

Syllabus for Bible History – Old Testament Survey (2017-18) – High School

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Room: 4119

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Course Description: This is a “related arts” elective study of the Old Testament. This course consists of a general survey of the Old Testament in the Bible. This is not a religion course. The goal is NOT indoctrination with a particular theology or philosophy. Students will be given the opportunity to read and understand the text of the Old Testament as a whole. Students will also gain an understanding of how the Bible has influenced history, geography, literature, music, art, and culture.

Course Schedule: First Quarter

- Week 1 (AUG 10-11) *Course Introduction, Guidelines, and Expectations*
- 2 (AUG 14-18) **Unit 1: The Origin and Development of the Bible**
- 3 (AUG 21-25) **Unit 2: Origin and Development of the Old Testament and OTS Pre-Test**
- 4 (AUG 28-SEP 1) *Canonization, Languages, and Books of the Bible*
- 5 (SEP 5-8) **Unit 3: The Biblical Account of Early Civilization**
- 6 (SEP 11-15) *The Beginning of the Universe, Man, Civilizations, and Languages*
- 7 (SEP 18-22) **Unit 4: The Formation of the Ancient Nation of Israel**
- 8 (SEP 25-29) *Ancient Geography*
- 9 (OCT 2-5) *The Patriarchs*

Second Quarter

- 10 (OCT 16-20) **Unit 5: The Enslavement and Emancipation of the Hebrews**
- 11 (OCT 23-27) *Egyptian Culture*
- 12 (OCT 30-NOV 3) *Enslavement, Struggle for Freedom, and the Exodus*
- 13 (NOV 6-10) *The Life of Moses*
- 14 (NOV 13-17) **Unit 6: The Development of Early Hebrew Traditions**
- 15 (NOV 20-21) *The Decalogue and Civil Law*
- 16 (NOV 27-DEC 1) *The Tabernacle*
- 17 (DEC 4-8) *The Priesthood and Sacrificial System*
- 18 (DEC 11-15) *Special Days – The Feast Day of Observance*
- 19 (DEC 18-19) *Semester Wrap-up*

Third Quarter

- Week 1 (JAN 8-12) **Unit 7: The Conquest and the Judges – Joshua**
- 2 (JAN 16-19) *Canaan*
- 3 (JAN 22-26) *Judges and Ruth*
- 4 (JAN 29-FEB 2) **Unit 8: The United Kingdom – Samuel and Saul**
- 5 (FEB 5-9) *David*
- 6 (FEB 12-16) *Solomon*
- 7 (FEB 20-23) **Unit 9: The Poetry and Wisdom Literature - Job**
- 8 (FEB 26-MAR 2) *Psalms and Proverbs*
- 9 (MAR 5-9) *Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes*
- 10 (MAR 12-15) **Unit 10: The Divided Kingdom – History of Surrounding Nations**

Fourth Quarter

- 11 (MAR 19-23) *The Division of Kingdoms and Prophets of the Period*
- 12 (MAR 26-29) **Unit 11: The Captivity and Restoration of Israel**
- 13 (APR 9-13) *Captivity*
- 14 (APR 16-20) *Prophets of the Restoration*
- 15 (APR 23-27) **Unit 12: Old Testament Apocryphal Books – First Half Overview**
- 16 (APR 30-MAY 4) *Second Half Overview*
- 17 (MAY 7-11) **Unit 13: The Intertestamental Period**
- 18 (MAY 14-18) *Intertestamental Israel/Judaism and OTS Post-Test*
- 19 (MAY 21-25) *Course Wrap-up*

Course Goals:

- Read the entire Old Testament in the Bible
- Develop an understanding of the ancient nation of Israel
- Develop an understanding of historical context of the modern nation of Israel
- Develop an understanding of the historical context of the Old Testament
- Develop an understanding of the importance of the Bible as it relates to the world historically, geographically, sociologically, and culturally through music, art and literature

Norms for Bible History Courses:

1. In this class you are going to study the Bible academically, not devotionally. In other words you are going to be learning about the Bible and its role in ancient life, language, history, and culture.
2. You will be given awareness of religious content of the Bible – that is, aspects of ancient Israelite religion, Judaism, and first century Christianity – but you will not be pressed into accepting religion.
3. You will study about religion as presented in the Bible, but you will not be engaged in the practice of religion in any way as part of this class.
4. During this course, some students may ask questions about differing religious views, but the views will neither be encouraged nor discouraged.
5. You will never be asked to conform to any of the beliefs you encounter.
6. You are free to use the Bibles (English Standard Version) provided in class or bring your own Bible in any version/translation you choose.
7. You should know that **NO** taxpayer dollars were used to provide this class in your school.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	75-84
D	70-74
F	69 or below

Grading Policy: Homework, quizzes, classwork, or any other formative assessments given throughout the school year will be worth 50 percent of the student's grade. The other 50 percent will consist of summative assessments that may include tests, research papers, oral reports, or any other assignment assigned by the teacher.

Make-Up Work Policy: If you have an excused absence, you will have as many days to make up the work as you were out of school. Make up work as related to unexcused absences to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Late Work Policy: Work not turned in on time will be marked down 10 percent per day for (3) days, after which it will receive a zero.

Homework Policy: Homework will be limited and rare. Most assignments will be completed in the classroom. There may be exceptions – such as preparations for research papers, oral reports, and other various presentations.

IMPORTANT Classroom Details

Devices and Cell Phones: Your device is a useful tool. When essential for classroom use, the teacher will make it clearly known. Otherwise, your device is to be out of sight for you, classmates, and the teacher. When not in use for coursework, the device is to be on “Do Not Disturb” mode. This classroom is not a place for social media engagement, sending/receiving texts, or for any other recreational fancy of the technological sort.

Behavioral Expectations: There are five core areas to focus on in the classroom.

- Prompt – Always be on time; if you are not seated when the door shuts, you are tardy.
- Prepared – Come to class prepared with class notebook, pencil, and decent attitude.
- Polite – Respect yourself by respecting others.
- Participatory – Engage the class with your attention, comments, and collaboration.
- Personally Responsible – You are ultimately responsible for your life – behavior, effort, etc.

Bathroom Policy: Plan on using the restroom BEFORE class starts. If there is an emergency or documented need, exceptions can be made. During long class blocks, an entire class restroom break may be offered. Please, control yourself as you go to and return from the restroom. If the restroom break becomes a regularly scheduled opportunity for distracting this class or any others, restroom leniency will halt.

The Bible History Notebook: Each student should have 1” or 1.5” three-ring binder specifically for this class. Do **NOT** combine your Bible History coursework with another class’ coursework into a large 3-ring binder. Once again, *each student should have 1” or 1.5” three-ring binder specifically for this class.*

What should be included in my Bible History Notebook?

- Dividers with tabs
- (15) total – One for each of the thirteen units, one called “My Questions” and one called “Reflections”
- Notebook paper – minimum of (20) sheets

What else is required for success in this course?

- Good attitude
- Pencil – sharpened or loaded with lead
- An organized notebook – There will be notebook checks for a grade, and they will come unannounced.

Ukulele Policy: I like ukuleles. I hope you do (or will) too. There will be ukuleles in the classroom. There will be opportunities for you to play ukuleles in my classroom. This is one of perks of being in my classroom. Please, respect the ukuleles. You will know when it is time to play. You will know when it is time not to play. There is a time and place for everything.

Final Thoughts: I look forward to meeting you, getting to know you, and sharing our time together!

Covenant: By signing below, you acknowledge and bind yourself to the above-mentioned agreement.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____