



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

5010 Old Testament World

Spring 2020

January 13-17

8-11 am; 1-4 pm

Instructor: Lance Hawley

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Old Testament World is a selective study of history, geography, cultures, literatures, and religions of the ancient Near East that pertain to the life and literature of ancient Israel from the time of early settlement to the Persian period.

COURSE GOALS

Our goals pertain to the italicized intended degree outcomes for the M.Div., M.A.C.M., and the M.A. degrees.

Demonstrate exegetical skills in the interpretation of scripture

1. Students will evaluate scholarly/critical approaches to the Old Testament and its cultural background.
2. Students will demonstrate the skills of exegesis on a particular Old Testament text, interpreting it in light of ancient Near Eastern primary sources.

Evidence a love for God and others and a personal commitment to spiritual formation

1. Students should develop a respect for the creative and redemptive work of God as it is revealed in the Old Testament.
2. Students will learn to critically engage one another with the character of Christ, learning to harmoniously discuss variant viewpoints.

TEXT BOOKS

Arnold, Bill T. and Brent A. Strawn, eds. *The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.

Hays, Christopher B. *Hidden Riches: A Sourcebook for the Comparative Study of the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014.

King, Philip J. and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Walton, John H. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.

An English translation of the Bible. I will be working from the NRSV and supplement our discussion with observations from the Hebrew text. Feel free to use a different major committee-based translation of your choice (e.g., NIV, ESV, Jewish Study Bible, NAS). Ask me if you are unsure about your translation.

Textbooks can be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading Notes (15%, Due on the first day of class, **Jan 13 am**) – Students will turn in notes on all assigned readings from *The World around the Old Testament*. The notes should be in sentence outline form and demonstrate that students have read and critically engaged with the assigned material. Students should include important quotes (with page numbers), summaries of information, and the student’s own questions and critique.
2. Exam (20%, Feb 10-14) – The exam will cover material from King and Stager, Walton, and class lectures. It should be taken sometime during the week of Feb 10-14.
3. Bibliography (15%, Due Monday, March 2 by midnight CT) – Students will compose a *thorough* bibliography for scholarship on a specific topic in the culture of Israel. Each entry should be followed by a short description of the source (one or two sentences). The following list includes possible topics, but students may work on other topics of their choosing with my permission. Bibliographies will be **downgraded 5 points for each day late**.
 - a. Agriculture
 - b. Astrology
 - c. Death, Burial, and Afterlife (Mourning rites)
 - d. Family (include social status of Women and Children)
 - e. Feasts/Festivals
 - f. Food/Diet
 - g. Temples/Cult Places
 - h. Travel and Trade
 - i. Water supplies
 - j. Wild Things (Desert and Animals)
4. Paper (50%, Due by midnight CT on **April 6**) - The paper is an opportunity for students to explore a topic in the culture or religion of ancient Israel. Students should consult with me about topics early in the semester. Generally speaking, the best papers will be narrow in focus. Primary sources must be used as much as possible. The paper is to be about 20 pages not including bibliography, written in 12 pt Times New Roman and according to the standards of Turabian’s *Manual for Writers* and HST’s Supplement to Turabian. **Late papers will be downgraded 5 points per day**. See end of syllabus for writing advice. In our final class, students will make a presentation on the basis of their research. These presentations should be about 20-30 minutes depending on the number of students.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = < 60

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Monday Morning

- A. Methods in “Backgrounds” [Hays 3-38]
- B. Survey of the ANE and Topography of Palestine
- C. Timeline Late Bronze Age to Iron I
- D. Egypt [AS 169-196]

Monday Afternoon

- A. Israelite Ethnicity and Settlement.
- B. Archaeology in Palestine (Beth Shemesh; Philistines; Ethnicity) [AS 353-378]
- C. Research Time – archaeological reports

Tuesday Morning

- A. The Tenth to Mid-Eighth centuries
- B. Monumental Architecture and State Formation (archaeology of Gates and Palaces)
- C. Phoenicia, Aram, and Moab [AS 229-352]

Tuesday Afternoon

- A. Statehood and the Invention of Hebrew
- B. Inscriptions:
 - a. **Gezer Calendar** [COS 2.85]
 - b. **Samaria Ostraca** [COS 4.18]
 - c. **Mesha** [Hays 193-199; COS 2.23]
 - d. **Tel Dan** [COS 2.39]
 - e. **Kilamuwa** [COS 2.30]
 - f. **Zakkur** [COS 2.35]
 - g. **Siloam Tunnel** [COS 2.28]
- C. Research Time

Wednesday Morning

- A. Mid-Eighth to Seventh Centuries
- B. Kings, Kingdom, and Warfare
- C. Assyrians and Babylonians [AS 31-138]
- D. Historiography [**Hays 221-231**]
- E. Read and compare Judges 4 and 5 prior to class**

Wednesday Afternoon

- A. 6th and 5th centuries
- B. The Exilic experience
- C. Scribalism, Literacy and culture
- D. Lachish Letters [COS 3.42]**

Thursday Morning

- A. Ancient Israelite Religion (Study of)
- B. The Gods
- C. Baal Epic/Ugarit [AS 139-168] [**COS 1.86**]
- D. Research Time

Thursday Afternoon

- A. Cosmology
- B. Topography: Mountains, Fields, and the Steppe, the Desert, the Sea, the city
- C. Dawn and Dusk [COS 1.87]**
- D. Research Time

Friday Morning

- A. Treaties, Oaths, and Law [**Hays 121-146, 161-192**]
- B. Research Time

Friday Afternoon

- A. Priests, Levites, and Ritual Purity [**Hays 147-160**]
- B. Report on Research

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Accessibility/Communication

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: lhawley2@harding.edu

Cell Phone Number: (901) 275-0468

Office Phone Number: (901) 432-7729

Zoom Meeting ID 9012750468

The best way to communicate with me is by email. I check it often and expect you to check it as well for class announcements and additional documents. Feel free to contact me with your questions any time. I will use Canvas and your Harding University email address, so please make sure to check it regularly.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and [Religious and Theological Abstracts](#). Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.