Syllabus

**Telling the Old Testament Story of God**

**Fall 2024**

**West Virginia South District Center for Ministry Formation:**

**Location of the Course: Hurricane First Church of the Nazarene**

**Course Dates: October 24 to November21, 2024**

**Name of the Instructor: Rev. Dr. Paul Whiteford**

**Instructor’s Contact Information:** [**dr.p.whiteford@gmail.com**](mailto:dr.p.whiteford@gmail.com)

**Phone: 937.243.2627.**

**Rationale**

This module serves as a foundational module for further biblical studies. It constitutes an introduction to the Old Testament. Consequently, no other modules are necessarily prerequisite for this module. This module, however, should be considered as a prerequisite to other modules which focus on further studies in any portion of the Old Testament.

*Program Outcomes*

The following ability statements, central to this module, identify the ministerial competencies that the student should achieve upon the completion of the module.

* Ability to identify the main story line of the OT with the events and characters involved.
* Ability to identify the books of the OT by genre.
* Ability to identify the basic thrust of each major section of the OT in its historical context.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

The following are competencies for ministry as required by the Ordination Course of Study that the student will achieve by completing this course. Below each competency are listed specific abilities for the course, which correspond with each competency. It must be recognized that the listed abilities below each competency do not necessarily comprehend the entire range of the competency addressed in the lessons.

**Required Textbook:**

1. Varughese, Alex (ed.). *Discovering the Bible: Story and Faith of the Biblical Communities.* Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2006.
2. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha in the New Revised Standard Version* (Oxford Press). Alternatives may be approved upon request, but options are limited to major translations and *The New Interpreter’s Study Bible* (Abingdon Press); or the *New International Version Study Bible* (Zondervan Press). The New Oxford Bible is the preferred text for this class.

**Recommended Reading**: See Instructor

**Course Requirements**

1. **Class attendance, attention, and participation** are important for each student. Students are responsible for all assignments and in-class work even for sessions where they are absent. If one session is missed, the instructor will require additional assignments. If two or more lessons are missed, the student will be required to repeat the entire module later.
2. **Assignments:**
3. **Read assigned portions of the OT each week.**
4. **Read the Assigned portions of the text *Discovering the Bible*** covering the OT portion of the book.
5. **Read and outline OT books from each of these categories: The Torah, The Historical Books, The Wisdom literature, the Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets from this list of books of the OT: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Chronicles, Ruth, Nehemiah, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Job, Proverbs, Daniel, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Hosea, Malachi. This will be five total books to read and outline. Choose from five categories and from the list in this syllabus. Due November 22, 2024.**
6. **Complete the final evaluation which will be a 5-question open book and note exam on the contents of the class. This exam will be provided on the week preceding the last week of class and will be turned in upon arrival for the final class session, November 22, 2024**
7. **Three Bible memory quizzes. . And one class content quiz. There will also be a diagnostic quiz which will not be included in your final grade.**
8. **Journal with at least three entries per week ( no more than a page per entry) your experience of reading the OT assigned Bible reading and your experience of the of what you are learning in the course. “What is God saying to you?” or what questions do you have about what you are reading in the Bible or the textbook?**
9. **Additional minor homework assignments may be required during the course.**

**Meeting Schedule**

This class will be from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Thursday evenings from October 24- November 22 .

**Assignment Schedule:**

**October 24, 2024 Read text chaps 1-3**

**Read Psalm 119**

**October 31, 2024 Read Text chaps 4-6**

**Read Genesis 1-15**

**Quiz 1: Psalm 23**

**November 7, 2024 Read text chaps 7-10**

**Quiz 2: 10 Commandments**

**November 14, 2024 Read text chaps 11-15**

**Quiz 3 Class content ( OT genres, OT**

**Divisions (3).**

**Quiz 4 : Shema-Deut. 6:4-5**

**November 21, 2024 Read text chapter 16-17**

**5 OT Book Outlines due**

**Quiz 3 Shema Deut. 6:4-5**

**5 Question Final eval due**

**Grading Criteria**

* **Attendance and Participation in Discussion 100 points**
* **Four Quizzes 100 points**
* **Five Question Final Evaluation (0pen book) 100 points**
* **Five outlines of OT Books 100 points**

**Pass 280 points**

**Pass with Distinction 370 points**

## Bibliography

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