Reinhardt University
1883

COURSE SYLLABUS
REL 204: SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

INSTRUCTOR: **Rev. Jordan Thrasher**

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COURSE SCHEDULE:
Spring Semester / Session 2: March 11, 2019 – May 5, 2019.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A panoramic view of the content, main characteristics and messages(s) of the books of the Old Testament in the light of their social context and as literary expressions of the faith, life and history of Ancient Israel.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

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

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO):

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Define the nature, scope, and purpose of the Old Testament (SLO 1)

- Discuss the significant impact the Old Testament has had in Judaism, Christianity and Western society (SLO 2)

- Provide a brief explanation of the origin and formation of the Old Testament (SLO 3)

- Draw a picture of the socio-cultural background of the OT (i.e., The Ancient Near East) (SLO 4)

- Identify some of the main historical, literary, theological, and socio-cultural features of the Old Testament (SLO 5)

- Elaborate a profile of the faith and religion of Ancient Israel (SLO 6)

- Describe the plot of the Old Testament and identify some its main theological themes (SLO 7)

- Summarize the basic message of some of the books of the Old Testament (SLO 8)

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CREDIT HOUR STATEMENT

Courses offered in an 8-week session are twice as intensive as those held during a traditional full semester. Each week students should expect to spend 14 hours interacting with course content through a combination of direct instruction and out of class student work. Examples of direct instruction may include viewing or reading course lectures, engaging in class forum discussions with the course instructor and other students, viewing or reading supplementary online content required by the instructor, completing course quizzes and/or examinations, and reading instructor announcements related to course material and instructor feedback on assignments. Examples of out of class student work may include reading the assigned course textbook, doing independent library research, completing essay assignments, developing more extensive research papers, and studying in preparation for exams and quizzes.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All assignments must be completed by the learner. Learners are expected to read and adhere to the Academic Integrity section of Reinhardt University's Academic Catalog. Cases of academic dishonesty may result in expulsion from the University, a failing grade for the course, or a failing grade for the assignment.

The following are recognized as unacceptable forms of academic behavior at Reinhardt University:

1. Plagiarizing, that is presenting words or ideas not your own as if they were your own. The words of others must be enclosed in quotation marks and documented. The source of the distinctive ideas must also be acknowledged through appropriate documentation. (NOTE: Strictly adhere to APA citation and referencing guidelines to avoid this).
2. Submitting a paper written by another student or another person as if it were your own.
3. Submitting a paper containing sentences, paragraphs, or sections lifted from another student's work or other publication; there must be written documentation.

4. Submitting a paper written by you for another course or occasion without the explicit knowledge and consent of the instructor.
5. Fabricating evidence or statistics that supposedly represent your original research.
6. Cheating of any sort on tests, papers, projects, reports, etc.
7. Using the internet inappropriately as a resource. See 3 above.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS:

Knowledge of the material presented in this course will be evaluated based on the satisfactory completion of all coursework. Methods of instruction and learning include unit reading assignments, video lectures, discussion postings, individual research, and essay assignments. Learners are expected to complete all unit activities during the week they are assigned and in the manner prescribed.

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to complete the assigned textbook readings for each unit prior to participating in discussions. **(SLO 1,3,4 and 5)**

Video Lectures: Students are expected to view all assigned video lectures for each unit prior to participating in discussions. **(SLO 1,3,4,5, and 7)**

Unit Discussion Posts: Each unit discussion posting must contain a minimum of a 200 word initial response. The deadline for postings shall be published in Unit Academic Requirement Announcements and within Unit Academic Requirement Announcements. Students will be penalized 10 points for each day he/she is late on an initial posting. Initial postings will not be accepted after 11:59 PM on Friday of the assigned week. Initial postings must cite material from the course textbook and one outside scholarly source in accordance with APA guidelines.

Students must reply to a minimum of TWO DIFFERENT students in the class with a minimum of a 75 word response. Exceeding the minimum response requirement can result in additional discussion post scoring credit. The responses must be substantive in nature by adding additional knowledge to the conversation. Learners must support their responses with material cited from the course textbook or an outside scholarly source in accordance with APA guidelines.

All postings and replies must adhere to APA 6th Edition guidelines regarding citations and referencing.   Learners must also employ

proper grammar, punctuation, and correct spelling.   Unit discussion posts will be averaged together and will account for 30% of the final course grade. **(SLO 5,6, and 8)**

Complete Assignments: Unit complete assignments often have more than one part. Be sure to answer each part of each question. Learners must adhere to the minimum word count specified for each assignment. Assignments must adhere to the citation and referencing guidelines contained in the 6th Edition APA Manual. Learners must also employ proper grammar, punctuation, and correct spelling in all submissions.   Unit assignments will be averaged together and will account for 40% of the final course grade. <u>The deadline for postings shall be published in Unit Academic Requirement Announcements.</u> **(SLO 5,6,7, and 8)**

Course Paper: A final paper will be required for this course. The paper is due on or before 11:59 PM (EST) on April 30th. The paper will account for 30% of the final course grade. Details for this paper are at the end of the syllabus. **(SLO 1,2,4,7, and 8)**

EVALUATION & GRADING:

The following grading scale will be utilized in the determination of the student's course grade:

Percentage of Points Earned | Corresponding Letter Grade
90 to 100%   A
80 to 89%   B
70 to 79%   C   *grade of C or higher required*
60 to 69%   D
0 to 59%   F

FINAL AVERAGE BREAKDOWN:
Unit Discussion Posts (Participation)   30%
Unit Assignments (Complete)   40%
Course Paper   30%

PROJECTED LEARNING SCHEDULE:
UNIT #1 (2 Weeks) March 11th-March 24th

Chapter 1: The Book and Those Who Study It

Chapter 2: The Geographical and Historical Settings for the Old Testament Prior to 1200 B.C.E.

Chapter 3: Israel Looks at the Beginnings

UNIT #2 (2 Weeks) March 25th– April 7th

• *Chapter 4: Israel Becomes a People: Exodus and Wilderness*

• *Chapter 5: Israel Gains a Home: Joshua and Judges*

• *Chapter 6: The Beginning of the Monarchy: Samuel, Saul, and David*

UNIT # 3 (2 Weeks) April 8th- April 21st

• *Chapter 7: The Division of the Monarchy I: The Reign of Solomon and the Story of the Northern Kingdom*

• *Chapter 8: The Division of the Monarchy II: The Reign of Solomon and the Story of the Southern Kingdom*

• *Chapter 9: The Exile and Restoration: Redefining Israel*

UNIT #4 (1 Week) April 22nd – April 28th

• *Chapter 10: The Prophetic Literature I: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature and the Book of Isaiah*

• *Chapter 11: The Prophetic Literature II: The Scrolls of Jeremiah and Ezekiel*

• *Chapter 12: The Prophetic Literature III: The Book of the Twelve and the Continuation of the Prophetic Tradition*

UNIT #5 (1 Week) April 29th – May 5th

• *Chapter 13: A Legacy of Israel: Wisdom Literature and Psalms*

• *Chapter 14: The Time of Silence: Judah in Eclipse*

• *Chapter 15: Epilogue: The Continuing Story*

ONLINE ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

Students are accountable for all required work in each of their courses. They must assume full responsibility for class attendance in a way satisfactory to the instructor and for work missed because of absence. Since class sessions function not merely for individual learning but also for group interaction, absences can become a serious problem both for the individual and for the group.

Online courses are delivered over a period of eight weeks with activities and assignments specified for each week. An online week is defined as being Monday 12:00 AM (EST) through Sunday at 11:59 PM (EST). Deadlines for attendance are based on Eastern Standard Time.

A student will be considered in attendance for a given week of online instruction if he or she participates in the course. Participation is defined as posting a response to a discussion assignment or submitting a completed course room activity/assignment during the online week prior to Sunday at 11:59 PM (EST).

Initial Course Participation
A student who fails to participate during the first 8 calendar days of a course shall be administratively withdrawn from the course.

Ongoing Course Participation

Ongoing course participation is satisfied through the continued completion of course room activities, such as written assignments, quizzes, or discussion question responses. Students who do not participate in a course for 7 or more consecutive days are not satisfying ongoing course participation.

Students who are not satisfying the ongoing course participation requirement shall be notified by a University representative via University email. The learner must resume participation in the course within 3 calendar days following the sending of the notification.

Students who do not resume participation in the course will be administratively withdrawn from the course and be issued a grade of "W" or "F".

A grade of "W' will be issued if an administrative or voluntary withdrawal occurs before 11:59 PM on Monday of the fifth week of the course.

A grade of "F" will be issued if an administrative or voluntary withdrawal occurs after 11:59 PM on Monday of the fifth week of the course.

Students may be impacted academically and financially in the case of voluntary and administrative withdrawals. It is the student's responsibility to understand these implications.

Online Academic Support Services

 Reinhardt University offers academic support services for online students through BrainFuse HelpNow. Services include access to live tutors, writing lab assistance, and study center resources. These resources are offered at no additional charge and are available on demand at: http://www.brainfuse.com/highed/helpNow.asp?a_id=68F429E2&ss=&r=

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:
Reinhardt University does not discriminate in any of its policies, programs, or activities on the basis of race, color, age, culture, national origin, socioeconomic status, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, physical (dis)ability or genetic information.

COURSE PAPER INFORMATION

Purpose of the Project:

Research is an integral part of the collegiate educational experience. The educational experience should be more than just memorizing facts and figures. Rather, the student should learn to analyze information and apply concepts to broader issues.

Paper Topic:

The Prophets are huge figures and main characters all throughout the Old Testament. As you have learned in this course, not all prophets are the same. Choose both a centrally located, and peripherally located prophet for your paper.

- Describe their historical context, and highlight their locations and if they overlap using both biblical and extra biblical resources.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the title, "prophet," and how your examples exemplify the role in the Old Testament.
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 Use at least five sources, and a minimum of 2000 words,

The paper is due no later than **Tuesday April 30th at 11:59 PM (EST)**. **Upload your completed paper to the Unit #5 Dropbox.**

Specific Requirements

- Must adhere to APA 6th Edition format

- Must have a minimum of 5 acceptable scholarly references listed on the reference page and cited in the body of the work. You are highly encouraged to exceed the minimum reference count.

- Must be a minimum of 2,000 words excluding cover page and reference page…this does not mean 5 pages and a paragraph or two.

- Must have a title page that conforms to APA format. An abstract is not required.

- Must have a reference page that conforms to APA format/

- Students may use the course text as a source, but make sure your other sources fit the category of being scholarly in nature. Wikipedia or general websites are not scholarly. Students should seek guidance from the instructor if in doubt about the acceptability of a source.

- Double spacing is required between sentences and paragraphs per APA guidelines.

- Use Times New Roman 12 font when preparing the paper.

- Must demonstrate the ability to utilize short quotes, and summary/paraphrase in proper APA format.

- **Plagiarism will not be tolerated…your paper must properly document all ideas and information not your own.   Plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for this course. Other sanctions may be imposed based on University policy. See your syllabus and the University's Academic Catalog for additional information.**

- Do not attempt to copy and paste from research papers or essays available online. The instructor will diligently check all papers for plagiarism.

- Use of proper grammar, correct spelling, and writing principles are expected in all work. Full credit will not be granted for work that contains grammatical or spelling errors. In the event a student does not feel competent in this area he/she should discuss the matter with the instructor.

Tips for Success:

- Save citations and references sources from discussion posts and completes…students may be able to use these in the paper and it saves time!

- Start work on your project now…do not procrastinate…it will be due before you realize it and you'll stress yourself out if you wait to start the week the paper is due.

- Have your paper proofed before submission by the Brainfuse Writing Lab. We all make mistakes and it is best to have another set of eyes look the product over.

- Exceed the minimum requirements…don't just do enough to get by…seek to stand above the rest by exceeding and surpassing expectations.

- Study APA formatting and seek help from the instructor.

APA RESOURCES:

The sites listed below provide guidance on APA format and how to cite and document various types of sources. APA resources are also available in your Eagle Web courseroom.

- The OWL at Purdue is my favorite at:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

- Bethel University APA Student Guide: http://bethelu.libguides.com/content.php?pid=268177&sid=2213129

- Here is a free reference maker that you can use, but bear in mind it is limited in capabilities. Click on Noodle Tools Express for the free version: http://www.noodletools.com