

Northeastern State University
College of Liberal Arts
REL 2113
Introduction to the Old Testament
Fall Semester 2009

Instructor: Gary Cheatham, M.Div., M.S.L.S.
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Class Days and Times

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., in FA 301.

Course Description

A study of the background of the Old Testament including origin, growth, social, economic, and religious development of central concepts, leading personalities, and the process by which it has come to us as viewed in light of modern scholarship.

Course Objectives

Upon the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the fundamental differences between the Hebrew Bible and the Old Testament of Christianity.
- Trace the basic origin and development of the Old Testament.
- Describe the central themes and concepts of the Old Testament.
- Identify and discuss the significance of leading personalities in the Old Testament.
- Discuss the Old Testament in its literary, cultural, social, historical and theological context.
- Apply critical thinking skills to the reading and interpretation of selected biblical texts.

Required Texts

Michael Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Bible containing both the Old Testament and New Testament (any translation).

Recommended Text (Not Required)

Katharine Dell, *Opening the Old Testament*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2008.

Course Requirements

- Students will be asked to sign an attendance sheet at each class period in order to receive credit for attendance.
- Students will be asked to write one research paper. Details concerning the paper will be announced.
- There will be two exams (one mid-term and one final). Both exams will be based on class lectures and discussions, video presentations, and assigned readings from the required texts and other sources.

Grading

- Class attendance = 15 points (approximately ½ point per class)
- Research paper = 40 points
- Mid-term = 20 points
- Final = 25 points

Total: 100 points

Grading system:

A = 90-100 points

B = 80-89 points

C = 70-79 points

D = 60-69 points

F = 0-59 points

In addition to the above, each student will have the option of turning in one extra credit assignment valued at up to 20 points. The topic and format of the extra credit assignment will need to be approved by the instructor. Anyone wishing to complete an extra credit assignment is encouraged to speak with the instructor.

If you have any questions or problems, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.

Office Hours

Monday: 2-4 p.m. office

Tuesday: 2-3 p.m. office; 3-4 p.m. Library reference desk

Wednesday: 9-10 a.m. office; 12-2 p.m. Library reference desk

Thursday: 3-4 p.m. office

Friday: 9-11 a.m. office; 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m. Library reference desk

The instructor is available other times by appointment. Students may also contact the instructor via e-mail.

ADA Compliance

If any member of the class feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations, that class member should advise the instructor of such disability at the first class attended.

Inclement Weather and Disaster Policy

The following are basic premises for the inclement weather policy at Northeastern State University:

1. Classes are expected to be held if at all possible.
2. It is the student's responsibility to receive the information when weather is questionable.
3. Neither students nor faculty are expected to risk life or limb.
4. Faculty members are obligated to hold classes if the University is not closed, unless the faculty member is unable to get to campus.

During times of inclement weather, decisions concerning day classes will be made by 6:00 a.m. in order for the media to be notified and for students to receive the announcement before they leave home. Decisions concerning night classes will be made by 3:00 p.m. The automated attendant message at (918) 456-5511 will be modified to include information concerning campus operations during inclement weather.