

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-1114 Old Testament Literature 2, 4 credit hours

Course Description

This course introduces students to the poetic, prophetic, apocalyptic, and wisdom literature of the Old Testament. Distinctive features and functions of various literary types are discussed. Course also surveys a variety of Old Testament themes. (Job-Malachi)

Course Objectives

- Explain the content and message of prophetic, apocalyptic, wisdom, and poetic literature
- Describe the process and method of interpreting the prophetic, apocalyptic, wisdom, and poetic texts
- Examine prophetic and wisdom literature according to their genre and with the use of Hebrew poetics
- Explain the interpretive issues inherent in studying the prophetic and apocalyptic literature
- Compose ideas for teaching, preaching, and counseling based upon proper biblical interpretation of the biblical genres studied in this course
- Analyze various views on the function and role of prophetic and apocalyptic language in understanding biblical eschatology

Course Textbook(s) and Other Readings

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

Assignments

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**
Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: reading and discussion boards.
 - a. **Reading Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly reading assignments prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in your course.
 - b. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Students must make an initial post that indicates a familiarity with the assigned text(s) and critical thought on the subject and the question at hand.

This initial post is due each week of the discussion by 12:00 AM CDT on Saturday. Students must make at least **two additional posts** on fellow students' postings by 12:00 AM CDT on Tuesday.

Important note about your discussion posts: When providing responses in discussion boards, take care to avoid *merely* complementing fellow students' contributions. Though it is certainly helpful to offer encouragement, many students frequently neglect to include helpful critique. Some examples of this may be:

- Positive critique ("I believe you were correct when you said____, this is because....")
- Constructive criticism ("Have you ever considered seeing it this way instead...?")
- Personal connection ("I once had a similar experience when I....")
- Biblical connections ("What you said makes me think of the time in Luke when Jesus..")

Make sure to balance complementing with constructive criticism and vice versa.

Responses counting toward the required number for any given Discussion Board must be a minimum of 75 words. For example, if a discussion board required 2 responses and a student provides 4, only those exceeding 75 words will be counted toward the requirement.

2. ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Assignment 1: Psalm 8 Analysis Worksheet**
The readings in Lesson 1 introduces students to the literary keys to unlocking the way in which Hebrew poetry communicates its message. The poetic elements discussed in Jacobson & Jacobson and Longman & Enns (see also the adjacent handout) are essential to understanding the psalms. Using the elements introduced, do an in-depth study of Psalm 8. Read, reread, search, and probe for any hint of Hebrew poetics.
- **Assignment 2: Understanding Psalm Genre Worksheet**
This readings in Lesson 2 provide students with a survey of the various genres of psalms. In this assignment students will study a list of psalms and identify their genre in the table given in the "Understanding Psalm Genre Worksheet" in the Lesson Resources folder. After identifying the genre of a psalm, give a defense of the genre choice. See the instructions given in the "Understanding Psalm Genre Worksheet" for more information.
- **Assignment 3: Ecclesiastes Evangelistic Handout**
Considering the messages of Ecclesiastes about *the meaning and purpose of life*, create a 1-page Evangelistic handout from the book of Ecclesiastes on the futility of life without God and the ultimate human purpose and fulfillment of living in obedience to God. Students should include sections of text, pictures or diagrams, and color.
- **Assignment 4: Principles of the Wisdom Literature Short Essay**
Consider the email found in the course resources.
As a friend and mentor, write a 1-2 page double-spaced response. Use a casual and friendly tone as though the response was in an email. Include Scripture references as well as practical positive steps for this church member in their desire for the security of wealth.
- **Assignment 5: Covenant Enforcement Worksheet**
As described in the readings in Lesson 5, the prophets' message focused on the enforcement of the covenant between God and the nation of Israel. It is on these terms that the prophets announce the people's disobedience, their need for reform, and coming judgment.

In this assignment, students will trace the sayings of the prophets back to their root in the covenant stipulations of the Pentateuch. Use your Lesson 5 assigned Scripture readings in Amos, Joel, Hosea, and Micah to find 10 such parallels and record them in the table provided in the “Covenant Enforcement Worksheet” in the Lesson Resources folder. There must be at least one entry from each book and two entries from each of the categories of parallels given (above). Each entry is worth 10 points.

- **Assignment 6: Prophetic Analysis Worksheet I**
Complete and submit the “Prophetic Analysis Worksheet I” in the Lesson Resources folder. Instructions for this worksheet assignment can be found in the worksheet.
- **Assignment 7: Prophetic Analysis Worksheet II**
Complete the table provided in the “Prophetic Analysis Worksheet II” in the Lesson Resources folder. The first column represents the reoccurring biblical theme. In the second column, provide the practical significance of this theme in both judgment and blessing (whichever applies) to the original audience, in light of the covenant. In the third column, come up with a creative contemporary equivalent that would apply to Christians today. Even though the Mosaic covenant is not a reality for Christians today, the consequences of blessing or punishment can be translated to modern ideas that retain their *practical equivalence*. See the example for more clarity for this assignment.

Once the table is completed, draft a 16-20 line (according to biblical style; see footnote in worksheet) prophetic text of either blessing or judgment that would apply to a modern Western society. Include at least 6 of the contemporary equivalents of themes produced in the table below. Up to a 15% bonus will be provided for students who exceed the length requirements and those who use Hebrew poetic elements (parallelism, etc.).

- **Assignment 8: Interpretive Approach Short Essays**
In this assignment students will choose an interpretive methodology for themselves and defend it. This assignment will be submitted using the “Interpretive Approach Essays Worksheet.” In addition, the Lesson 8 Discussion Board is devoted to aiding students in the completion of this assignment.

Part 1: Interpretive Approaches for the Prophetic Genre

Part 2: My Interpretive Approach

Assessments

Students’ grades for this course will consist of:

Class Participation	20%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	5%
Assignment 3	5%
Assignment 4	15%
Assignment 5	10%
Assignment 6	10%

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Assignment 7	10%
Assignment 8	15%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

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