

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

RELS 22703 Old Testament Survey

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of hours: 0

Prerequisite: None Pre or Co Requisite: None Co requisite: None

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A brief study of the Old Testament. Selected books and passages are given special attention to gain a deeper understanding of the Old Testament

B. Additional Information

This course is an introduction to the Old Testament and the history of ancient Israel considered within the larger context of the ancient Near East and with specific reference to the Hebrew's own interpretation of history as found in the Old Testament. Whatever one's particular beliefs area, it cannot be denied that the Old Testament remains one of the most significant formative historical documents of Western Civilization. The Old Testament will be compared with Ancient Near Eastern archeology and other historical documents such as the ENUMA ELISH, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Nag Hammadi texts, and the Egypt Wisdom Books.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Identify the early peoples of the Ancient Near East.
2. Describe the origins of Israel.
3. Use historical-critical methodology.
4. Discuss the origins of prophecy.
5. Trace the development of Judaism.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of Christianity.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives:

Students will demonstrate understanding of the interaction of the early peoples and faiths of the Ancient Near East.

Communication Skills (written and oral):

Student will write research papers to demonstrate their knowledge of the origins of Judaism and Christianity and the development of western culture.

Major Course Topics

- A.** Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Canaanite Background
- B.** Origins of Israel
- C.** Introduction to Historical-Critical Methodology
- D.** The Early Period of Tribal Confederacy
- E.** The Early Monarchy Period
- F.** Solomon and the Divided Kingdom
- G.** The Creation of the All Israelite Epic
- H.** The Origins of Prophecy
- I.** Fall of Israel and Rise of the Kingdom of Judah
- J.** Rise of Josiah to the Fall of Judah
- K.** The Babylonian Captivity
- L.** Wisdom Literature
- M.** The Post Exilic Period and the Rise of Judaism
- N.** The Hellenistic Period