

**Summer 2008**

**BIBL111 – The Old Testament**

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**Course Description** “A survey of the Old Testament in its Ancient Near Eastern contexts and as interpreted by modern scholarship, the synagogue, and the church. The transmission of the writings and major literary, theological, and ethical themes are explored in support of a holistic approach to the study of Scripture” (Malone College Catalog)

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**Required Texts** 1) A Bible of your choice of translation that must include the Old Testament of course (Genesis to Malachi).

2) "Encountering the Old Testament" by Bill Arnold and Bryan Beyer, published by Baker Books (there should be sufficient copies in the Malone College bookstore).

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**Course Objectives** A. To help students see the Old Testament as an important and complex anthology worthy of their most serious attention.

B. To help students gain the basic working knowledge required to responsibly understand and interpret this anthology, including:

1. An introductory knowledge of the history, religion, politics and geography of the Ancient Near East

2. An introductory knowledge of the history of the text itself, including its process of formation, collection and transmission

3. An introductory knowledge of the literary content and theological ideas of the old Testament

4. A sensitivity to the variety of biblical literary genres and forms

5. An introductory knowledge of pre-modern, modern and post-modern modes of biblical interpretation

6. An understanding of the theological significance of the old Testament to ancient Jews, to the first Christians and to Christians and Jews today

C. To help students to grow in their oral presentation skills and in their ability to state and defend their views.

D. To help students learn to read carefully, ask good questions and respond critically to the assertions of others.

E. To familiarize students with the tools of scholarly research in biblical studies and to encourage them to take the scholarly endeavors of themselves and others seriously.

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**Course Syllabus** You will note that you have five weeks (approximately) to complete the five units which make up the course. This means that you should complete one unit per week with each Friday at midnight being the deadline for that week's assignment.

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**Course Requirements** This course is designed to cover the same amount of material that would normally be covered in a semester course. This means that you will need to set aside an average of three or more hours per day to keep up with the work load. The requirements are as follows:

**1. Weekly Reading Assignments and Questions** Each week there will be required reading and questions that must be answered from your textbook and Bible reading. These will be found under the Assignments section for each week. There is a Dropbox for each week in each week's Assignment section. You can put the answers to the questions in this Dropbox until midnight Friday of that week. After that time, the Dropbox will be closed. (It may be easier to complete these questions in a word processor and then past them into the Dropbox.) This will make up 20% of your course grade.

**2. Weekly Threaded Discussions** Each week you must participate in meaningful discussion with other students. You can find the questions for the week and participate by entering the "Discussion" section under each week. You must give your own response to the questions and respond meaningfully to at least two other students. Once in the discussion area, you may enter the discussion through the "Respond" button. Discussion participation will make up 20% of your grade.

**3. Bible Study Project** Each student will be required to submit a project stating the particular theology of an Old Testament individual. This will include explaining his/her basic understanding of God, how God relates to individuals, shortcomings of the individual's theology, and personal application - what I learned about God through the life of \_\_\_\_\_. This individual does not necessarily have to be a good example i.e. what was Pharaoh's theology? The scope will be related to the particular individual chosen. Project grade will reflect the completeness and complexity of the study. This project should be 6-8 pages double spaced in length and can be in standard paper format or in a more creative format with grids or charts etc. with a summary at the end. The major consideration will be placed upon your understanding of this individual and how he/she views God. This project will count for 20% of the class grade and is **due by Friday of week 4 at midnight**. Please post to the project dropbox under week 4.

**4. Mid-Term Exam** A mid-term will be given covering the information from the first half of the course (through Esther). The exam will be timed and you will not be permitted to use any your notes or other materials (Remember Malone's academic honesty policy). **Your midterm will be due by Friday June 27th at midnight**.

**5. Final Exam** A final exam will be given during the last week of class. The exam will be timed and you will not be permitted to use any of your notes or materials (remember the academic honesty policy). The exam will be comprehensive and of a general nature. It will

count for 20% of your grade and must be completed by **Friday, July 11th at midnight.**

**Grading  
Policies**

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Your final grade will be based on total accumulated points. This grade comes from:

1. Study Questions 20%
2. Participation in Threaded Discussions 20%
3. Bible Study Project 20%
4. Mid Term Exam 20%
5. Final Exam 20%

The grading scale by percentage is as follows:

A 94-100	A- 90-93	
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 65-66	D- 60-63
F below 60		