading. The best place to start will be to look carefully at exactly what commands God gives to the Israelites as they enter the promised land. You will also need to do a brief study of the word *hērem* (this is the Hebrew word which is translated as ‘devoted’ in Joshua 6:17, 18, 21 and in a number of other places in Joshua). Bible dictionaries will be a good place to start for this. Many commentaries on Joshua will address this issue, and will also be a useful resource. The following resources will also help you dig deeper into this topic:

Cowles, C. S. et al., *Show them no Mercy – 4 views on God and Canaanite Genocide*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2003.

Earl, Douglas. *The Joshua Delusion? Rethinking Genocide in the Bible*. Eugene, Or.: Cascade, 2010.

Green, Joel B. and Jacqueline E Lapsley, eds. *The Old Testament and Ethics – A Book-by-book Survey*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Academic, 2013.

Lind, Millard C. *Yahweh is a Warrior – The Theology of Warfare in Ancient Israel*. Scottsdale, PA.: Herald Press, 1980.

McDonald, Patricia M. *God and Violence – Biblical resources for living in a small world*. Scottsdale, PA.: Herald Press, 2004.

Niditch, Susan. *War in the Hebrew Bible – A Study in the Ethics of Violence*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Seibert, Eric A. *The Violence of Scripture – Overcoming the Old Testament’s Troubling Legacy*. Minneapolis, MN., Fortress Press, 2012.

Von Rad, Gerhard. *Holy War in Ancient Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1991.

- iii. **Compare and contrast Moses and David as national and religious leaders of Israel. How are they alike in their responses to those who oppose them? How are they different? Discuss what each contributes to our understanding of leadership in the Old Testament. Also comment briefly on how each can be seen as a fore-runner to Christ.**

To answer this question, you will need to spend some time reading carefully about the lives of these two leaders. Be sure to look carefully throughout the Old Testament for information about both Moses and David as leaders, as well as reading the main narrative of their life story. You may find it helpful to consult the following resources:

Fischer, James A. *Leaders and people in biblical stories*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2004.

Hutton, Rodney R. *Charisma and authority in Israelite society*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.

Stevens, Marty E. *Leadership roles of the Old Testament: king, prophet, priest, and sage*. Eugene, OR.: Cascade, 2012.

- iv. **Discuss the function of ‘the prophet’ in Israel from the time of the monarchy through to the post-exilic period. To what extent do these functions carry over into the New Testament period, and what implications might this have for Christians today?**

N.B. At least 1200 words should be devoted to addressing the Old Testament portion of this question. Structure your essay so that the Old Testament section is dealt with first, and this is then followed by a brief look at how the subject carries over into the New

Testament period, first of all with Jesus himself, and then the early church. The application section should come last.

When focusing on the Old Testament section, note such concepts as: the nature and purpose of Old Testament prophecy; what the actions and audience of the Old Testament prophets actually did and who their audience were; the relationship between prophesy and the Holy Spirit; how one might tell a true prophet from a false prophet; the prophet in relation to the covenant; the prophet in relation to the king; and the widening definition of prophecy into the 2nd temple period. When focusing on the New Testament briefly consider the prophetic nature of Jesus' ministry and that of the apostles, and the function of prophesy in the early church.

In light of your investigation, consider what might it mean to speak prophetically into church and society today?

Grudem, Wayne A. *The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today*. Westchester: Crossway Books, 1988.

Grudem, Wayne A. 'Why Christians Can Still Prophecy', *Christianity Today*. Sept 16, 1988, 29-35.

Herzog, William R II. *Prophet and Teacher: An Introduction to the Historical Jesus*. Louisville: Westminster, 2005. 109-124.

Hill, Clifford. *Prophecy Past and Present*. Crowborough: Highland Books, 1989.

Houston, Graham. *Prophecy Now*. Leicester: IVP, 1989.

Petersen, David L. 'False Prophecy' and 'Prophet, Prophecy' in *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Vol. 4. Eds. Sakenfeld, K.D., et al. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009, 620-21, 622-25, 628-36.

Schmitt, John J. "Pre-exilic Hebrew Prophecy", and J. Barton. "Post-Exilic Hebrew Prophecy", in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Vol 5, pp. 482-502.

Witherington III, B. *Jesus the Seer: The Progress of Prophecy*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999.

Wright, N.T. "The Praxis of a Prophet", in *Jesus and the Victory of God*. London: SPCK, 1996, 162-197.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Participation in online discussion

- Engagement with material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation
- Timeliness

Survey

- Depth of observation
- Accuracy and clarity of presentation
- Identification of major themes
- Appropriateness of structure
- Identification of key texts
- Ability to summarise the book and smaller sections
- Quality of engagement with textbook

Essay

- Breadth of understanding

- Depth of treatment
- Critical judgment
- Skill and appropriateness of application
- Cohesion, logic and flow of the argument
- Presentation, style, grammar and spelling

LEARNING HOURS

120.515 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. The assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows.

Task	Weight	Hours
Reading and Class attendance		50 hours
Online discussion	20%	20 hours
Content Tests (x2)	20%	20 hours
Survey	20%	20 hours
Essay	40%	40 hours
	100%	150 hours

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

TEXTBOOK

The recommended textbook for this course is:

La Sor, W. and D.A. Hubbard, et al. *Old Testament Survey*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1996.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Other Highly Recommended Texts

Longman, Tremper, III & Raymond, B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2006.

Bright, J. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Matthews, Victor H. *Studying the Ancient Israelites: A Guide to Sources and Methods*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Books, 2007.

Surveys and Introductions

Arnold, B.T. & B. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Books, 2008.

Craigie, P.C. *The Old Testament*. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon, 1986.

Drane, John. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Oxford: Lion Publishing, 2000.

Matthews, Victor H. & James C. Moyer. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*. Peabody, MA.: Hendrickson, 1997.

Walton, John H. & Andrew E. Hill. *Old Testament Today*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2004.

Histories of Ancient Israel

Provan, I., V.P. Long & T. Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Shanks, H., ed. *Ancient Israel. From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. Rev. ed. Biblical Archaeology Society, 1999.

Archaeology of Ancient Israel

Mazar, A. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000-586 BCE*. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

Thompson, J. *The Bible and Archaeology*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 1982.

Society, customs and culture of Ancient Israel

King, P.J. and L.E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

The Ancient Near East

Arnold, B.T. & B.E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Books, 2002.

Hallo, W. & K.L. Younger Jnr, eds. *The Context of Scripture*, 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997-2002.

Vol 1, *Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World*, 1997,

Vol 2, *Monumental Inscriptions from the Biblical World*, 2000,

Vol 3, *Archival Documents from the Biblical World*, 2002.

Matthews, V.H., & D.C. Benjamin, *Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.

Pritchard, J.B., ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament (ANET)*. Pritchard; Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.

_____. *The Ancient Near East*, 2 vols. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1959, 1976.

Walton, J. H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Books, 2006.

Walton, J.H. *Ancient Israelite Literature in Its Cultural Context: A Survey of Parallels Between Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Texts*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 1989.

Reference Works

Arnold, B.T. and H.G.M. Williamson, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2005.

Bromiley, G. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, 4 vols. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.

Baker, David W. and T.D. Alexander., eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

Douglas, J.D. ed. *The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, 3 vols. Leicester: IVP, 1980.

This work is also available with other resources in *The Essential IVP Reference Collection on CD-ROM*. Version 1.1, 2001. Logos Library System 2.0, 2000. Leicester, UK: IVP, 2000.

Freedman, D.N. et al, eds. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Vols. 1-6 New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Longman III, Tremper, and Peter Enns, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2008.

The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, Vols 1-3. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.
(Volumes 4+ are still to come)

Atlases

Aharoni, Y., Avi-Yonah, M., Rainey, A.F., and Z. Safrai, eds. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. New York: Macmillan Press, 2002.

Beitzel, B. *The Moody Bible Atlas of Bible Lands*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.

Dowley, Tim. ed. *The Atlas of the Bible and the History of Christianity*. London: Angus Hudson, 1997.

Commentaries

The following are in order from easiest to hardest:

Tyndale Old Testament commentary series

The NIV Application Commentary

The Expositors Bible Commentary series

New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT) series

Word Biblical Commentary series