

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
BIB 101 Old Testament History and Religion
Fall 2015

Instructor: Sam Powell

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Office hours: MWF 2:30-3:30 and TTH 9:30-11:00. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by calling the departmental assistant (x2234) or my office.

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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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify the historical contexts of the Old Testament.
- Articulate the unity of the Old Testament in its canonical context within the diverse literature of the Christian canon.
- 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; and,
- Articulate the basic content of the books of the Old Testament and the methods appropriate to the interpretation of those books.

REQUIRED READING:

- The Old Testament in a modern translation. Preferred versions include the New Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version.
- Samuel M. Powell, *A Teacher's Guide to Understanding Scripture*
- Gregory Mobley, *The Return of the Chaos Monsters*

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance. Because it is important to build good habits and to help create and sustain a learning community, it is important for you to attend often and on time. You may miss up to three sessions without penalty. Every absence after the third will result in a deduction of ½% from your final grade. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after roll is taken will result in a grade reduction of 1/4% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session. More than 6 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Essay on *Chaos Monster*: Write a three page critical review of *The Return of the Chaos Monster*. For instructions, go to Canvas, then click on “modules” on the left panel. The assignment is one of the modules. The review is due October 6.

3. Study of Amos. By Tuesday of each week, read the book of Amos and submit a one page report on Canvas. Then, beginning in October, there will be five Tuesdays by which you must submit additionally a report on five articles from a list that I will provide. Each article is on the book of the prophet Amos. Canvas contains instructions for each report.

4. Exams: there will be a midterm exam on October 15 and a final exam on December 15. The final exam will be comprehensive—it will cover material from the entire semester. These exams will consist of computer scored questions.

5. Wiley lecture reports (October 12-14). Attend at least two of these lectures and submit, on Canvas, a one

page report on each lecture: What did you learn? What did you find most interesting? What did you disagree with? The reports are due on December 8. If your schedule makes it impossible for you to attend the lectures, they will be available on podcast approximately one month after the lectures. Information on the lectures can be found here:

<http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/schools-departments/school-theology-christian-ministry/h-orton-wiley-lecture-series>

GRADING (percentages are approximate):

Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%
Essay on Mobley	25%
7 reports on Amos	7%
5 combined reports on Amos and articles	15%
2 reports on Wiley lectures	2%

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is the official mode of communication in this course.
- The writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Don't just assume that you can turn work in late. Contact me immediately if an emergency will not allow you to turn in an assignment on time.
- The final exam may not be taken early. **MAKE HOLIDAY TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.**
- Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.
- Inclusive language: 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: Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the ASC will contact me and provide recommendations for appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.
- Academic honesty. Students who present the work of others as if their own commit plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the words or ideas of others without citation. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Cheating on an exam will result in loss of all points for the exam. Additionally, plagiarism and cheating will result in a written report being filed with vice-provost for academic administration.