

**Point Loma Nazarene University
School of Theology & Christian Ministry
Fall 2015**

- Course:** BIB 101-8. Old Testament History & Religion T, R 8:00-8:55 a.m.
- Professor:** Mark Wright. Smee Hall 208; Phone extension 2935. Office hours: Mondays: 1:00-2:30 p.m. or by Appointment
- Texts:** 1) A Bible in a translation, not paraphrase. 2) *Discovering the Old Testament, Story and Faith* by Alex Varughese, ed.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the historical contexts of the Old Testament.
2. Articulate the unity of the Old Testament and New Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon.
3. Articulate and appreciate the ways in which the Bible, understood as given by divine inspiration, functions as the church's central norm for Christian discipleship, faith and practice.
4. Articulate the basic content of the books of the Old Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

Further Intended Learning Outcomes (satisfying the Nazarene Ministerial Course of Study requirements):

1. To know the story of the Old Testament:
 - To be able to identify the main story line of the Old Testament.
 - To be able to chronologically order the main events and persons of the Old Testament.
 - To be able to identify the main characters of the Old Testament and their role in the story.
2. To know the literature of the Old Testament:
 - To be able to identify the literary structure of the Old Testament.
 - To be able to identify the books of the Old Testament by genre.
 - To be able to identify the basic thrust of each major section of the Old Testament.
3. To better grasp the message(s) of the Old Testament for the people of God, both in its historical contexts and for the church today:
 - To be able to describe the historical contexts of the major sections of the Old Testament.
 - To be able to describe the major theological concepts of the Old Testament.
 - To be able to read the Old Testament not merely as timeless literature, but to read it as a particular people's literature as they journey with God in their world.

- To be able to engage the theology of the Old Testament with contemporary contexts.
4. To gain insight into the formation of the Old Testament:
 - To be able to articulate one's understanding of inspiration with an awareness of the issues involved.
 - To be able to describe (to some degree) the process by which the Old Testament came into being.
 5. To begin to develop the ability to faithfully exegete a passage of Scripture
 - To be able to identify the steps of historical, literary, and theological analysis used in exegesis.
 - To be able to practice the process of faithful exegesis so that one might lead a Bible study.

(This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of "Responding to the Sacred." By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the study of Scripture and Christian heritage as foundational in the pursuit of knowledge and the development of personal values.)

Inclusive language:

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry has adopted the following statement: The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

Academic accommodations:

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, these students are requested to file documentation during the first two weeks of the semester with the Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Bond Academic Center. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. Once the student files documentation, the ASC will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

General Education Statement:

This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of "Seeking Cultural Perspectives." By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports a survey of human endeavors from a historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression--both artistic and literary.

Attendance:

It is important that you show up for each and every class. If a student misses 10% of class sessions (4 for a class that meets 3 times per week; 3 for a class that meets twice per week), that student will be sent a de-enrollment warning. When the student misses 20% of the class sessions, the student will be de-enrolled.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Consistent class attendance and participation.
- 2) Careful and disciplined reading of assigned texts.
- 3) Mid-Term and Final exams to be taken as scheduled on course calendar.
- 4) One Old Testament Exegetical Paper
- 5) Participation in Food Distribution or Bread of Life Ministry and reflection paper/Isaiah passage.

Grades will be based as follows:

Mid-Term and Final: 200 points total

Exegesis of an Old Testament Passage (5-6 pages in length). You may select your own passage but it must be approved by the professor: 100 points total

One Participation in Food Distribution with Mid-City Church of the Nazarene with Reflection Paper (3-4 pages in length): 50 points total

Or

One Participation in Salvation Army Bread of Life ministry: Tuesday Nights, 6-7:30 p.m. with Reflection Paper (3-4 pages in length): 50 points total

***The Reflection Paper is to be written about your experience of participation in the Works of Mercy while also considering the theology of Isaiah 58:1-14. The call of God to the people of God is to follow God into the heart of a world that is suffering. Consider how the theology of Isaiah challenges religious practice which excludes the call to share another's burden.**

CONSULT COURSE SCHEDULE FOR ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Mid-City Church of the Nazarene Address:

4101 University Avenue, San Diego, Ca. 92105

Distribution Times:

Saturday Morning (8:00-9:45 a.m.), Tuesday Afternoon (2:00-3:45 p.m.), Thursday Morning (8:00-9:45 a.m.)

Salvation Army Address:

825 7th Street, San Diego, Ca. 92101

Extra Credit:

Two Extra Bread of Life participations with Reflection Papers: 10 points total

*** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please consult the school catalog under the heading of Academic Honesty to learn the professor's intended policy regarding student dishonesty in academic work.**

Course Calendar and Reading Schedule:

Week One	Introduction
	Background and Preparation
Week Two	DTOT (Chs. 1-2)
Week Three	DTOT (Chs. 3-4)
	The Pentateuch
Week Four	DTOT (Chs. 5-6)
Week Five	DTOT (Chs. 7-9)

Week Six DTOT (Chs. 10-11) **Food Distribution/Bread of Life/Isaiah 58 Reflection Papers Due Thursday October 8**

The Historical Books

Week Seven DTOT (Chs. 12-20)

Week Eight **Midterm Thursday October 22**

The Poetic and Wisdom Books

Week Nine DTOT (Chs. 21-22)

Week Ten

Week Eleven DTOT (Chs. 23-24)

The Prophetic Books

Week Twelve DTOT (Chs. 25-27)

Old Testament Exegesis Paper Due November 19

Week Thirteen DTOT (Ch. 28-29)

Week Fourteen DTOT (Chs. 30-32)

Week Fifteen Catch-up: Review

Finals Week: All Extra Credit Papers due by Friday, 5:00 p.m.