

**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.**

## MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI-5533 Old Testament History, Literature, and Theology, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of the Old Testament with a focus on its trustworthiness and purpose. It will review select Old Testament books addressing both matters of general introduction and contribution to the larger message that emerges out of the Old Testament canon. It includes attention to history, geography, authorship, culture, literary genre, and biblical theology as well as application to contemporary life.

### Course Objectives

*After completing this course, you will be able to...*

1. **Trace** the story line, context, matters of general introduction (including authorship, date, genre, geography, and cultural background) as well as central biblical theological themes pertaining to the Old Testament
2. **Identify** the roles of major persons, places, events, and themes in the Old Testament for the proper understanding of the biblical text
3. **Relate** major events in Old Testament history to the divine program as revealed in the Bible
4. **Apply** the results of Biblical Theology to life and ministry, including articulating such in writing

### Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

### Assignments

**Guideline for the Discussion Board:** Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Saturday, 12:00am CDT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Tuesday, 12:00am CDT).

**Standard for Written Papers:** All papers must be in Turabian style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style: [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)

**1-1 Study Guide Questions (Not Graded):** Answer the study questions found in the reading in a way that suggests reading comprehension and submit them for comments

**1-2 Personal Approach Paper:** Write a two-page paper articulating your personal approach toward acquiring the proper background for studying any Old Testament book or pericope.

**1-3 Personal Position Paper:** Write a one to two-page, single-spaced, personal position paper defending your personal use of narrative criticism as an interpretive approach to the OT or alternately, defining its limits and or appropriate uses (if any).

**2-1 Study Guide Questions (Not Graded):** Answer the study questions found in the assigned reading in a way that suggests reading comprehension and submit them.

**2-2 Charts- Exodus & Deuteronomy:** Construct two **one-page** *detailed* charts of the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy similar to the sample provided.

**2-3 Personal Response Paper #1:** Write a one page, single spaced, personal response paper to the assigned reading.

**3-1 Study Guide Questions (Not Graded):** Answer the study questions found in Merrill in the assigned reading, in a way that suggests reading comprehension and submit them.

**3-2 Chart- Timeline of the Historical Books –OR– Paper-Esther:** Construct a two-three page *detailed* chronological chart for the historical books of the OT (Joshua—Esther).

-OR-

Write a two-three page, single-spaced paper on the book of Esther in which you address the following issues: **The Purpose of Esther in the Biblical Canon: Is Esther a Role Model? Why or Why Not?** Be sure to consider the character of biblical characters/protagonists living in a parallel era (e.g. Daniel, et al.).

**3-3 Personal Response Paper #2:** Write a one-page, single-spaced, personal response paper to the assigned reading.

**4-1 Study Guide Questions (Not Graded):** Answer the study questions found in Merrill in the assigned reading in a way that suggests reading comprehension and submit them.

**4-2 Theodicy Paper- Obadiah:** A **theodicy** is a theological construct designed to justify rationally God's ways in the face of evil and suffering. In light of what you have read about the OT prophets proclaiming God's wrath, how does Obadiah's portrayal of Edom serve as a theodicy? Write a single-spaced one-two page paper to address these 21 verses.

**4-3 Personal Response Paper #3:** Write a two-page interaction with the assigned reading.

**5-1 Study Guide Questions (Not Graded):** Answer the study questions found in Merrill in the assigned reading in a way that suggests reading comprehension and submit them.

**5-2 Application Journal:** Write a half-page journal entry for four of the Prophetic books (your choice) that you read this week (total of two pages combined, single-spaced). Please include three points of personal application from each book in your journal.

**6-1 Study Guide Questions (Not Graded):** Answer the study questions found in the assigned reading in a way that suggests reading comprehension and submit them.

**6-2 Chart- Proverbs Themes:** Read Proverbs 1-5. Write down (chart) at least 10 themes that are repeated in these chapters with the verses that relate to these themes.

**6-3 Reflection Paper- Psalm 127-128:** Carefully read Psalms 127-128. In a three-page paper address the assigned topics.

**7-1 Study Guide Questions (Not Graded):** Answer the study questions found in the assigned reading in a way that suggests reading comprehension and submit them.

**7-2 Charts -Creative, Summative OT:** Construct a series of (a minimum of four) summative charts that constitute a creative visualization of the teachings and content of the Old Testament for use with a young adult (18-25 year old) audience.

**7-3 Final Exam:** Allow 2 hours for the exam on Blackboard.

### Assessments

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Discussions (6 of 7 graded posts with 2 responses per post) Lowest grade of posts is dropped/others divided to constitute total	20%
Assignment 1-2 – Personal Approach Paper	5%
Assignment 1-3 – Personal Position Paper: Higher Criticism	5%
Assignment 2-2 – Charts: Exodus and Deuteronomy	5%
Assignment 2-3 – Personal Response Paper 1	5%
Assignment 3-2 – Chart: Timeline of the Historical Books <b>OR</b> Paper: Esther	5%
Assignment 3-3 – Personal Response Paper 2	5%
Assignment 4-2 –Theodicy Paper: Obadiah	5%
Assignment 4-3 – Personal Response Paper 3	5%
Assignment 5-2 – Application Journal	5%
Assignment 6-2 – Chart: Proverbs Themes	5%
Assignment 6-3 – Reflection Paper: Psalm 127-128	5%
Assignment 7-2 – Charts: Creative Summative OT	10%
Assignment 7-3 – Final Exam	15%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work

**Course Copyright Statement**

Copyright 2014 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. All rights reserved.

Unless otherwise specified, the materials and services on this website are for your personal and non-commercial use, and you may not modify, copy, distribute, transmit, display, perform, reproduce, publish, license, create derivative works from, transfer, or sell any information, software, products or services obtained from the website without the written permission from Moody Distance Learning, Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60610.