



SYLLABUS

RELB 111 Introduction to the Old Testament

School of Distance Education

Self-Paced Format

This course follows a self-paced online format. You have 180 days from your selected start date to complete the course. The last day to withdraw with a full refund is 15 days after your start date.

Instructor Contact

Please refer to course in Learning Hub for the teacher contact information.

Communication with the Instructor

It is important to remember that while the Internet is available 24 hours a day, your instructor is not. You can expect that your instructor will respond to e-mail message to you within *2 business days* during the week and may not be available to respond on weekends.

Other Assistance

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Enrollment and withdrawal questions	sderegister@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6323
Technical assistance with online courses	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Exam requests and online proctoring	sdeexams@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6566
Distance Student Services - any other questions	sdestudents@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6566

Part 1: Course Information

Course Descriptions

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a thorough knowledge of the Old Testament and to inspire students to see the importance of the Old Testament for Christian teaching and culture. The course will focus on the Old Testament texts in their geographical, historical, and cultural context, on its literary forms and their significance, and on its theological themes in their relation both to the New Testament and to Christian life and teaching of today.

Required Text/Material

Holy Bible: please use NASB – the New American Standard Bible for your translations (Do not use a paraphrase.)

Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volumes 1-4, Review and Herald Publishing
Available at www.egwwritings.org – [Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#), [Vol. 3](#), & [Vol. 4](#).

Electronic Resources Bible: BibleGateway.com

This site has the Bible in multiple translations and languages. You can select several translations for side-by-side review either verses or chapters. It is free.

Optional Text/Material

White, Ellen G., *Prophets and Kings*, Available at www.egwwritings.org

Ellen G., *Patriarchs and Prophets*, Available at www.egwwritings.org

Ellen G White online books also available at <http://www.whiteestate.org/books/books.asp>

Credit Hour and Commitment

This course is offered for 3 semester credits; therefore it is expected that you will spend 135 total hours on this course. This course has 16 modules with 15 lessons, 2 exams, 4 blogs, 13 reading summaries, 4 essays and one major term paper. Each module represents a week of a typical semester course. It is recommended that you budget 9 hours for studying and completing the activities for each module. There are suggested schedules to accomplish this work included in this syllabus.

Institutional Outcomes

- 3.a. Articulate a biblical worldview in order to interpret life, learning, and civic responsibility from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective.
- 3.b. Address the needs of diverse communities in a manner consistent with Christian thought and practice.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Document foundational knowledge in the areas of Bible, history, and theology from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective (Seek Knowledge)
2. Effectively communicate the global mission, beliefs, and heritage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (Affirm Faith)
3. Exhibit growth in awareness of Christian values and life skills. (Affirm Faith)
4. Document service experiences and skills in community and cross cultural contexts. (Change the World)

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to

1. Recognize the most important geographical features of the Middle East as pertaining to the Old Testament texts, recognize significant cultural traits in the Old Testament unique for the Middle East culture of Antiquity, and position the events described in the Old Testament in their political and chronological historical context;
2. Know the basic content of the Old Testament texts, identify the features of the different literary genres of the Old Testament in their cultural context, and articulate the significance of these literary categories for establishing the meaning and theological impact of the texts.
3. Describe the most important theological themes of the Old Testament within the metanarrative of the Bible, recognize Old Testament themes in the culture of Western civilization, and apply them to the Christian life of today.

Part 2: Course Methods and Delivery

Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction include assigned readings from the textbook and the course material, short essays and reflections on the reading, short open book quizzes on the readings and the vocabulary, final research paper, and two exams. Regular participation in the course is essential to good performance.

Technical Requirements

- Computer: PC (Win 10 or newer) or MAC (10.14 or better)
- A webcam with microphone, and speakers (or plug in headset)
- Internet: 2.4 Mbps or faster DSL, cable or Wi-Fi connection
- Browser: Current version of Chrome or Firefox
- Software: Office 2013 or newer ([Office 365 available here](#))

LearningHub Access

This course is delivered online through LearningHub at <http://learninghub.andrews.edu>

Your username and password are your Andrews username and password. You need to activate your username and password to access LearningHub.

Please do this online here: <https://vault.andrews.edu/vault/pages/activation/information.jsp> if you haven't already. If you need assistance, call or email us: (296) 471-6016 or <mailto:helpdesk@andrews.edu>.

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub, please email dlit@andrews.edu or call (269) 471-3960.

Part 3: Course Requirements

Important Note: Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each learning module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

Your Schedule

In Learning Hub, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. This course is self-paced. You must complete the course within 180 days. This is the Consortium policy. You may have a stricter deadline imposed by graduation, financial aid, or other restrictions.

Start by creating a schedule for completion of the course.

- Determine your deadline. Do you need a transcript sent to your home institution?
- Working from your deadline, count backwards. Allow 2 weeks after you take your final exam for your final grade to be calculated. Allow another 2 weeks for the transcript to be processed and sent.
- Now use the suggested schedules to create a schedule for yourself that ensures completion 4 weeks before your deadline.

Submit your course plan to your instructor within Learning Hub AND discipline yourself to make regular progress.

Assessment Descriptions

Blogs

Four blogs forum questions appear throughout the course. They are posted in the lesson to which they best correspond. The successful student is expected to post a two-paragraph, well-thought-out response to the question. Further instructions appear in the forums.

Essays

There are four essay assignments in this course. You are to write one page double spaced answer to a given questions. Please, check the essay example in Learning Hub to be sure your answer reaches the required level.

Reading Requirements

Students are expected to spend fifty (60) hours reading and writing on the sources listed below. The Old Testament, especially portions emphasized in the course or that are unfamiliar to the student.

The introductions to the Old Testament books in the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volumes 1-4,
Sample SDA Commentary Readings for Vol. 1

- Genesis (201-204)
- Exodus (491-493)
- Leviticus (693-696)
- Numbers (821-822)
- Deuteronomy (953-954)

Reading Summaries

Each week, summarize your four hours of reading in the assigned readings (the text and SDA Bible Commentary). Include what you see as the most important message(s) of the book and the relevance for the book in today's world. Discuss a few relevant points learned from the SDA Bible Commentary readings.

Quizzes

There are four 40-question, multiple-choice Bible quizzes to be taken throughout the course. They cover, respectively, Genesis-Deuteronomy, Joshua-Esther, Job-Song of Solomon, and Isaiah-Malachi. The questions are designed to guide the student to important points of knowledge in these books and are open-book in form. They cover material in the lecture notes as well as material that must be looked up in the Bible.

Analytical Term Paper

Students are expected to submit a 5-page research report on a topic or passage relevant to the study of the OT. Each report is to contain a Bibliography alphabetically listing at least five sources. The paper is to follow the essay guidelines below. The student is to submit to the instructor the passage/topic by the end of the study on Deuteronomy and an outline by the end of the study on Esther.

For a Passage Paper

- a. Choose a passage in the Hebrew Bible: Read your passage in five different versions of the Bible. Then tell what five versions of the Bible you used.
- b. Write your own paraphrase or version of the text.
- c. After consulting a Bible commentary or two, write two or three paragraphs describing the history of the time, the social issues (living conditions, state of the government), and something about the geographical area in which your passage was written. Then add a paragraph discussing who wrote your passage (authorship).
- d. Identify the major theme of the book from which the passage was taken and discuss how your passage relates to that theme.
- e. Choose TWO words from your passage which contribute significantly to your understanding of the passage. After consulting Bible dictionaries, write a short paragraph describing how these words are used in other parts of the Bible.
- f. Write a paragraph discussing THREE other places where your passage is quoted or referred to in the rest of the Bible, or where a similar theme is treated. Consult a good Bible with marginal references, a concordance, or a book like Bible Readings for the Home Circle to aid you in finding these passages.
- g. Discuss how TWO commentaries interpret your passage; be sure to tell which two commentaries you consulted
- h. In one paragraph, discuss how this passage can be applied to your life
- i. Format: Include introduction, thesis statement, body, conclusion and alphabetized bibliography.

For a Topic Paper

- a. Read 8-12 verses/passages in your Bible that address your topic. List the references for these verses/passages.
- b. Write, in your own words, what the topic means to you.
- c. After consulting a Bible commentary or two, write two or three paragraphs describing the history of the time when this topic was discussed, the social issues (and something about the geographical area in which your topic was discussed.
- d. Discuss how your topic fits in with the major themes of the Bible.
- e. After consulting a Bible dictionary or two, choose two words involved in or related to your topic and show how they contribute significantly to your understanding of the topic.
- f. Discuss how two Bible encyclopedia articles or magazine/journal articles treat your topic.
- g. In one paragraph, discuss how this topic can be applied to your life.
- h. Format: Include introduction, thesis statement, body, conclusion and alphabetized bibliography.

Extra Credit

A student may raise his/her total grade percentage five points by memorizing up to twelve verses in the OT. These verses should be made up of one or two small passages essentially new to the student. On the day of the final, students who memorized may have their exam proctor evaluate the reciting of the verses based on the Bible the student brings to the examination. One point is to be given for the first three verses nearly-perfectly recited, and another point for the next three so done. After that it's two verses for a point.

Exams

There are two exams in this course. The midterm exam covers material from Lessons 1-8, is made up of multiple-choice and essay questions, and is worth 100 points. You will be allowed

120 minutes to take this exam. This exam is worth 20% of your grade. The final exam covers material from Lessons 9-15, is made up of multiple-choice and essay questions, and is worth 100 points. You will be allowed 120 minutes to take this exam. This exam is worth 20% of your grade. Both exams require proctoring.

Follow prompts in the course space to set up your exam session. In each module that contains an exam, you will find what to review and what materials are allowed (if any) during the exam.

Please read the important information about taking exams and how online proctoring works at www.andrews.edu/distance/students/exams.html. Then follow the instructions that apply to your situation on the [exam request form](#) to set up your exam session.

Please note that an exam code is never released to the student. All students must present photo identification before each exam session. Exams can only be proctored after a deadline with approval directly from the instructor to the Testing Center (sdeexams@andrews.edu or 269-471-6566). No exam is returned to the student for review. The instructor, to aid studying for future exams can provide feedback on exams.

Suggested schedule for completion in 8 weeks:

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments	Outcomes Met
Intro	These items will need to be completed before you will have access to the rest of the course	Orientation Course Overview Introductions Academic Integrity	Schedule Introduce Yourself Academic Integrity Quiz Academic Integrity Statement	
1	Lesson 1: How Do We Know & Understand the Old Testament?	Lesson 1		SLO 2
	Lesson 2: Genesis	Lesson 2 SDA Commentary Vol. 1 Genesis	Reading Summary 1 Blog 1	SLO 1, 2
2	Lesson 3: Exodus	Lesson 3 SDA Commentary Vol.1 Exodus	Reading Summary 2	SLO 1, 2
	Lesson 4: Leviticus	Lesson 4 SDA Commentary Vol.1 Leviticus	Reading Summary 3 Essay 1	SLO 1, 2, 3
3	Lesson 5: Numbers & Deuteronomy	Lesson 5 SDA Commentary Vol.1 Numbers Deuteronomy	Reading Summary 4 Submit Passage or Topic for Analytical Term Paper Quiz 1	SLO 1, 2, 3
	Lesson 6: Joshua, Judges, & Ruth	Lesson 6 SDA Commentary Vol.2 Joshua Judges Ruth	Reading Summary 5 Blog 2	SLO 1, 2
4	Lesson 7: Samuel, Kings, & Chronicles	Lesson 7 SDA Commentary Vol.2 Samuel Kings SDA Commentary Vol.3 Chronicles	Reading Summary 6 Analytical Term Paper Outline	SLO 1, 2, 3
	Lesson 8: Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther	Lesson 8 SDA Commentary Vol. 3 Ezra Esther	Reading Summary 7 Essay 2 Quiz 2	SLO 1, 2, 3
	PROCTORED MIDTERM EXAM			SLO 1, 2
5	Lesson 9: Job & Psalms	Lesson 9 SDA Commentary Vol. 3 Job Psalms	Reading Summary 8 Blog 3	SLO 1, 2
	Lesson 10: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon	Lesson 10 SDA Commentary Vol.3 Proverbs Ecclesiastics Song of Solomon	Reading Summary 9 Quiz 3	SLO 1, 2, 3
6	Lesson 11: Isaiah	Lesson 11 SDA Commentary Vol. 4 Isaiah (83-93)	Reading Summary 10	SLO 1, 2
	Lesson 12: Jeremiah & Lamentations	Lesson 12 SDA Commentary Vol.4 Jeremiah Lamentations	Reading Summary 11 Essay 3	SLO 1, 2, 3

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments	Outcomes Met
7	Lesson 13: Ezekiel & Daniel	Lesson 13 SDA Commentary Vol.4 Ezekiel Daniel	Reading Summary 12	SLO 1, 2
	Lesson 14: Minor Prophets	Lesson 14 SDA Commentary Vol.4 Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	Reading Summary 13 Blog 4 Quiz 4	SLO 1, 2
8	Lesson 15: The New Testament	Lesson 15	Essay 4 Analytical Term Paper	SLO 1, 2, 3
	PROCTORED FINAL EXAM			SLO 1, 2

Suggested schedule for completion in 16 weeks:

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments	Outcomes Met
Intro	These items will need to be completed before you will have access to the rest of the course	Orientation Course Overview Introductions Academic Integrity	Schedule Introduce Yourself Academic Integrity Quiz Academic Integrity Statement	
1	Lesson 1: How Do We Know & Understand the Old Testament?	Lesson 1		SLO 2
2	Lesson 2: Genesis	Lesson 2 SDA Commentary Vol. 1 Genesis	Reading Summary 1 Blog 1	SLO 1, 2
3	Lesson 3: Exodus	Lesson 3 SDA Commentary Vol.1 Exodus	Reading Summary 2	SLO 1, 2
4	Lesson 4: Leviticus	Lesson 4 SDA Commentary Vol.1 Leviticus	Reading Summary 3 Essay 1	SLO 1, 2, 3
5	Lesson 5: Numbers & Deuteronomy	Lesson 5 SDA Commentary Vol.1 Numbers Deuteronomy	Reading Summary 4 Submit Passage or Topic for Analytical Term Paper Quiz 1	SLO 1, 2, 3
6	Lesson 6: Joshua, Judges, & Ruth	Lesson 6 SDA Commentary Vol.2 Joshua Judges Ruth	Reading Summary 5 Blog 2	SLO 1, 2

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments	Outcomes Met
7	Lesson 7: Samuel, Kings, & Chronicles	Lesson 7 SDA Commentary Vol.2 Samuel Kings SDA Commentary Vol.3 Chronicles	Reading Summary 6 Analytical Term Paper Outline	SLO 1, 2, 3
8	Lesson 8: Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther	Lesson 8 SDA Commentary Vol. 3 Ezra Esther	Reading Summary 7 Essay 2 Quiz 2	SLO 1, 2, 3
PROCTORED MIDTERM EXAM				SLO 1, 2
9	Lesson 9: Job & Psalms	Lesson 9 SDA Commentary Vol. 3 Job Psalms	Reading Summary 8 Blog 3	SLO 1, 2
10	Lesson 10: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon	Lesson 10 SDA Commentary Vol.3 Proverbs Ecclesiastics Song of Solomon	Reading Summary 9 Quiz 3	SLO 1, 2, 3
11	Lesson 11: Isaiah	Lesson 11 SDA Commentary Vol. 4 Isaiah (83-93)	Reading Summary 10	SLO 1, 2
12	Lesson 12: Jeremiah & Lamentations	Lesson 12 SDA Commentary Vol.4 Jeremiah Lamentations	Reading Summary 11 Essay 3	SLO 1, 2, 3
13	Lesson 13: Ezekiel & Daniel	Lesson 13 SDA Commentary Vol.4 Ezekiel Daniel	Reading Summary 12	SLO 1, 2
14	Lesson 14: Minor Prophets	Lesson 14 SDA Commentary Vol.4 Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	Reading Summary 13 Blog 4 Quiz 4	SLO 1, 2
15	Lesson 15: The New Testament	Lesson 15	Essay 4 Analytical Term Paper	SLO 1, 2, 3
16	PROCTORED FINAL EXAM			SLO 1, 2

Completing Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through LearningHub unless otherwise instructed. Assignments and exams must be completed **within 180 days** of course registration date. This timeframe is subject to change depending on deadlines set by your home institution.

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

Percent %	Description
20	Reading Summaries
5	Blogs
5	Essays
10	Quizzes
20	Analytical Term Paper
20	Midterm Exam
20	Final Exam
100	Total Percent Possible

Viewing Grades in Moodle

- Click into the course.
- Click on the **Grades** link in Administration Block to the left of the main course page.

Letter Grade Assignment

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Part 5: Course Policies

Withdrawal and Incomplete Policies

The current withdrawal policy can be found online at <https://www.andrews.edu/distance/students/gradplus/withdrawal.html>. The incomplete policy is found online at <http://www.andrews.edu/web/mvc/moodle/public/incompletes.html>.

Maintain Professional Conduct Both in the Classroom and Online

The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. Your instructor will make every effort to make this environment safe for you to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas, and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication. Students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption.

Academic Accommodations

Students who require accommodations may request an academic adjustment as follows:

1. Read the Andrews University Disability Accommodation information at <https://www.andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/>
2. Download and fill in the disability form at <http://www.andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/accommodationsreqform.pdf> . Preferably type answers. To save a digital copy, 1) print to file and save or 2) print and scan. Email the completed form and disability documentation (if any) to success@andrews.edu or fax it to (269) 471-8407.
3. Email sdestudents@andrews.edu to inform the School of Distance Education that a disability has been reported to Student Success.

Commitment to Integrity

As a student in this course, and at the university, you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning, participation in this course, and integrity in your behavior in and out of this online classroom.

Commitment to Excellence

You deserve a standing ovation based on your decision to enroll in, and effectively complete this course. Along with your pledge of “commitment to Integrity” you are expected to adhere to a “commitment to excellence.” Andrews University has established high academic standards that will truly enhance your writing and communication skills across the disciplines and in diverse milieu with many discourse communities in the workplace.

Honesty

Using the work of another student or allowing work to be used by another student jeopardizes not only the teacher-student relationship but also the student’s academic standing. Lessons may be discussed with other students, tutors may help to guide a student’s work, and textbooks, encyclopedias and other resource materials may be used for additional assistance, but the actual response must be the student’s own work. A student who gives information to another student to be used in a dishonest way is equally guilty of dishonesty.

Any violation of this policy will be taken before the Higher Education Academic and Curriculum Committee for appropriate punitive action.