

**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***

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### **OBST 651**

#### **CREATION, COSMOLOGY AND GENESIS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An intensive, comparative study of creation issues. Attention will be directed to a proper exegesis of pertinent Genesis texts, to comparing/contrasting the Genesis account to other Ancient Near East creation stories, and to an evaluation of modern theories of creation.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course provides the student with the knowledge and tools to understand and apply this foundational Christian doctrine located in the book of Genesis. The Christian ministerial student should be able to understand and properly interpret this crucial doctrine from Genesis for apologetics, evangelism, preaching, teaching, and pastoral counseling.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:  
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Exegete key creation passages in the book of Genesis.
- B. Discuss the various ANE creation accounts.
- C. Contrast the biblical account of creation to the ANE accounts.
- D. Identify the modern explanations of creation.
- E. Evaluate modern explanations of creation.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 150 words. (MLO: D, E)

D. Book Summaries (2)

The student will write a 1800–2100-word summary (digest) of the assigned textbooks. The book digest will be arranged according to the Table of Contents. The written summary will distill the main points and sub-points made in each chapter of the book from the introduction to the conclusion. The summary is not a book review or critique, so the student's views on the author's matter must not be included in the digest. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

E. Research Paper

The student will write a 3600–4500-word research-based paper using current Turabian format that focuses on a topic selected from those provided. The paper must include at least 10 graduate-level sources, only 5 of which may be course textbooks and the Bible. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

F. Exams (2)

Each exam will cover the lectures, video materials, and Textbook Readings for the prior modules/weeks up to and including the module/week of the exam. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes and contain a combination of 50 multiple-choice, true/false, and essay questions. Each exam will have a 1-hour and 15-minute time limit. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (1 at 50 pts, 2 at 75 pts ea)	200
Book Summary (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Research Paper	200
Mid-Term Exam (Modules 1–4)	200
Final Exam (Modules 5–8)	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859  
C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739  
D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) and 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. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

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

E. Course Changes

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

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **OBST 651**

Textbooks: Barrett & Caneday, *Four Views on the Historical Adam* (2013).  
 Copan & Craig, *Creation out of Nothing* (2004).  
 Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament* (2013).  
 Halton, *Genesis: History, Fiction, or Neither?* (2015).  
 Oswalt, *The Bible Among the Myths* (2009).  
 Walton, *The Lost World of Genesis One* (2009).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Halton: entire text 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Book Summary 1	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Walton: entire text 1 presentation 2 websites	DB Forum 1	50
<b>3</b>	Currid: entire text Oswalt: entire text 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	75
<b>4</b>	Barrett & Caneday: entire text 1 presentation	Book Summary 2	100
<b>5</b>	Copan & Craig: Introduction–ch. 4 1 presentation	Mid-Term Exam	200
<b>6</b>	Copan & Craig: chs. 5–8 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	75
<b>7</b>	Bible Readings 1 presentation	Research Paper	200
<b>8</b>	Bible Readings 1 presentation 3 websites	Final Exam	200
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

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