

Introduction to the Old Testament

Orientation conference call: Thursday Jan. 16 at 6:30 PM Central Time

Orientation week: Jan. 13-16, 2025

Class Sessions Jan. 16 – March 27, 2025

Course facilitator: Dr. Michael Chan, Concordia College

This ten-lesson course introduces students to the high points of the Old Testament:

- The Primeval History in Genesis 1-11
- The stories of Sarah and Abraham
- Exodus-Deuteronomy
- The Deuteronomic History (Joshua-Kings)
- Amos and Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Isaiah 40-55
- Job
- Psalms

The course is supported by an up-to-date textbook and a study guide, including web resources.

Facilitator as Resource

The class facilitator will be familiar with the lectures and reading material, read student postings, and will be rotating the type of interface he uses with the student each week. The week that there is a Zoom discussion, the discussion will be the interface. Other weeks the facilitator will be responding to either essays or to threaded discussions or give a general written response to the issues of that week.

The facilitator for this course is Dr. Michael Chan. Michael Chan is the Executive Director of the Faith and Learning at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University (B.A.), Luther Seminary (M.A. in Old Testament), and Emory University (Ph.D.). He taught Old Testament at Luther Seminary before his work at Concordia. Chan has written many articles and books including *Exploring the Bible* (with Eric Barreto). In addition to being a sought-after speaker and author, he also hosts the *Gospel Beautiful* podcast, which interviews guests about the challenging task of preaching the Gospel in the 21st century.

Orientation Thursday Jan. 16 at 6:30 PM Central Time: You will be enrolled in the course site at the beginning of the orientation week. Please take this time to explore the course site. There are several tasks to do during the orientation time: update your profile, introduce yourself in the “Getting to Know You” forum, and indicating your choice about “Why are you taking this course?” You can’t hurt anything, click around the course homepage and explore! There will also be an orientation video conference call using the tool Zoom with the course facilitator on **Thursday Jan. 16 at 6:30 PM Central Time**. The instructions for that call will be in the course website.

Weekly course guide:

Sometime Friday –Monday of each week

- read the assigned readings in both the Old Testament and textbook
- watch the lectures on DVD
- post your discussion essay by Monday evening

Tuesday-Thursday

-respond to at least 2 of your classmates' essays (respond first to those with no responses or the fewest responses)

-do the assignment for the session

Thursday-Friday

-post to the key question forum based on the week's assignment

-Respond to at least 2 people

Live Discussion– Sessions 3 and 8 on TUESDAY at 7:30 PM Central Time

During these weeks there will be a live online small group discussion, using Zoom, the online tool used for the orientation call.

Course Schedule

Jan. 17, 2025	Session 1	Canon and Exegesis
Jan. 24	Session 2	The Primeval History - Genesis 1-11
Jan. 31	Session 3	The Ancestral History - Sarah and Abraham
Feb. 7	Session 4	Exodus and the Decalogue; Deuteronomy
Feb. 14	Session 5	The Deuteronomistic History
Feb.21	Session 6	Amos and Prophecy; the First Isaiah and the Messiah
Feb 28	Session 7	Jeremiah
March 7	Session 8	The Exile, Second Isaiah, and the Servant
March 14	Session 9	Job
March 21	Session 10	Psalms
March 10	Final Paper Due	

Grading:

The grading for the Introduction to the Old Testament course is simply pass-fail. This grade is assigned after the final paper is completed and takes into account the way you used what you learned in the course to weave together the lectures, reading and discussions in your final paper, whether you participated in the three Zoom discussions (Orientation and 2 session discussions), whether you posted all your Discussion Essays and Key Question Essays in a timely manner, and whether you responded to the Discussion and Key Question posts of two colleagues in a way reflective of our class covenant.

Passing = Participation in at least 2 of the 3 Zoom calls; posting of at least 12 of the 18 essays; at least 26 responses to the essays of your colleagues; submission of a final paper integrating the course material using the guidelines for the final paper.