Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

OBST 590
OLD TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Deals with the two major subdivisions of OTI: (1) general introduction which involves the matters of text, canon, and the particular question of the date and authorship of the Pentateuch; and (2) special introduction relating to the treatment of the individual books of the Old Testament one-by-one, giving an account of authorship, date, purpose, and integrity. The goal of the course is to provide a basis for an introduction to the tools used in the Old Testament materials in their historical and theological context.

RATIONALE
The course is an introduction to the Old Testament and the environment in which it was written. The people, lands, cultures, and beliefs of the ancient world greatly affected the authors and text of the Old Testament. Therefore, deliberate consideration must be given not only to the study of the Old Testament text but also its world.

I. PREREQUISITES
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
(Meets seminary MDiv. PLOs #1 – 3)
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Identify the authors, general dates, and themes of the books of the Old Testament. (See assignments V. A and D)
B. Recognize the social, historical, and literary backgrounds of the books of the Old Testament. (See assignments V. A and D)
C. Compare the Old Testament conceptual world with that found throughout the Ancient Near East. (See assignments V. B and C)

D. Distinguish selected characters of the Old Testament and their individual contributions to biblical history. (See assignments V. A and D)

E. Assess the place of the Old Testament among the other Ancient Near Eastern writings. (See assignments V. B and C)

F. Explain the approaches to studying the Old Testament. (See assignments V. A and D)

G. Recall the processes of Old Testament composition and canonization. (See assignments V. A and D)

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations (See MLOs IV. A, B, D, F, and G)

B. Course Requirements Checklist

As the first activity in this course, please read the syllabus and Student Expectations. After reading the syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will then complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board forums (2)

The student will complete two discussion board forums. In the first week the forum is assigned, the student will post a 400-word thread in response to a prompt. This thread is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the assigned module/week. The following week, the student will post two 200-word replies to his/her classmate’s threads by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the assigned module/week. (See MLOs IV. C and E)

D. Book Summaries (2)

The student will write two book summaries throughout this course. Book Summary 1 must be 11 pages in length, not including the title page, and is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 3. Book Summary 2 must be 15 pages in length, not including the title page, and is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 7. (See MLOs IV. C and E)

E. Exams (2)

The student will complete a mid-term and a final exam based on the textbook readings and weekly presentations. Each exam is open-book/open-notes and consists of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. The mid-term exam must be completed by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 4, and the final exam must be completed by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8. (See MLOs IV. A, B, D, F, and G)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points
Course Requirements Checklist
Discussion Board forums
   Thread (2 at 60 pts ea) 10
   Replies (2 at 40 pts ea) 20
Book Summary 1 150
Book Summary 2 150
Mid-term Exam (Modules 1–4) 250
Final Exam (Modules 5–8) 250
Total 1010

B. Scale
D- = 680–699  F = 679 and below

C. Assignment Policy
Each assignment should be completed by the end of the module in which it is
assigned. All late work will be assessed a deduction of 5% per day of the
assignment’s point value. Late work may not be penalized at the instructor’s
discretion in the event of a military deployment, medical emergency, death in the
family, or other extenuating circumstances.

D. Style Guidelines
All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the latest
edition of the Turabian style manual (A Manual for Writers of Research Papers,
Theses, and Dissertations). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may
use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the
footnote citation style. Writing aids are available via the Online Writing Center.

E. Extra Credit
No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the
course requirements stated above.

F. Course Changes
Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University
at any time with appropriate notice.

G. Disability
Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s
Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to
make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be
found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport

VII. Bibliography


## COURSE SCHEDULE

### OBST 590


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK/ MODULE</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Merrill et al.: chs. 1–4  
Oswalt: Introduction, chs. 1–3  
1 presentation | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
DB Forum 1 Thread | 10  
0  
60 |
| 2 | Merrill et al.: chs. 5–8  
Oswalt: chs. 4–6  
1 presentation | DB Forum 1 Replies | 40 |
| 3 | Merrill et al.: chs. 9–12  
Oswalt: chs. 7–10  
1 presentation | Book Summary 1 | 150 |
| 4 | Merrill et al.: chs. 13–17  
Walton: chs. 1–3  
1 presentation | Mid-term Exam | 250 |
| 5 | Merrill et al.: chs. 18–23  
Walton: chs. 4–6  
1 presentation | DB Forum 2 Thread | 60 |
| 6 | Merrill et al.: chs. 24–31  
Walton: chs. 7–10  
1 presentation | DB Forum 2 Replies | 40 |
| 7 | Merrill et al.: chs. 32–40  
Walton: chs. 11–14  
1 presentation | Book Summary 2 | 150 |
| 8 | Merrill et al.: chs. 41–44, Epilogue  
1 presentation | Final Exam | 250 |

**TOTAL** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.