

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
BIBLE 110
INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT
CREDIT, 3 SEMESTER HOURS
Fall, 2011
DR. G. ROGER GREENE (“BIG G”), PROFESSOR
2011 TR Revision

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A general overview of the background, development, and content of the Old Testament.

RATIONALE FOR BIBLE 110

Because Mississippi College is a Christian institution founded upon a strong background of liberal arts studies, Bible 110 is foundationally vital to the mission and purpose of the college. The essence of faith truly Christian cannot be either established or maintained apart from biblical literacy. The bible of the earliest Church was the Old Testament. The Church for almost 2000 years has affirmed the inclusion of the Old Testament as a significant part of holy scripture and the record God’s revelation of himself to humankind prior to his revelation in Jesus Christ. This latter revelation is understood most fully only in the light of the former. As Bible 110 addresses the matters of history and faith in an appropriate hermeneutical context, comprehension of geographical, historical, and literary aspects of the Old Testament create a biblical literacy which contributes in meaningful ways to the personal values, attitudes, social, and cultural understanding of the student.

Bible 110 thus seeks to make a significant contribution toward the integration of faith and learning through the exploration and understanding of the religious, social, and cultural values inherent in the faith and story of ancient Israel which remain relevant to contemporary Christianity. It seeks to enhance knowledge, develop skills of interpretation, and advance attitudes necessary for making responsible and reasoned moral choices in response to a changing world. Comprehensive understanding of biblical principles advanced by the core content of Bible 110 offers not only an environment in which the personal and spiritual development of the student may be stimulated, but one in which insight into the integration of learning with faith is to be stressed as application is made in the living of a more satisfying life in the service of God and humanity.

In addition, Bible 110 and Bible 120 provide the foundational introduction for other courses in the area of Bible and Christian Heritage.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The following learning objectives apply to this course.

1. *To cultivate in students an understanding of the historical setting of the Old Testament.* In BIB 110 students are presented an historical account of the Ancient Near East as it pertains to the development and transmission of the Old Testament. This historical survey is to encompass the major periods of Israel’s national history leading up to the intertestamental period. To demonstrate that this objective has been met, students should be able to show in writing that they know about key people, events, and dates, and understand their significance, as these items provide a meaningful context for proper interpretation of the Old Testament.

2. To cultivate in students an understanding of the geographical setting of the Old Testament. This objective has been met when students can demonstrate their knowledge of the major geographical features of the Near East as these contribute to a fuller understanding of the Old Testament.

3. To cultivate in students a characteristic best described as “biblical literacy.” Students are required to read the Old Testament with a view toward coming to understand the basic literary features of the text such as plot, setting, theme development, and literary genre. Major characters in the Old Testament narrative are discussed at length. Questions relating to the historical setting, authorship, audience, date of writing, and literary genre are addressed as these items contribute to a more complete understanding of the individual books of the Old Testament. Students are encouraged to see the Old Testament literature in relation to its historical and cultural environment. Tests designed to measure the student’s “biblical literacy” can demonstrate that this objective is being met.

4. To cultivate in students the ability to make application of the Old Testament texts in personal formation and growth. BIB 110 can help students develop a foundation for subsequent study and appropriate utilization of the Old Testament. The compelling ethical themes and striking theological images of the Old Testament provide a rich resource for students to draw upon during and after their fulfillment of the requirements for BIB 110.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Mississippi College students are expected to be honest. Dishonesty is not tolerated at Mississippi College and is subject to severe penalties including loss of credit and dismissal from school. The student should be thoroughly informed on these matters of academic and personal integrity which are set forth in the *Mississippi College Undergraduate Catalog*, in student publications, or **Policy 2.19** available on the Mississippi College web site.

OUTLINE OF COVERED TOPICS

The following represent a significant listing of topics to be covered in this course.

The World of the Bible
The Nature and Canon of the Old Testament
The Primeval History
The Ancestral History
The Exodus Story
The Conquest of Canaan
The Period of the Tribal League
The United Kingdom
The Divided Kingdom
The Exile in Babylon
The Period of Restoration
Matters of Worship and Laws
The Rise of Prophetic Voices
Poetry and Wisdom Materials
Differing Viewpoints and Perspectives Within the Old Testament
Times of Challenge and Persecution
After the Old Testament: Events and Apocryphal Writings

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Primary methods of instruction utilized in this course include dialogical lecture, class discussion, interpretation of specific scriptural passages, map-work, and occasional audio-visual materials.

REQUIRED PRACTICES

Required practices include reading of required texts, discussion of assigned material within the classroom setting, recall and application of material learned.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Instructional materials include the following textbook required for the course.

May, Herbert G. and Bruce E. Metzger (eds.). **The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha**. Revised Standard Version. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Lesson assignments will be made from general articles and introductions found in this text.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

The primary method of evaluation utilized in this course consists of periodic examinations. Attendance assumes a positive role in the learning process as it pertains to attitudes of learning and class participation. It also carries associative bonus points.

Evaluation of Student Progress

1. Examinations. Total: 300 points.

There will be three sectional examinations, each worth 100 points, given at the points indicated in the schedule of assignments. These major exams may not be missed without penalty, except for emergency reasons and authorized college activity. Death in the immediate family and illness verified by a doctor's statement qualify as emergency reasons. See the make-up policy of the professor given below. Each exam will be sectional, i.e., it will focus upon material covered since the previous exam.

2. Final Examination. Total: 150 points.

A final examination, with a value of 150 points, will be given at the end of the semester during the regular examination period on the day and at the time as determined by the Registrar's Office. ***This exam is not optional.*** It will be a maximum of two hours in length and will be *comprehensive in nature*.

Class Policy on Make-Up Examinations

If it is necessary to miss an exam, the professor should be notified **prior to** the exam period if the student is to avoid penalty. It is the intention of the professor that few or no make-up exams be given. In any event, **whether or not a make-up exam is allowed and whether or not a penalty is assessed is at the sole discretion of the professor.** Generally speaking, exams missed without appropriate excuse incur at least a letter grade or 10% penalty. It is to your advantage to be present at all regularly scheduled exam periods. In the event the student misses the final exam, the policies of this paragraph apply as well as the

procedures involving incomplete grades. See below.

Criteria of Grade Assignment

The final grade will be averaged on the basis of 450 total points. Any student who accumulates 91-100% of the total will earn a grade of **A**, 81-90% a grade of **B**, 71-80% a grade of **C**, 61-70% a grade of **D**, and below 60% an **F**. It is to the student's advantage to take all exams at the regularly scheduled time.

No provision is made in this course for "extra credit" to make up for deficiencies on required examinations. The focus of student performance is upon the *mastery of the assigned materials*. However, there will be an attendance bonus of 12 points given to students who have no absences in the course. A student with one absence will receive a bonus of 6 points. No points will be given for more than one absence.

Final Course Grade

In accordance with the percentages given above, the final grade earned in the course will be representative of the quality of student work accomplished in terms of mastery of the material assigned. A grade of **A** will represent superior work, **B** above-average work, **C** average work, **D** below-average work, and **F** a failure to meet minimal course and proficiency requirements.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

Application for Accommodation

As stated in the **Mississippi College Undergraduate Catalog**, Mississippi College does not discriminate in admission to its programs or activities. See the following statement:

"In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must contact Student Counseling Services (SCS). SCS will assist with information regarding the appropriate policy and procedure for disability accommodations before each semester or upon immediate recognition of the disability. SCS is located in Alumni Hall Room #4 or you may contact them by phone at 601-925-7790. The Director of Student Counseling Services, Dr. Bryant may be reached via email at mbryant@mc.edu."

Should students need special accommodations due to learning, physical, psychological, or other disabilities, students should direct their inquiry to the Director of the Counseling and Career Development Center. For more information, the student is referred to the Mississippi College Catalog, Students with Disabilities section, student publications or the web site.

Attendance

Mississippi College has standards regarding attendance of classes. The student should be fully aware of attendance policies set forth in the **Mississippi College Undergraduate Catalog**. The student should be fully aware of these policies. All classes missed count as absences, whether excused or unexcused. An automatic **F** is given if absences exceed 25% of the class meetings. This is the equivalent of 7 class meetings in a Tuesday-Thursday class (11, in a MWF class, and 4 class meetings in a night class which meets once a week). There is an appeal process which may be instituted through the office of the appropriate dean.

In addition to the above, the student should be advised that excessive unexcused absences beyond the

allowable limits (three clock hours, which is only **2 unexcused absences** in a Tuesday-Thursday class) **will penalize** the student's final percentage semester grade point average by **1% per unexcused absence**. To reiterate, **the student's final grade point average will be penalized for excessive unexcused absences**. The professor values class attendance. The days when one is *least* prepared are the days when one *most* needs to be in class. Habitual tardiness reflects either a poor attitude or poor self-discipline. In the event of tardiness, it is the student's responsibility to remind the professor of his/her attendance to insure he/she is not marked absent. See below. However, the professor prefers to focus upon attendance bonus rather than absence penalties.

Incomplete Grades

There should be no reason for failure to complete the work required in this course, other than an unexpected catastrophic illness or accident near the end of the course. In the event of either of these, an incomplete (grade of **I**) may be given to a student who has been hindered by circumstances beyond the student's control from completing work required for the course. In the unlikely event a grade of **I** need be given, the procedures for awarding and removing an incomplete grade are given in the ***Mississippi College Undergraduate Catalog***. The student should be familiar with the full statement of these procedures.

Tardiness

Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. Class attendance will be emphasized by this professor and roll will be checked at the beginning of each class period. **In the event of tardiness, it is the student's responsibility to notify the professor at the close of the particular class period in order to assure that she/he is not marked absent**. No recorded absences will be erased after the week in which they are recorded, if the tardy student fails to properly notify the professor. *Habitual tardiness will be translated into additional class absences*.

Other Information

Information on student appeals of academic matters is given generally in the ***Mississippi College Undergraduate Catalog***, as are materials pertaining to accommodation and support services.

Important dates pertaining to the current session may be found on the Mississippi College web site, as well as in the ***Mississippi College Undergraduate Catalog***. The final examination schedule may also be found there.

Other Considerations

Cell phones and beepers should be turned off while in the classroom. If a student chews gum, it should be done with the mouth closed. No meals are allowed in the classroom. The professor expects the student to be involved in the classroom proceedings with full freedom to contribute to the classroom learning experience. The professor does not tolerate the student making preparation for other classes while present in this class. The professor finds it very distracting for the student to be writing notes to, laughing, or talking with a neighbor during class about matters not pertaining to this class.

A Final Word

Participation is expected in this class—it is not a spectator sport. Hence, class preparation and attendance assume some importance. While there may be a significant amount of reading to be completed in this course, it is meant to be an enjoyable course which offers some rather unique learning opportunities for

the broadening of both knowledge and faith. It is also intended to develop the student's listening, thinking and writing skills through inquiry and dialogue with the biblical text, the professor, and other students. The course will be, however, what **you the student** make it to be. The more one is willing to both receive and give, the more one will gain foundationally from the course.

For Your Convenience

The professor prefers to be called either **Big G** or **Dr. G**, whichever makes the student more comfortable.

Office--Provine Chapel 108, west side center

Office Hours: Although sometimes interrupted by other meetings, office hours are posted on the professor's door. Appointment sheets may generally be found beside the professor's door.. The professor is available for consultation or help with any student concerns, academic or otherwise. It is always good to schedule appointments in order to avoid potential time conflicts.

Office Telephone:	601-925-3291	Messages may be left on voice mail or home answer machine.
Home Telephone:	601-924-5403	
E-Mail:	rgreene@mc.edu	

OLD TESTAMENT ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE **Big G** **Fall, 2011** **Tuesday-Thursday Class**

1. **Orientation and Course Introduction**

2. **The World of the Bible**
 Introduction at a Glance
 NOAB, "Introduction to the Old Testament," xxv-xxviii
 Getting to Know the Bible
 NOAB, "How to Read the Bible with Understanding: The Diversity and the
 Unity of the Scriptures," 1515-1518.
 NOAB, "Modern Approaches to Biblical Study," 1519-1522.

3. **The World of the Bible--cont.**
 Life in Bible Lands
 NOAB, "Survey of Geography, History, and Archaeology of the Bible Lands,"
 1533-1536.
 NOAB, "Measures and Weights in the Bible," 1546-1547.

4. **Archaeology and the Biblical World**
 Go to **BiblePlaces.com** and look up the following: *Egypt* (Nile River, Sinai Peninsula);
 Negev (Beersheba); *Judah* (Gezer, Ein Gedi); *Samaria* (Jericho, Megiddo); *Jerusalem*
 (City of David); *Galilee* (Dan, Hazor). Read over the material associated with the
 pictures.

5. **The World of the Bible—cont.**
Texts and Versions
 NOAB, “English Versions of the Bible: The Tyndale-King James Tradition,”
 1551-1557.
6. **History with a Difference: Story and Faith**
 NOAB, “The People of the Covenant,” 1536-1545

As one begins the study of the Old Testament books, one should be concerned about the following issues.

- 1) **Historical Questions**— The “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why” questions. What does this work suggest about Israel? How does it help to understand the **story world** and **story** of the people of Israel? How does it help to understand the **faith** of the people of Israel?
 - 2) **Theological Questions**— How does this work present God? How does it help to understand God? How is it a “word from God”?
 - 3) **Practical/Ethical Questions**— What is some “news you can use”? What help does this work offer for the living of life? What did this work offer that was interesting, surprising, new, significant, and challenging?
7. **Genesis: Ancestral History of Israel**
The Family of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Joseph Stories
 NOAB, “*Genesis 12-50*,” 1, 14-66.
 8. ****EXAM 1 ** (Tuesday, September 20, 2011)**
 9. **The Story of the Exodus**
Out of Egypt
 NOAB, “*Exodus 1-18*,” 67-91.
 10. **The Story of the Exodus—cont.**
Covenant with Yahweh
 NOAB, “*Exodus 19-40*,” 91-121.
 11. **Divine Expectations: The Remainder of the Pentateuch**
Leviticus: A Rule Book for Life
 NOAB, “*Leviticus 1-27*,” 122-159 *passim*
Numbers: Wilderness Wandering
 NOAB, “*Numbers 1-36*,” 160-213 *passim*
Deuteronomy: Moses’ Farewell
 NOAB, “*Deuteronomy 1-34*,” 214-262 *passim*
 12. **Conquest of the Land**
Joshua: Holy War
 NOAB, “*Joshua 1-24*,” 263-292 *passim*
Judges: The Tribal League
 NOAB, “*Judges 1-21*,” 293-324 *passim*
 13. **1 Samuel: Beginning of the Monarchy**
 NOAB, “*1 Samuel 1-31*,” 330-373 *passim*

14. **2 Samuel: The Reign of David**
NOAB, "2 Samuel 1-24," 374-412 *passim*
15. ****EXAM 2** (Tuesday, October 18, 2011)**
16. **1 Kings: Succession of Solomon**
NOAB, "1 Kings 1-11," 413-434
17. **Division into Two Kingdoms**
NOAB, "1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17," 434-480 *passim*
18. **The End of the Monarchy**
NOAB, "2 Kings 18-25," 481-494 *passim*
NOAB, "The Lamentations 1-5," 991-999
19. **The Rise of the Prophets– Prophetic Voices of Israel**
NOAB, "Amos 1-9," 1107-1117
NOAB, "Hosea 1-14," 1088-1100
20. **The Rise of the Prophets– Prophetic Voices of Judah**
NOAB, "Micah 1-7," 1123-1131
NOAB, "Isaiah 1-39," 822-869 *passim*
21. **Prophetic Voices of Exile**
NOAB, "Jeremiah 1-52," 908-990 *passim*
NOAB, "Ezekiel 1-48," 1000-1066 *passim*
NOAB, "Zephaniah 1-3," 1140-1144
NOAB, "Nahum 1-3," 1132-1135
NOAB, "Habakkuk 1-3," 1136-1139
22. ****EXAM 3** (Tuesday, November 8, 2010)**
23. **Prophetic Voices After the Exile**
NOAB, "Isaiah 40-66," 869-907 *passim*
NOAB, "Obadiah," 1118-1119
NOAB, "Joel 1-3," 1101-1106
NOAB, "Haggai 1-2," 1145-1147
NOAB, "Zechariah 1-14," 1148-1159
NOAB, "Malachi 1-4," 1160-1163
24. **Histories and Viewpoints After the Exile**
NOAB, "1 Chronicles 1–2 Chronicles 36," 495-572 *passim*
NOAB, "Ezra 1-10," 573-585
NOAB, "Nehemiah 1-13," 586-602
NOAB, "Esther 1-10," 603-612
NOAB, "Ruth 1-4," 325-329
NOAB, "Jonah 1-4," 1120-1122

- 25. Poetry and Wisdom Literature**
NOAB, “*Job 1-42*,” 613-655 *passim*
NOAB, “*Proverbs 1-31*,” 769-804 *passim*
NOAB, “*Ecclesiastes 1-12*,” 805-814
- 26. Writings of Israel**
Israel’s Worship
NOAB, “*Psalms 1-150*,” 656-768 *passim*
Songs of Love
NOAB, “*Song of Solomon 1-8*,” 815-821
Times of Challenge and Persecution
NOAB, “*Daniel 1-12*,” 1067-1087
- 27. Story and Faith, Faith and Story**
Genesis 1-11: The Primeval Prologue
NOAB, “*Genesis 1-11*,” 1-14
- 28. Story and Faith, Faith and Story–cont.**
Genesis 1-11: The Primeval Prologue
NOAB, “*Genesis 1-11*,” 1-14
- 29. Summation and Review**
- 29. FINAL EXAM– Saturday, December 10, 2011– 8-10 AM**