

**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 659**

#### **THE POETRY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of the historical background, nature, and purpose of divine revelation in the poetic literature of the Old Testament. An analysis of the form and content of the poetic books of the Old Testament: Job through Song of Solomon, and Lamentations.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course provides the student with the knowledge and tools to understand and apply the poetical books of the Old Testament. The ministerial student should be able to properly interpret the poetry of the Old Testament for preaching, teaching, and/or 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>
- F. Holy Bible

#### IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Describe the general themes and contents of the Old Testament poetical books.
- B. Delineate the major critical issues and interpretive problems in the Old Testament poetical books.
- C. Identify the characteristics of Hebrew poetry and wisdom literature.
- D. Analyze the relationship between the Old Testament poetical books and the comparative ancient near eastern literary material.
- E. Synthesize a Christian understanding of the Old Testament poetical books.

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

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

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

There will be 3 Discussion Board Forums throughout the course. The purpose of Discussion Board Forums is to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant current course topics. The student is required to post 1 thread of at least 400 words. The student must then post 1 reply of at least 100 words. For each thread, assertions must be supported with at least 2 citations in parenthetical format. Each reply must cite at least 1 source. Acceptable sources include textbook(s), presentations, and the Bible. (Outcomes: C & E)

- D. C.S. Lewis Book Critique

The student will complete a 5–6-page book critique which will summarize the contents of the text and also critique the text. The student will be graded based on the guidelines stated in the grading rubric found within Blackboard. (Outcomes: A, B, C, D, & E)

- E. Research Paper

The student will complete a 10–12-page Research Paper based on the topics found within the Assignment Instructions found in Blackboard. This assignment is to be graduate-level work with a minimum of 10 scholarly sources. Of the 10 sources, only 1 commentary from the Church Fathers, 1 commentary from the Reformation period, and 1 popular commentary may be cited, but these are not required. There are 2 steps to this assignment. The first step is a topic submission. The final step is the submission of the completed Research Paper, submitted through SafeAssign. (Outcomes: A, B, C, D, & E)

## F. Exams (3)

There are 3 exams in this course. Each exam consists of multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions. Each exam will have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit and draws from the textbooks and presentations. (Outcomes: A, B, C, D, & E)

## VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

## A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Research Paper: Topic and Bibliography	50
C.S. Lewis Book Critique	200
Research Paper	300
Exams (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
<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 [LBTS 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 [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@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 659**

Textbooks: Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books* (2007).

Lewis, *Reflection on the Psalms* (1964).

Longman, III & Enns, *Dictionary of the Old Testament* (2008).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Bullock: pp. 19–22, 34–42 Lewis: chs. 1–3 DOT Readings 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
<b>2</b>	Bullock: pp. 22–34, 42–59, ch. 2 Lewis: chs. 4–6 DOT Readings 2 presentations	Exam 1	100
<b>3</b>	Bullock: ch. 3 Lewis: chs. 7–9 DOT Readings Job 1–42 2 presentations 1 lecture note	Research Paper: Topic and Bibliography DB Forum 2	50 50
<b>4</b>	Bullock: ch. 4 Lewis: chs. 10–12 DOT Readings Psalms 1, 2, 6, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 34, 38, 45, 47, 51, 69, 73, 76, 80, 93, 105, 109, 110, 119, 124, 127, 139, 149, 150 2 presentations	Exam 2	100
<b>5</b>	Bullock: ch. 5 DOT Readings Proverbs 1–31 2 presentations	C.S. Lewis Book Critique	200
<b>6</b>	Bullock: ch. 6 DOT Readings Ecclesiastes 1–12 2 presentations	Exam 3	100

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>7</b>	Bullock: ch. 7 DOT Readings Song of Solomon 1–8 2 presentations	Research Paper	300
<b>8</b>	DOT Readings Lamentations 1–5 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

DOT: *Dictionary of the Old Testament*

**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.