

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

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary
 Spring Semester
 2011

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. 1–64 of the syllabus, and the second pp. 65–128. The mid-term will be given on **March 17**, and the final exam on **May 12—60% of grade.**

Tests must be taken at the time the exam is officially scheduled, unless a student has an excusable absence. I use a graded system for late penalties. The breakdown is like this: loss of 5% for the first day beyond the exam, 15% for the second, 20% for the third, 20% for the fourth, 20% for the fifth, and 20% for the sixth. This means that on the seventh day a student receives a 0 (zero) for his exam.

Excusable Absences. If a student has an excusable absence, he must have the exam completed no later than 4:00 P.M. on the following day, Friday, or whatever day that he returns to seminary in order to avoid any late penalties. After this 4:00 P.M. deadline on Friday but no later than 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, he will lose 5% from his exam as a late penalty for the first official day after the exam. If he then takes his exam after 4:00 P.M. on Saturday but no later than 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, he will lose an additional 15% for the second official day after the exam (at this point, his test grade will be reduced by 20%). Then beginning Sunday after 4:00 P.M. but no later than 4:00 P.M. on Monday, 20% for that day will be penalized. For each day beyond the 4 P.M. deadline for a given day, he will be penalized 20% for each subsequent day. Whatever late penalty a student receives, this will be subtracted from his earned grade for the test.

Inexcusable Absences. If a student has an inexcusable absence, his late penalties begin accruing for anything after 7:30 A.M. on Thursday when the exam is scheduled. For example, if he takes the exam anywhere between 7:31 A.M. of Thursday up through 4:00 P.M. of the same day, he will lose 5% as a late penalty. If he then takes his exam after 4:00 P.M. on Thursday but no later than 4:00 P.M. on Friday, he will lose an additional 15% for the second day after the exam. After this the late penalties accrue and affect one's exam grade as outlined in the preceding paragraph.

In addition, tardies are unacceptable when a test has been scheduled. A tardy may result in a 5% late 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 3** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 17–35

OT text

Quiz on **Feb 17** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 37–62

Quiz on **Mar 3** Beacham “The OT Text & the Version Debate” pp. 57–75

Textual criticism

Quiz on **Mar 24** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 63–85

Quiz on **Apr 14** Brotzman *OT Textual Criticism* pp. 87–96

Quiz on **Apr 28** 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 form 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 p. 4; and record reading when completed on the reading report forms on pp. 5–6):

A. Mid-term—**Mar 17**

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 12**
 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, 2011.

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

Feb 17—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 37–62**

Mar 3—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 24—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 63–85**

Apr 14—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 87–96**

Apr 28—Brotzman, *OT Textual Criticism*; **pp. 107–21**

B. Reading due at mid-term—**Mar 17**

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 12**

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**

DETROIT BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mid-term Reading Report

Due Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2011

Course Old Testament Introduction

Name

Author	Title	Req Pages	Total	Tot Read	Date Reading Comp.
Archer	<i>A Survey of OT Introduction</i>	15-38; 41-57	41		
Archer	“The Chronology of the Old Testament”	359-74	16		
Bahnsen	“The Inerrancy of the Autographa”	150-93	44		
Geisler & Nix	<i>A General Introduction to the Bible</i>	33-97	65		
Harrison	<i>Introduction to the Old Testament</i>	349-414	66		
Motyer	“Old Testament History”	253-84	32		
Wiseman	“Archaeology & the OT”	309-38	30		

Total number of pages required to be read. 294
 Give the total number of pages actually read.

DETROIT BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Final Reading Report
Due Date: Thu, May 12, 2011

Course Old Testament Introduction

Name

Author	Title	Req Pages	Total	Tot Read	Date Reading Comp.
Archer	<i>A Survey of OT Introduction</i>	89-171	83		
Carson	"Redaction Criticism"	119-42; 376-81	30		
Longman	"Form Criticism"	46-67	22		
Osborne	"Genre Criticism"	1-27	27		
Payne	"Higher Criticism & Bibl. Inerrancy"	85-113	29		
Waltke	"Oral Tradition"	17-34	18		
Wegner	<i>Journey from Text to Translation</i>	99-128	29		
Total number of pages required to be read.			238		
Give the total number of pages actually read.					