



Understanding the Old Testament
THEO215 [all sections]
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

Learners in this course undertake a study of the Hebrew Scriptures, seeking to understand them in their original context and thus their significance for today. *Prerequisite: THEO 200.*

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Tullock, J. H., & McEntire, M. H. (2012). *The Old Testament story* (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Recognize lands of the Bible map and identify numerous ancient countries and cities
- Describe the various types of literature present in the Old Testament, how it has come to us, and the manner in which it is organized,
- Describe various tools and approaches that can assist us in studying, analyzing, and understanding the Old Testament
- Describe the structure of life and society in Old Testament times, to sketch the general framework and primary features of the Old Testament story,
- Identify the heart of Old Testament faith, and the worship structures utilized to preserve it,
- Describe the significance and contribution of numerous leading Old Testament persons,
- Define and use numerous terms peculiar to Bible study,
- Apply Old Testament material to contemporary life,
- Explain the value of reading and studying the books of the Old Testament on a regular basis as a foundational part of an ongoing spiritual life

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussion Boards	6	300	30
Historical and Geographical Setting of the Old Testament assignments	5	100	10
Mid-term Exam	1	150	15
Research Paper	1	300	30
Final Exam	1	150	15
Total Points		1,000	100

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions discussion forum • Read <i>The Old Testament Story</i>, Chapters 1, 3-4 (Chapter 2 is optional) • Review Lectures 1-3 [Optional] • Read JDEP: Sources in the Pentateuch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 Discussion • Unit 1 Historical and Geographical Setting of the Old Testament
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>The Old Testament Story</i>, Chapters 5-6 • Review Lectures 6-7 [Optional] • Read Research Paper Assignment • View Violence in the Old Testament, Part 1: Seven Minute Seminary • View Violence in the Old Testament, Part 2: Seven Minute Seminary • View Violence in the Old Testament, Part 3: Seven Minute Seminary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 Discussion • Unit 2 Historical and Geographical Setting of the Old Testament
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>The Old Testament Story</i>, Chapters 7-9 • Review Lecture 8 and 9 [Optional] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 Discussion • Mid-term Exam • Unit 3 Historical and Geographical Setting of the Old Testament
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>The Old Testament Story</i>, Chapters 10-12 • View Historical Analysis of Prophecy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 4 Discussion • Unit 4 Historical and Geographical Setting of the Old Testament
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>The Old Testament Story</i>, Chapters 13 • View Christians and the Psalms: Seven Minute Seminary • View Laments in the Psalms: Seven Minute Seminary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 5 Discussion • Research Paper • Unit 5 Historical and Geographical Setting of the Old Testament due by Sunday at midnight, CT
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>The Old Testament Story</i>, Chapters 14-15 • Read Intertestamental History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 6 Discussion • Final Exam

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.