

Reading the Old Testament

Fall 2016—OT 6301

Course Syllabus

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Office Hours: Tues., Wed. 9:00-noon; Thurs., 1:00–3:00 PM; Fri., 9:00-11:00 AM.

Class Meeting Time: Wednesday, 1:00-3:40 PM

MATS Course Goals:

The student will interpret passages of the Old Testament in light of their literary, historical, and theological contexts.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To introduce the student to the text of the Old Testament in its literary styles and sections.
- 2) To familiarize the student with the “Old Testament story,” its main characters and events.
- 3) To introduce the main theological concerns of the Old Testament.
- 4) To familiarize the student with some of the more important critical issues in Old Testament studies.
- 5) To show how the Old Testament texts and theology inform the New Testament, the life of faith, and the practice of ministry today.

Required Texts:

The New Oxford Annotated Bible of the New Revised Standard Version, or another good study Bible.

Dillard, Raymond and Tremper Longman. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Shipp, R. Mark. *Reading the Old Testament Handbook*, revised 2007.

Recommended Text:

Gorman, Michael. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2001.

Software, Database, and Internet Resources:

ATLA Database: The American Theological Library Association maintains a massive bibliographic database of theological journals and books. Please use this resource for identifying important books and articles for writing the exegesis paper. See the librarian for training and access to this database.

Online Periodicals: Through EBSCO, Austin Graduate School has access to hundreds of full-text journals on the web. See the librarian for access.

Bible Search Software: There are several software programs which allow students to search the Bible in the original languages, as well as English and many other languages. The four programs most in use by theological schools are Accordance (www.accordancebible.com), Logos (www.logos.com), BibleWorks (www.bibleworks.com), and the Bible Study program by Olive Tree Software (www.olivetree.com). All four of these are available in both Macintosh and PC versions. AGST students get a 40% discount from Accordance for the Original Languages package. AGST students qualify for a 30% discount from Logos. Olive Tree is a free download, but costs about \$80.00–100.00 per morphologically tagged Bible.

In addition, there are numerous *Bible-related sites* on the Internet which may help your research. The Bible Gateway is one such site. Please see the librarian for other sites.

Course Requirements:

Regular *class attendance and participation* is required. All students should come prepared to discuss the particular section of scripture assigned for the day. This involves reading the relevant sections in the textbook and the Bible. Students should be in class and ready to begin promptly when class starts. Tardiness and absences will lower your letter grade for the course. See student handbook for unexcused absences/tardiness policy.

1–1 1/2 hour *midterm*.

2–3 hour *final exam*.

Five 20 point map and list *quizzes*.

One five to seven page, typed *exegesis paper*. No more than one person will be assigned per passage. This paper is due November 30.

Mid-term:	25%
Final:	25%
Five 20 point Quizzes:	25%
Exegesis Paper:	25%

See the student handbook or course catalog for the grading scale.

Preparation of Paper:

At the Austin Grad. website www.austingrad.edu/academics_student_resource.html you will find a guide for doing exegetical work. Exegesis papers must use the proper research style as laid out in K. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers* (latest edition). Exegesis papers should pay careful attention to the literary context (extended and immediate), use of important terminology, and historical setting. Most importantly, students are expected to use a concordance/Bible search program in order to determine the author's use of words and phrases. For historical background, you will find John Bright, *A History of Israel* (4th edition), particularly helpful. While I am most interested in your own exegesis of the texts, you should be aware of and make use of important commentaries, dictionaries, word books, introductions, etc.

AGST Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism and citation of sources: Plagiarism is the representation of another person's work as your own and is a form of theft. This includes material composed by other students, purchased from an online paper service, or copied from published books and articles or from the Internet. If in any assignment you employ material written by someone else, you must give the author proper credit, documenting the source with an appropriate citation and marking any words directly quoted with quotation marks (or with indentation if four or more lines are quoted). Failure to appropriately credit the sources you use will result in a reduction in your grade for the assignment in question and/or the requirement that you revise the assignment. Intentionally representing another person's work as your own will be grounds for academic discipline, including your possible dismissal from the School. For more information on how to acknowledge sources properly and avoid plagiarism, refer to the School's "Guide to Written Work" (http://www.austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/guide_for_written_work.htm).

Schedule of Classes.

8/24: Intro. to the Course, Syllabus, and Genesis 1–11.

Readings:

Genesis 1–26.

Dillard and Longman, pp. 17–53.

Shipp, pp. 4–11

8/31: Genesis 12-50.

Readings:

Genesis 27–50.

Dillard and Longman, pp. 53–56.

Shipp, pp. 12–24.

9/7: The Exodus and Covenant at Sinai.

Readings:

Exodus 1–24.

Dillard and Longman, pp. 57–71.

Shipp, pp. 25–47.

9/14: The Exodus and Covenant at Sinai (continued).

Readings:

Leviticus 1–7, 16–27; Numbers 10:11–25:18.

Dillard and Longman, pp. 73–90.

9/21: No class—ACU Summit.

9/28: Deuteronomy; Joshua, the Conquest and the Period of the Judges.

Readings:

Deut. 1–11, 27–34; Joshua 1–11; Judges; Ruth.

Dillard and Longman, pp. 91–134.

Shipp, pp. 48–67.

10/5: The United Kingdom.

Readings:

1 Samuel; 2 Samuel 1–6; Psalms 1–41; Proverbs 1–15.
Dillard and Longman, pp. 135–147, 211–245.
Shipp, pp. 68–81.

10/12: The United Kingdom (continued).

Readings:

2 Samuel 7–1 Kings 1–11; Job 1–14, 28–42; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs.
Dillard and Longman, pp. 135–147 (cont.), 199–210, 247–265.

10/19: The Divided Kingdom. Mid-Term Exam.

Readings:

1 Kings 12–2 Kings 17.
Dillard and Longman, pp. 149–167.
Shipp, pp. 82–95.

10/26: 8th Century Prophets, the Fall of North Israel, and the Invasion of Judah.

Readings:

2 Kings 18–20; Amos; Hosea; Isaiah 1–12, 28–33; Micah.
Dillard and Longman, pp. 267–283, 353–362, 373–384, 397–402.
Shipp, pp. 96–109.

11/2: The Deuteronomistic Reform and the Fall of Judah.

Readings:

2 Kings 21–25; Deuteronomy 1–11, 27–34; Zephaniah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Jeremiah 1–33.
Dillard and Longman, pp. 285–301, 403–420.
Shipp, pp. 110–122.

11/9: The Exile of Judah.

Readings:

Ezekiel 1–15, 33–48; Obadiah; Isaiah 40–55; Lamentations.
Dillard and Longman, pp. 303–312, 313–327, 385–390.
Shipp, pp. 123–132.

11/16: The Restoration of Judah.

Readings:

Ezra; Nehemiah; 1 Chronicles 10–22, 28–29; Haggai; Zechariah 1–8; Isaiah 56–66; Malachi; Joel.
Dillard and Longman, pp. 169–187, 363–371, 421–442.

Shipp, pp.133–141.

11/30: Israel and the Nations; the Greek Period; Apocalyptic Literature. Papers due.

Readings:

Jonah; Esther; Daniel; Zechariah 9–14.

Dillard and Longman, pp. 329–352, 189–197, 391–395.

Shipp, pp. 142–151.

12/7: Final Exam.