

Old Testament Introduction, 110
 Instructor: Robert V. McCabe, Th.D.
 Course Outline

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary
 Spring Semester
 2008 (Revised)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of general introduction. This includes a study of the Old Testament text and canon, historical and literary criticism, Old Testament archaeology, chronology, history, and religion. The intent of this course is to provide the student with a historical and theological foundation for further Old Testament studies.

OBJECTIVES:

In this course the student should

1. become conversant with the subject of Old Testament Introduction, especially general introduction;
2. develop an appreciation for God's miraculous work in the writing of the Old Testament and for his providential work in preserving the Old Testament; and
3. become acquainted with some of the critical problems in OTI and the germane conservative solutions to these problems.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Tests:** There will be two major tests. The mid-term will cover pp. 1–58 of the syllabus, and the second pp. 58–115. The mid-term will be given on **March 20**, and the final exam on **May 15—60% of grade.**

Tests must be taken at the time the exam is formally scheduled, unless a student has an excusable absence. If a student has an excusable absence, he must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the day he returns to seminary. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on the day he returns to seminary, a late penalty of 10% per day begins accruing for each day that he goes beyond my 4:00 P.M. deadline. This penalty will be subtracted from the student's earned grade for the exam. If a student has an inexcusable absence, he will receive a 10% penalty for not having an excusable absence. He must take the exam no later than 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day to avoid any daily late penalties. If he takes the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the exam's scheduled day, his daily late penalties begin accruing after 4:00 P.M. of that same day. For example, if a student misses a scheduled exam with an unexcused absence and if he takes it before the 4:00 P.M. deadline on the same day of the exam, he will lose 10% as a penalty for not having a legitimate excuse. However, if this student would take the exam after 4:00 P.M. on the same day, but no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, he will lose 20% from his earned grade. He loses 10% for not having a legitimate excuse and 10% as a daily late penalty for not having taken the exam by 4:00 P.M. on the next day.

In addition, tardies are unacceptable when a test has been scheduled. A tardy that cannot be excused may result in a 10% penalty for the exam

2. **Quizzes:** Six quizzes will be administered over assigned reading. Each quiz will have 10 questions and will be given on a scheduled day at the beginning of class—**30% of grade.** The rules that applied to absences and tardies for scheduled exam days also apply to scheduled quizzes.

The following schedule of quiz dates coordinates various reading assignments with topics covered in Old Testament Introduction.

OT text and canon

Inspiration and history of Hebrew writing

Quiz on **Feb 7** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 17–35

OT text

Quiz on **Feb 21** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 37–62

Quiz on **Mar 6** Beacham “The OT Text & the Version Debate” pp. 57–75

Textual criticism

Quiz on **Mar 27** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 63–85

Quiz on **Apr 17** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 87–96

Quiz on **May 1** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 107–21

3. **Reading Requirement:** If the student completes all the assigned reading in accordance with the reading schedule, he will receive a 98%. If the student does not complete the assignment on schedule, he will have 1% subtracted from 98% for every 25 pages that he is short of the total pages due on the assigned date. **The reading report formed stapled with the course outline (pp. 5–6)** will be turned in when each major exam is administered—**10% of grade.**

Reading Schedule: The following is an abbreviated form of the required reading that is to be submitted on **the specified reading form** at the time of the scheduled exam (for fuller citations, see pp. 3–4; and record reading when completed on the reading report forms on pp. 5–6):

A. Mid-term—**Mar 20**

OT text and Canon

Inspiration

Archer (1994), pp. 15–38

Geisler and Nix, pp. 33–97

Bahnsen, pp. 150–93 (endnotes, pp. 460–64)

OT text

Archer (1994), pp. 41–57

OT archaeology

Wiseman (1979), pp. 309–38

OT chronology

Archer (1979), pp. 359–74

OT religion

Harrison (1969), pp. 349–414

OT history

Motyer, pp. 253–84

B. Final—**May 15**

OT text and Canon

Canonicity

Wegner, pp. 99–128

Historical and literary criticism

Archer (1994), pp. 89–171

Payne (1980), pp. 85–113

Carson, pp. 119–42, 376–81

Longman (1985), pp. 46–67

Osborne, pp. 1–27
Waltke, pp. 17–34

CLASS ABSENCES:

The policy for absenteeism at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is as follows. A student is allowed one week of unexcused absences and three weeks of excused absences. The maximum number of absences is four weeks for a class. Anyone who is absent from class beyond this will receive an “F” for that course, except by vote of the faculty in extenuating circumstances.

When a student has consumed his one week of permissible unexcused absences for a given course, his final grade will be penalized by 1% per hour of class that he has gone beyond this limit and extending until he has missed four full weeks of class. After this, he will receive an “F” for the course.

An excused absence is one where the student’s absence is beyond his control. In order to have his absence excused, the student must submit to the course instructor a **written explanation** for his absence. Based upon this the instructor will then determine whether or not the absence should be excused.

Three periods of tardiness will be counted as one unexcused absence.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. Archer, Gleason L., Jr. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Revised and expanded edition. Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.
2. Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.
3. McCabe, Robert V. “Old Testament Introduction.” Unpublished syllabus, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2005.

GRADING SYSTEM:

96–100	A	86–87	B-	76–77	D+
94–95	A-	84–85	C+	72–75	D
92–93	B+	80–83	C	70–71	D-
88–91	B	78–79	C-	69 & below	F

FULL CITATION OF REQUIRED READING FROM BOOKS AND ARTICLES:

The following 3 divisions provide a full citation of the reading for this course along with the dates when the reading is to be accounted for.

A. Reading for quizzes

Feb 7—Quiz over Brotzman, Ellis R. *Old Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994; **pp. 17–35**

Feb 21—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 37–62**

Mar 6—Beacham, Roy E. “The Old Testament Text and the Version Debate.” In *One Bible Only?* Edited by Roy E. Beacham and Kevin T. Bauder. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2001; **pp. 57–75**

Mar 27—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 63–85**

Apr 17—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 87–96**

May 1—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 107–21**

B. Reading due at mid-term—**Mar 20**

- Archer, Gleason, L., Jr. *A Survey of OT Introduction*. Revised and expanded ed. Chicago: Moody, 1994; **pp. 15–38; 41–57**
- _____. “The Chronology of the Old Testament.” In vol. 1 of *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelein et al. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979; **pp. 359–74**
- Bahnsen, Greg L. “The Inerrancy of the Autographa.” In *Inerrancy*. Edited by Norman L. Geisler. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980; **pp. 150–93 (endnotes, pp. 460–64)**
- Geisler, Norman L. and William E. Nix. *A General Introduction to the Bible: Revised and Expanded*. Chicago: Moody, 1986; **pp. 33–97**
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the OT*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969; **pp. 349–414**
- Motyer, J. A. “Old Testament History.” In vol. 1 of *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelein et al. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979; **pp. 253–84**
- Wiseman, Donald J. “Archaeology and the Old Testament.” In vol. 1 of *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelein et al. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979; **pp. 309–38**

C. Reading due at final exam—**May 15**

- Archer, Gleason, L., Jr. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Revised and expanded ed. Chicago: Moody, 1994; **pp. 89–171**
- Carson, D. A. “Redaction Criticism: On the Legitimacy and Illegitimacy of a Literary Tool.” In *Scripture and Truth*. Edited by D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983; **pp. 119–42; 376–81**
- Longman, Tremper, III. “Form Criticism, Recent Developments in Genre Theory, and the Evangelical.” *Westminster Theological Journal* 47 (Spring 1985); **pp. 46–67**
- Osborne, Grant R. “Genre Criticism—*Sensus Literalis*.” *Trinity Journal* 4 (Autumn 1983); **pp. 1–27**
- Payne, J. Barton. “Higher Criticism and Biblical Inerrancy.” In *Inerrancy*. Edited by Norman L. Geisler. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980; **pp. 85–113**
- Waltke, Bruce K. “Oral Tradition.” In *A Tribute to Gleason Archer*. Edited by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. and Ronald F. Youngblood. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986; **pp. 17–34**
- Wegner, Paul D. *The Journey from Texts to Translations*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999; **pp. 99–128**