



THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

## **Education & Clergy Development**

**Course: Introduction to Old Testament**

**January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2018**

**6:00 pm- 10:00 pm EST Via ZOOM Online**

Professor: Rev. Karen Tucker, M.Div., M.A.P.C.

Email: karen.tucker@asburyseminary.edu

Phone: 585-590-2948 (call/text)

Mailing Address: 12540 Platten Road; Lyndonville, NY 14098

### **Syllabus Overview**

What you will find in this syllabus

- Course Description
- Course Objectives
- Course Outline
- Required Textbooks
- Pre-Course Assignments
- Live Class Information
- Post-Course Assignments
- Grade Information
- Policies & Requirements
  - Attendance
  - Grading Scale
  - Books
  - Due Dates
  - Extensions
  - Papers
  - Ordination Deadline
  - Plagiarism
- Bibliography
- Other Course Documents

### **Course Description**

Old Testament Survey will provide an overview of the entire Old Testament, including the sections of: Pentateuch, History, Prophets, Wisdom Literature and Apocalyptic.

Each student will be introduced to rudimentary techniques of interpretation (hermeneutics) and become acquainted with the complex literary history of the Old Testament, as well as some of the historical, sociological and philosophical/theological concerns of the time period.

### **Objectives:**

1. To better understand the sacred Scriptures of the Christian faith, and through them to be encouraged to a lifelong pursuit of the God who inspired them.
2. To have a better knowledge of how to interpret Scripture, along with the tools of study.
3. To recognize different biblical genres and the appropriate hermeneutical approach to each.
4. To have a basic grasp of the history of Israel, and where the books of the prophets and wisdom literature fit into that history.
5. To have an introductory understanding of key themes of biblical theology as they are developed through time, through different authors and in different genres in the Old Testament.
6. To be able to identify the main themes, persons and/or issues in each book of the Bible that is studied (detail may vary).
7. Through introduction to historical-cultural analysis, to see how the God's Word was adapted to the needs of prior cultural situations, and thereby ponder its significance for new situations.
8. To reflect on how the study of Scripture relates to personal values and the values of contemporary society.

### **Course Outline:**

Week 1-Introduction. Genesis

Week 2-Rest of the Pentateuch

Week 3-History through King David

Week 4-Remainder of Old Testament History

Week 5-Prophets

Week 6-Remainder of Old Testament, including Wisdom and Apocalyptic Literature

### **Required Textbooks**

Students are responsible for ordering their textbooks and may choose where to purchase them. Some students purchase their textbooks from Wesleyan Publishing House at [www.wphonline.com](http://www.wphonline.com) (as available) and from Amazon.com.

Arnold, Bill T. & Beyer, Bryan E. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Bible. Find a version you enjoy. But don't use a paraphrase. (NRSV, NLT, NIV, NASB, ESV, NKJV are great options.)

A Bible app or cds are optional. We will read a lot of Scripture. Some students find it easier to listen rather than read. Some like to do some of each.

## Pre-Course Assignments

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.
2. Read/listen to the entire book of Genesis
3. Complete the first page of the journal. (Instructions below under Journals.)
4. Answer the following questions in at least 500 words:

A What do you think is the message that the author wants to communicate to readers through this story? [Hint: There may be more than one message.] What themes are prominent?

B How do you know what it is that the Author wants us to know? (In other words, how do you as a reader know that the author is communicating a particular point to you? What is it in the story that gets that message across.

C Insights and questions must be substantive, meaningful, and connected to the text of Scripture itself. I don't want you to use other resources. What does the book of Genesis itself say to you? Generic thoughts about spirituality, loving people, being a good example, liking the Bible, etc. are not acceptable and will not count as substantial work.

5. Read Chapters 1-5 in the textbook to prepare for participation in class discussion.
6. Feel free to contact me before class if you have questions or concerns.

## Live Class

Students are required to attend all Zoom class sessions.

Each week's homework will include:

- a. Taking a quiz over the previous week's reading and class. You will receive study sheets on exactly what you need to know. (1 hr)
- b. Reading/listening to the next section of Scripture and writing the journal page. (3.5 hrs)
- c. Reading the next section of the textbook (1.5-2 hrs)
- d. Completing a 1000-word assignment (3-4 hrs)

Times are approximate. Students read and write at different speeds.

## Quizzes

Quizzes will be over **basic** information every pastor benefits from having in his/her knowledge base. For example, Genesis 1-2 is the story of creation. Genesis 3 is the Fall. Genesis also

contains the stories of Noah, Tower of Babel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. By knowing these facts, one saves time in sermon prep/teaching and can more easily answer questions people in the church might have. Once again, study sheets will be provided for the quizzes.

### **Journals**

A journal of the Bible reading assignments will be kept over the weeks of this course. The purpose is to encourage each of you to become familiar with the method and theological importance of Bible study, as opposed to simply reading for information. The journal will be about six pages long, one page before each of six weeks.

At the top of each page, please state “I have/have not” read all the Scripture passages for that week. If you have not read some of them, please state which ones have not been read. Then give a *double-spaced page* of reflections. (One page will be due each week for six pages total.) You are welcome to write more than one page, but not less.

For reflections, *ask questions such as*: Do I believe this? What is God like? What of my own life’s story do I read in these biblical stories? Does this matter?

Perhaps the Bible will raise more questions than it answers for you. These reflections will become an on-going part of the study of Scripture and hopefully be beneficial to your own experience. The goal is to encourage personal spiritual growth and sermon/teaching ideas.

The mechanics of this assignment are NOT meant to be an over-bearing aspect of the course. Complete sentences are not even required, although I must be able to comprehend what you have written. *You will be graded on how much of the required Scripture you say you have read and on how much of the page you fill with reflections. You will **not** be graded on the reflections themselves.*

### **Textbook Reading**

The textbook contains detailed information about the Old Testament. You will not need to know all the details for quizzes. However, being familiar with the details (and where to find them in the future) will help in class discussions and in future preaching and teaching. As pastors, we should obviously know as much, or preferably more, as our people about the Bible.

### **Research Assignments**

Research papers will focus on a section in a biblical text, call for detailed observation and use of online Bible study tools. Each assignment comes with precise step-by-step guidelines. Please feel free to ask for assistance if you struggle with an assignment. You will not be bothering me, and I will be happy to explain. Also, you are welcome, but not required, to contact your classmates and form study groups.

### **Participation**

Each Zoom session will include a discussion(s), requiring that you have completed your assigned Bible and textbook readings.

### **Post Course Assignments**

The post-course assignments are:

- a. Final Quiz over the last week's work
- b. Final Assignment

### **ALL POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE [Feb 12]**

### **Grades**

Bible reading and Journal -20%

Participation – 15%

Assignments – 40%

Quizzes – 25%

### **Policies & Requirements**

#### **Attendance**

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% (16 hours) of the minimum required seat time (20 hours) will result in automatic failure of the course. Any and all absences within that 20% window must be approved by the professor prior to the course in writing (e.g. email). Do not ask for permission to be excused during the class or after the absence has already occurred.

#### **Grading Scale**

A	91-100
B	81-90
C	71-80
D	61-70
F	60 or below

Students must get a "C" or above to pass the course and receive credit for ordination.

#### **Books**

Students are encouraged to purchase their books through Wesleyan Publishing House. Often, discounts are available.

Available from Wesleyan Publishing House by calling 800-493-7539 or online at

[www.wphonline.com](http://www.wphonline.com).

#### **Due Date**

All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus or verbally communicated by the instructor. Professors are required to submit grades to Education and Clergy Development at a maximum of 4 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments may not be submitted to the

professor any later than 2 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments not submitted by the due date will result in an automatic “0” for the assignment.

### **Extensions**

Extensions may be (but are not guaranteed) granted for sickness, serious injury, or death in the student’s immediate family or for similar extenuating circumstances. *When in doubt, please contact the professor.* Also, no assigned work will be accepted after the final due date, unless an extension has been granted in writing (e.g. email) from the professor. Communication is the key! Professors may reduce a student’s grade by 20% for each week past the due date (even in the event of approved extensions). Education and Clergy Development reserves the right to refuse extension and override the professor as it deems necessary.

### **Papers**

All written papers must be typed. Papers should be double spaced on 8.5x11 paper using 12 point font in a normal, easy to read type style (Arial, Cambria, Times New Roman, etc.). Margins should be 1” on all sides. Each paper should include at least: student’s full name, course title, and date. It is advisable to include your name on each page of the paper.

### **Ordination Deadline**

If the student is a candidate for ordination in a given year, coursework must be completed as follows: the final grade submission deadline (12 weeks after the last day of class) must be at least 40 days before the student’s district conference. Professors are not required to fulfill any requests for grade submission prior to this deadline.

### **Plagiarism**

Ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty. As such, students in our ministerial training courses are required to adhere to strict academic guidelines.

The following is borrowed from a college catalog.

Plagiarism — This is defined as offering the work of another as one’s own. It is an attempt to deceive by implying that one has done work that was actually done by another. Faculty and students are honor bound to show that ideas and words match with the sources used and thus demonstrate that honest research has been done. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Copying all or part of a theme, examination, paper, library reading report, or other written work from another person’s production
2. Submitting as one’s own work that which was wholly or partially done by another so as to appear to one’s professor to be more accurate or skilled in one’s work than one actually is
3. Quoting material from any source without proper documentation
4. Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without proper documentation
5. Misrepresentation of documentation or resources

6. Using in collateral reports or book reviews the opinion of a professional literary critic or of a campus friend as though it were one's own original thought
7. Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor

Cheating — Examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Use of unauthorized prepared materials (cheat sheets) for answering test questions
2. Giving aid to another student during a test or quiz
3. Gaining answers to test questions from others during testing periods
4. Signing another person's name to the attendance record
5. Claiming to have done laboratory work or outside reading that was not done
6. Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the professors involved

Education and Clergy Development policy for all students receiving credit through non-accredited ministry training programs (e.g. FLAME, FLAMA, Correspondence Courses, Cross Training, District Extension Classes, Equipping for Ministry, etc.):

- 1) Any instance of plagiarism (whether intentional or not) will result in an automatic "F" for the particular assignment and may also result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 2) A repeat offense will result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 3) A third offense will result in an automatic withdrawal from a credentialing track in The Wesleyan Church.

### **Bibliography**

**Bible Study Tools.** An online repository of time-proven and trusted reference tools for use in Bible study: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/library/>

**Commentaries.** A hyperlink page to 18 respected commentaries: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/>

**Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of the Bible (BEDB).** "One of the most useful and practical theological reference books in print. With bibliographies for most entries, further study is quite practical. Combined with the power of the Online Study Bible verse search readers can locate theological concepts related to the scripture they are studying." <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/>

**International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE).** "An exhaustive Biblical encyclopedia that details every significant word in the Bible. Contains articles by nearly 200 scholars about every aspect of the culture, language, people, and literature of the Bible." <http://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/>

**Compact Oxford English Dictionary (COED).** Provides definitions for most English words. [http://www.askoxford.com/dictionaries/compact\\_oed/?view=uk](http://www.askoxford.com/dictionaries/compact_oed/?view=uk)

**Encyclopedia.com (EC).** – Allows you to search over 100 encyclopedias and dictionaries. <http://www.encyclopedia.com>

**Oxford Biblical Studies (OBS).** “Provides a comprehensive resource for the study of the Bible and biblical history. The integration of authoritative scholarly texts and reference works with tools that provide ease of research into the background, context, and issues related to the Bible make *Oxford Biblical Studies Online* a valuable resource not only for college students, scholars, and clergy, but also anyone in need of an authoritative, ecumenical, and up-to-date resource.” [www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com](http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com)