

## BOLD 101 \* The Old Testament \* Spring 2009

### Instructor

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### Office Hours:

Monday: 1:00-5:00  
Tuesday: 1:30-3:30  
Wednesday: 1:00-3:00  
Thursday: 1:30-3:30

**Please Read and Be Familiar with this Syllabus. In order to earn points for this class, each student is required to print off, sign, and turn in the statement at the end of this Syllabus.**

### An Invitation from Dr. Diles

I am at Harding to uplift Christ, teach Scripture, and serve my students. As God gives me strength and wisdom, I want to do all three as consistently and faithfully as I am able. I invite you to contact me whenever you need me, whether it has to do with academic or personal concerns. My office hours are listed above and are posted on my office door. Appointments are not necessary but are encouraged in order to avoid your being inconvenienced. Without an appointment, you may arrive at my office to find me visiting with another student or otherwise out of pocket. If you need to see me outside of office hours feel free to call and make an appointment.

### Notice to Students with Disabilities

**Students with Disabilities:** It is the policy for Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Therefore, any student with a *documented disability* condition (e.g. physical, learning, psychological, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the Disabilities Office at the *beginning* of each semester. (If the diagnosis of the disability occurs during the academic year, the student must self-identify with the Disabilities Director *as soon as possible* in order to get academic accommodations in place for the remainder of the semester.) The Disabilities Office is located in Room 102 of the Lee Academic Center, telephone, (501) 279-4019.

**Assessment:** Harding University, since its charter in 1924, has been strongly committed to providing the best resources and environment for the teaching-learning process. The board, administration, faculty, and staff are wholeheartedly committed to full compliance with all criteria of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The university values continuous, rigorous assessment at every level for its potential to improve student learning and achievement and for its centrality in fulfilling the stated mission of Harding. Thus, a comprehensive assessment program has been developed that includes both the Academic units and the Administrative and Educational Support (AES) units. Specifically, all

academic units will be assessed in reference to the following Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose: **The University provides programs that enable students to acquire essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions in their academic disciplines for successful careers, advanced studies, and servant leadership.**

## Course Description

BOLD 101 is a historical study of the Old Testament giving special attention to selected books and passages in order to learn the message of the Old Testament for its day and for today. *Some* attention will be given to *most* books of the Old Testament, but *not all* books will be examined in the same depth. You will be expected to master factual information pertaining to the Old Testament, but you are also encouraged to understand the relevance of its message for your lives.

## Course Objectives

The overall goal of BOLD 101 is to help you become more familiar with the content, context, and concerns of the Old Testament. *Content* includes the major events, characters, chronology, and themes of the Old Testament as a whole as well as within various books. *Context* refers to the historical, literary, cultural, and geographical setting of the Old Testament. *Concerns* refer to the major theological and ethical teachings emphasized throughout the Old Testament.

### Specific objectives:

- To familiarize you with the content of the Old Testament
- To help you develop the habit of regular, consistent Bible reading
- To help you develop an obedient appreciation for the holiness and grace of a faithful God
- To provide a model for getting deeply into a biblical book
- To provide additional resources for continued study
- To connect the historical biblical text with modern discipleship struggles
- To help you develop the desire and ability to be a child of God guided by the Scriptures as they reveal God and his will.

## Course Requirements

- Regular and punctual attendance

Responsible participation in a Bible class is an integral part of the Harding experience. Though you are encouraged to be present for each of our class meetings this semester, you are allowed the equivalent of one week's of unexcused absences (for a daily class, that is five; for a MWF, that is three, for a TTh class, that is two, for a night course, one). Use them responsibly. The instructor of this course intends to record attendance each day. Three (3) tardies count as one unexcused absence. If you are late to class it is your responsibility to see that you are not charged with an absence. Tardies must be registered on the day you are late to class. Punctual means in class and in your seat on time. 3 tardies will result in an absence, and the instructor reserves the right to lock the doors when the bell rings and count anyone not in their seat as absent.

In addition, every two excused absences will reduce the number of unexcused absences you allowed by one. For example, if you have two excused absences, you are allowed only 4 unexcused absences before penalties are assessed. If you have four excused absences, you are allowed only 3 unexcused absences.

EACH additional unexcused absence beyond the number allowed will be penalized as follows (assuming a 100 point scale for course grading):

For daily classes: 2 percent off the final grade

For MWF classes: 3 percent off the final grade

For TR classes: 4.5 percent off the final grade

For weekly classes: 9 percent off the final grade

When students accumulate unexcused absences totaling at least 20% (14 absences) of the total class meetings (the equivalent of three weeks) for the semester, they will be given a grade of “WF” for non-attendance (a WF - Withdrawn Failing) and referred to the office of the Vice-President of Academic Affairs where they will receive further discipline for violation of academic policy. See the catalog for further clarification.

If a student accumulates two “WFs” in Bible courses due to excessive absences, this will result in a “Bible attendance suspension” for at least one semester.

For an absence to be excused, the instructor of this course must receive written confirmation from the appropriate source within one week of the student’s return to class. (Excuses are issued by the school nurse, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, a coach, or a sponsor and reported in Pipeline. Absences are not excused until posted in Pipeline.) In addition to the above, the instructor of this course reserves the right to discern whether or not a student is taking advantage of the University’s excuse policy.

Excused absences are given for the following: Sickness, death in the immediate family, and officially sanctioned school activities. In ALL cases the absence must be cleared with me BEFORE class, either in person, by telephone, or by e-mail, and in the case of sickness or officially sanctioned school activity, you must bring me a hard-copy excuse from Pipeline, doctor, nurse, or if living off campus, relative with whom you live (for sickness). It is YOUR responsibility to print off the excuse and bring it to me. **I will NOT search pipe-line for class excuses.**

**You are responsible for keeping track of your own attendance record.**

- Appropriate conduct
  - Your conduct should be in keeping with Christian standards, the policies of Harding University (including dress code), and the maturity expected of university students.
  - Display a respectful attitude toward other students in the class and toward me. It will be safe to think and safe to disagree. Arrogant, rude, and disrespectful behavior, however, will not be tolerated.
  - If you bring food or drink to the classroom, you are responsible for cleaning any spills, crumbs, etc. If this privilege is abused, the policy may be changed at the

discretion of the instructor. NO food or drinks (other than water) will be allowed in the classroom on exam days.

- Please have all cell phones and audible pagers turned off during class. **If your cell phone goes off in class, or if you are caught using it without permission for any reason, you will be marked with an unexcused absence for that day.** Lap-tops may NOT be used in this class without written permission from me. NO cell phones, pagers, lap-tops, i-pods, or other electronic devices will be allowed in class on exam days.
- The teacher—not the bell—dismisses class. Please do not start packing your books until class is dismissed.
- Preparation for and participation in class
  - You are expected to take an active role in the learning process, which includes completing assigned readings and other assignments before class, attending class, paying attention, taking notes, asking and answering questions, participating in discussions, and being prepared for the exams.
  - You are encouraged to participate fully in class. Respectfully engage fellow students and me. Ask, answer, probe, question, discuss, and think.
- Completion of learning activities (see below).

## Learning Resources

- Bible, Old and New Testaments. The Bible will be the primary learning resource for the course. My aim in making the Bible our primary textbook is to get you reading and engaging the biblical text for yourself, rather than simply depending on what others are saying about it. You will be expected to read Genesis through Esther for yourself during the course of the semester. You are free to use any standard version of the Bible, including the KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASB, RSV, NRSV, NEV, ESV and NIV. I will teach primarily from the NASB or the ESV. Many in the CBR recommend the *NIV Study Bible*. You are expected to bring your own Bible to class each day.
- *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, David Freedman, editor. A good quality Bible dictionary is an important tool for practical Bible study. Students are encouraged to look through the dictionary throughout the semester and to keep it for future study. Students will have reading assignments from this dictionary and will also be given several terms to look up in the dictionary and be able to identify.
- Adequate materials for taking notes. I recommend the use of a three-ring notebook in which to place your class syllabus, notes, and any materials that I might hand out throughout the semester.

## Learning Activities and Grades

The final grade will be based on the sum of points from the following learning activities. If necessary, other quizzes and assignments may be included.

### Required Activities

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| • List in order and spell the Books of the Old Testament  | 75 points (9.8%)         |
| • First major exam  | 100 points (13.1%)       |
| • Three additional exams for 50 pts. each   | 150 points (19.6%)       |
| • Final exam (comprehensive)  | 200 points (26%)         |
| • Ten Commandments quiz   | 20 points (2.6%)         |
| • Chronology quiz   | 20 points (2.6%)         |
| • Memory verse quiz   | 40 points (5.2%)         |
| • Important Terms quiz  | 30 points (3.9%)         |
| • Reading quizzes   | up to 100 points (13.1%) |
| • Other quizzes   | up to 30 points (3.9%)   |
|   | Total 765 points         |
| • Plus optional activities  | up to 45 points (5.9%)   |
| • In NO CASE will optional activities improve your overall score more than 1 letter grade!  |                          |
| • Students with PERFECT attendance (meaning no absences, whether excused or not, and with less than 3 tardies) will receive a bonus of <b>20</b> points at the end of the semester. |                          |

### Explanation of Required Activities

List in order and Spell Books of the Old Testament: Students are required to list the books of the Old Testament in correct order (**39** points) and spelled correctly (**39** points). Any points scored over 75 will count as “bonus” or “make-up” points figured into your point total for the semester.

Exams: Each may cover material from the following: Material we have discussed in class, material from the applicable sections of the Old Testament, material from any assigned readings, material from notes posted on the web. These exams will not be comprehensive. The first major exam is worth twice as many points as the next three exams.

Final Exam: The final exam, worth **200** points, will be taken from the same sources as the previous exams and will test all material for which the student is responsible. Thus it is both comprehensive and tests previously untested material.

Ten Commandment quiz: You will be expected to list the Ten Commandments in correct order for 20 points.

Chronology quiz: You will be expected to place ten Old Testament persons or events in their correct chronological order. Each event will be worth 2 pts. for a total of 20 points.

Memory verse quiz: You will be given 20 Old Testament memory verses and will be expected to match the verse with its Old Testament book, chapter, and verse. Each verse is worth 2 pts. for a total of 40 points.

Important terms quiz: You will be expected to look up several terms in your *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. On the day of the final exam you will also have a 30 pt. quiz over these terms.

Other assignments and quizzes: From time to time (usually, but not necessarily always on Fridays) you will be given additional quizzes over reading assignments and material we have covered. These quizzes will typically be announced the class period before they are given (hence the importance of being in class to hear the announcement). There could be as many as 10 of these throughout the semester and I will drop the lowest score. If you miss a quiz due to an unexcused absence, you may not make it up. The first time you miss a quiz due to an excused absence, it will count as your drop. After that, it is your responsibility to see me about making up the quiz. Additionally, I will occasionally ask to see that you have your Bibles in class. This will count as a 3 pt. quiz grade. If you do not have your Bible, you will receive a zero for that quiz. If I notice at any time during the semester that you do not have your Bible open and are not following along, I will also assign you a zero for a quiz grade.

Explanation of Optional Activities (extra credit): Students whose performance on exams falls short of their goals may accumulate up to **25** “make-up” points by completing and submitting **2 copies** of an original paper. Students may select 4 APPROVED articles from the *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* related to the study of the Old Testament and write a two page paper (I will not read beyond 2 pages) over those articles. For approval, bring your dictionary to me and show me the articles you wish to write about. Your paper should be identified with your name, date, class name, and article name. It should follow the guidelines I give on my web page. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, in size 10 font or larger, stapled (each copy stapled separately), and should include each article’s definition of the term (1 pt. each) and 4 major points of each article (1 pt. each). Grammar, style, and spelling will also be factored into your grade (5 pts.) and I reserve the right to refuse to read papers that are unintelligible. The maximum number of points available per book review is **25** (3% of final grade). Book reviews are due no later than Friday, **April 24**.

Students may also earn an additional **20** points by completing the reading of the ENTIRE Old Testament during the semester outside of class time and writing a paper described below. To receive this credit present the following statement to me no later than Friday **April 24**: *I, (your name), give my word that outside of class time I have read the entire Old Testament during the course of this school semester.* Included with this should be **two copies** of a two page paper on “10 things I have learned about God through my reading of the Old Testament.” The paper should include proper scripture references, be identified with your name, date, and class name. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, in size 10 font or larger, stapled (each copy stapled separately). Follow the guidelines for writing on my web page. Grammar, style, and spelling will also be factored into your grade and I reserve the right to refuse to read papers that are unintelligible.

\* In addition to the hard copies which are turned in, all Extra Credit Papers must be submitted to turnitin.com. The course password is **abraham** and the class ID is **2547511**.

\* Students who exceed 10 absences, **whether excused or unexcused**, are not eligible for extra credit.

- **Grading Scale:**

90% and up = A; 80% - 89.5% = B; 70% - 79.5% = C; 60% - 69.5% = D; less than 60% = F

- Attendance may affect your final grade (See above and attendance policy in the student handbook).
- Unexcused absences from exams results in a score of zero for that exam. There is no penalty for missing an exam due to an excused absence, but the exam must be made up within one week of your return to class, or else a zero for that exam will be recorded. Setting up a time to make up an exam is your responsibility, not the teacher's. Typically make-up exams are given on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm in McInteer 233. You would be wise to inform me ahead of time when you know you will be absent (excused) for an exam. I reserve the right to give you an essay exam for the make-up.
- Honesty and integrity are characteristics that should describe each one of us as servants of Jesus Christ. As your instructor, I pledge that I will strive for honesty and integrity in how I handle the content of this course and in how I interact with each of you. I ask that you join me in pledging to do the same.

Academic dishonesty will result in penalties up to and including dismissal from the class with a failing grade and will be reported to the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. All instances of dishonesty will be handled according to the procedures delineated in the Harding University catalog. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: (1) handing in work you copied from someone else rather than doing it yourself; (2) submitting a paper written in whole or in part by another student whether in this semester or a previous one; (3) copying another student's answer or using a cheat sheet during tests; (4) cutting and pasting off Internet sites; (5) handing in material you have purchased; (6) plagiarizing other authors' material; (7) falsely stating that you have read the entire New Testament when in fact you have not. If you are caught cheating, you may receive an F for this course.

## Computation of Grade

You may keep track of your progress in the class by following your progress on my web site, or by recording your own scores on your exams and assignments.

## Exam Dates

- The four regular exams will be given around the **fifth, seventh, eleventh, and thirteenth weeks** of the semester.
- The listing of Old Testament Books will be on **Wednesday, January 21**.
- The date of the Ten Commandments quiz will be announced.

- The Chronology and Memory verse quizzes will be administered along with regular exams, probably the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Important Terms quiz will be administered at the same time as the final exam.
- The **final exam** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 at 8:00-10:00.

***How to Succeed in this Class:***

1. Always attend and pay attention.
2. Take good but not excessive notes. Write down definitions. Follow along in your Bible, underline important verses, and make notations in the margins. Get names, and principles, but don't try to write down everything.
3. Turn in assignments on time.
4. Get involved with the material. Participate in class.
5. When you don't understand something, ask questions.
6. Tell someone else about what you have learned.
7. Begin studying for exams well in advance.

## OT Survey Reading Schedule

Texts and Articles should be read **BEFORE** the date given in the schedule

Date	Readings
F 1/16	Gen. 1-25; Dictionary Article "Image of God"
F 1/23	Gen. 26-50
F 1/30	Ex. 1-24; 31-35
F 2/6	Lev. 8-10; 16; Dictionary article "Worship, Israelite"
F 2/13	Num. 10-27
F 2/20	Deuteronomy
F 2/27	Joshua 1-14; 22-24
F 3/6	Judges
M 3/16	Ruth/1 Samuel
F 3/20	1 Chron. 10-22; 28-29
TH 3/26	2 Samuel
F 4/3	1 Kings/2 Kings 1-8
T 4/7	2 Kings 9-25
M 4/13	2 Chron. 14-16; 19-20; 29-36; Daniel 1-13
TH 4/16	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
F 4/24	Job 1-3; 38-42; Psalm 1;8;15;19;119; Prov. 1-9
TH 4/30	Isaiah 1-9; Jeremiah 26-43

I affirm that I have read and understand the contents of this syllabus and am willing to abide by them as a condition for participating in the class Old Testament Survey, taught by Dr. Allen Diles.