

**SOUTH FLORIDA BIBLE COLLEGE
AND
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**BBL 110 OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL BACKGROUNDS
COURSE SYLLABUS**

1. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION: A survey focusing on the historical and archaeological backgrounds of the Old Testament. Included will be an exploration of recent archaeological methods and discoveries and how they have illuminated our understanding of the Bible and enriched our Christian heritage and faith.

A. PREREQUISITE(S):

NONE

B. CLASS HOURS:

Days: Mondays Time: 2:30 - 5:50 PM. Room: TBD

C. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor's Name: Dr. John Stevenson

Instructor's Email Address: JohnStevenson@Bellsouth.net

Instructor's Website: <http://JohnStevenson.net>

2. COURSE INFORMATION:

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give students a clear understanding of the historical, political, and cultural issues which affect the interpretation of the Old Testament.

B. COURSE CREDIT HOURS:

3 Semester Credit Hours

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C. WITHDRAWAL POLICY FOR THE COURSE:

SFBC&TS takes student withdrawals seriously. Students considering such actions should seek counsel from their advisors, and especially from God through prayer. Most adverse circumstances can be resolved. Students electing to withdraw must do so in writing. Contact the Registrar's Office to withdraw. (See details in the SFBC&TS catalog.)

D. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

This course is constructed on a lecture format. Students are expected to participate in class lectures, discussions, and in-class activities.

E. COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

The Archaeology of the Bible by James K. Hoffmeier
The Historical Books of the Old Testament: One God, One People, One Land by John Stevenson
The Holy Bible (NASB or NIV).

F. COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Upon the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Have a clear understanding of the historical, political, cultural and religious backgrounds of the Old Testament.
2. Interpret the Old Testament in light of its historical context.
3. Apply their knowledge of Old Testament backgrounds to their understanding of the text.

G. COURSE TOPICS:

1. WEEK 1: Introduction
 - a. Read Hoffmeier, Chapters 1-2, pg 11-32
2. WEEK 2: Origins and Pre-history
 - a. Read *The Promise of a Seed* --
<http://www.angelfire.com/nt/theology/gn03-15.html>

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3. WEEK 3: Early Mesopotamia and the Patriarchs
 - a. *Read Hoffmeier, Chapter 3, pg 33-48*
 - b. *Turn in Quiz #1*

4. WEEK 4: Egypt.
 - a. *Read Hoffmeier, Chapter 4, pg 49-63*
 - b. *Turn in Quiz #2*

5. WEEK 5: Joshua and Judges
 - a. *Read Hoffmeier, Chapter 5, pg 65-76*
 - b. *Read Stevenson, pg 54-110.*

6. WEEK 6: Rise of Saul
 - a. *Read Hoffmeier, Chapter 6, pg 77-86*
 - b. *Read Stevenson, pg 137-177*
 - c. *Turn in Quiz #3*

7. WEEK 7: David and Solomon
 - a. *Read Hoffmeier, Chapter 7, pg 87-98*
 - b. *Read Stevenson, pg 209-230*
 - c. *First Research Paper Due*

8. WEEK 8: Divided Kingdom
 - a. *Read Hoffmeier, Chapter 8, pg 99-114*
 - b. *Read Stevenson, pg 230-260*

9. WEEK 9: Mesopotamia.
 - a. *Read Stevenson, pg 261-271*

10. WEEK 10: Babylon and Exile
 - a. *Read Hoffmeier, Chapter 9, pg 115-123*
 - b. *Read Stevenson, pg 272-302*
 - c. *Turn in Quiz #4*

11. WEEK 11: The Persians.

12. WEEK 12: After the Exile
 - a. *Read Stevenson, pg 303-328*
 - b. *Second Research Paper due*

13. WEEK 13: Between the Testaments
 - a. *Turn in Quiz #5*
14. WEEK 14: Putting it all Together
15. WEEK 15: **Final Exam**

H. COURSE EXPECTATIONS & RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students are expected to perform all course requirements in a fashion that will honor the Lord. This will include the weekly homework, class participation, and assignments facilitated by the professor. All assignments shall be typed (double spaced) and prepared in a scholarly manner that befits this level of learning in a Christian college. Students are further expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in all areas of life in college.

Note: While class is in session, there will be no chewing of gum, no phone text messaging and cell phones will be on silence or vibrate.

I. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading: Students are expected to read the text for every class ahead of the class lectures. Students are to keep a precise record of all reading assignments completed on time (before class), and will be asked to provide a percentage of all reading completed on time for the semester (based on the honor system). Partial credit will be given for readings completed late.

Papers: Students are required to prepare two 5-7 page research papers on one of the following topics:

Amarna Tablets
Behistun Inscription
Beersheba Excavations
Caesarea Maritima
Canaanite Religion
Cherubim
Dead Sea Scrolls
Ebla Excavations

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Egypt - Israelite Presence in Egypt
Egypt - Merenptah Stele
Evolution of the Chariot
Gezer Excavations
Hazor Excavations
High Places
Hittite Treaty Documents
Jebusite Jerusalem Excavations
Jericho Excavations
Megiddo Excavations
Moabite Stone (Mesha Inscription)
Nineveh Excavations
Oded Golan and modern forgery controversies
Phoenician Exploration, Archaeological Evidence of
Ras-Shamra and Ugarit Tablets
Temples of Syria and Solomon's Temple Compared
Warren's Shaft (Jerusalem)

The paper should be 5-7 pages, typed in Time New Roman, 12 font. Pictures are welcome but should be considered as extra pages, not included in the 5-7 pages. All materials used in this project should be cited in Turabian foot note format.

40% of the course grade is based on completion of these two papers.

Class participation -means active participation in the discussions, group work, and assignments provided by the instructor during class; completing the homework and any other assignments are expected to be completed prior to entering the classroom unless otherwise stipulated. A substantial portion of student's grades is participation in class discussion. South Florida Bible College believes class interaction is necessary to enrich student education.

10% of the course grade is based on class participation and attendance.

The Final Exam will cover all material covered throughout the class; there will be no mid-term exam. 30% of the course grade is based on this exam.

* **Evaluation of Attendance and Class Participation:**

(i) **Attendance:**

Students need to inform the professor by email at least 12 hours prior to the class if they will be absent. Attendance will be taken at all class sessions. Prompt and consistent attendance is expected for all students enrolled at South Florida Bible College. All students should be ready to answer any questions based on readings and participate in class discussion. Failure to participate will affect 10% of the student's final grade.

A. **Unexcused Absence** - In determining a student's final course grade, the student's cumulative final score will be reduced for each unexcused absence. When a student has four (4) unexcused absences from any one course, it will result in automatic withdrawal from that course, which may result in failure of that course.

B. **Excused Absence** – To qualify as an “excused absence,” your absence must be approved by your instructor prior to the class. Excused absences are not cause for automatic withdrawal or reduction of final score; however, they may adversely impact overall performance.

C. **Tardiness** – Class will start promptly at the scheduled time. “Tardy” is defined as being at least fifteen (15) minutes late to class. Three (3) “tardies” will be counted as one (1) unexcused absence.

(ii) **Class participation:**

Class participation means active participation in the discussions, group work, and assignments provided by the instructor during class, completing the workbook and any other assignments are expected to be completed prior to entering the classroom unless otherwise stipulated. A substantial portion of student grades is participation in class discussion. South Florida Bible College believes class interaction is necessary to enrich student education.

J. GRADING SUMMARY:

1. Attendance and Participation 10%
2. Quizzes 20%
3. Research Papers 40%
4. Final 30%

3. SFBC&TS GENERAL POLICIES:

A. LATE ASSIGNMENTS & EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY:

There are **no make-up exams** except in extenuating circumstances and accommodations depend on the situation and are reviewed case by case by the academic committee in accordance with SFBC&TS policies and procedures.

Late assignments will not be accepted unless proper documentation is provided in a timely fashion.

B. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in SFBC&TS. Any student who commits an academic irregularity may receive a zero for the corresponding assignment and/or the overall course.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following actions:

1. Cheating on a exam
2. Plagiarism:
 - a. Collaborating with other students on an assignment; knowingly assisting another student whereby an assignment or course activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student whose name is stated in the work.
 - b. Submitting work previously used in another course, unless otherwise stated.

C. GRADING SYSTEM:

<u>Letter Grades:</u>	<u>Numeric:</u>
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

D. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

In case of unsafe weather or other emergencies, the College updates its recorded message. All students should call (954) 545-4500 or check with the South Florida Bible College and Theological Seminary website at <http://www.sfbc.edu/> to find any recorded and/or written instructions.

SFBC&TS Hurricane Plan

In case of severe weather or hurricane, the decision to close the College will be considered. The decision to close the College is not determined by the Broward County School System, so students should make that distinction when listening to media reports or closures. The President or Provost may close the College in advance of a hurricane warning depending on local conditions; however, classes will be canceled once a hurricane warning has been issued by the National Hurricane Center. Class cancellations and closures can occur independently of a college closure. Call the above number for details.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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