

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.

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI1103 Reading the Old Testament, 4 credit hours

Course Description

Examination of interpretive techniques necessary in the interpretation of the major genres of the Old Testament. Emphasis placed on the discussion of key theological themes appearing in a variety of Old Testament texts. Methods for moving from the interpretation of Old Testament texts to the development of theology introduced.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Analyze Old Testament genres according to genre distinctive.
2. Describe the relationship between various Old Testament themes.
3. Utilize historical background to interpret Old Testament texts.
4. Identify the ways in which the Old Testament Scriptures form one's self and one's community faith.

Content Expectations

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

Assignments

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: discussion boards and reading. **Class Participation accounts for between 25% and 40% of final course grade.**
 - e. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Resources section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Unless otherwise directed, post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).
 - e. **Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video reviews, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly expectations prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.
2. **ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be several projects in this course requiring skills learned that include work with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The assignments in the course are:
 - a. **Assignment 1-1: Comparing Genesis 1-2 and the Enuma Elish**
Scholars of the ancient Near East have for a long time been drawing parallels between Genesis 1–2 and the *Enuma Elish* epic. But to what extent is this true? And even if there are

parallels, what *theological* (i.e., doctrinal) differences are there between the texts? In a 3-**(FULL)** page minimum, 4-page maximum paper you will examine the similarities and differences between these two creation stories. **(Please note that all papers are to be double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font.)**

b. **Assignment 2-1: Amenemope Comparative Blog**

While reading *The Teachings of Amenemope*, keep an eye out for parallels and similarities. Keep searching until you find at least 3 and write down examples of any you find.

Based upon your study of *Amenemope* and Proverbs, write **maximum 250-word** blog post.

c. **Assignment 4-1: Interpreting Wisdom Literature Short Essay**

Consider the email scenario provided in the course resources.

As a friend and mentor, write a 1–2 page double-spaced response explaining (1) the truth about what the wisdom literature does and does not promise about riches/success and also (2) the correct way to understand the principles of cause-and-effect taught in the wisdom literature (e.g., Proverbs 11:24) verses the promises or commands of the legal or prophetic genres. Use a casual and friendly tone as though the response were in an email. Include Scripture references as well as practical positive steps for this church member in their desire for the security of wealth.

d. **Assignment 4-2: Old Testament Thematic Analysis Summary**

Throughout this course you will see examples of how to study theological themes in specific biblical texts. This process begins with discerning the biblical genre and includes exegetical observation, interpretation, and application, and then a comparative study of biblical themes in the Old and New Testaments. Complete this assignment in two steps:

1. **Step 1: Summary**

By the end of Week 4 you will submit a 1-page document that includes your theme, your thesis, and a bibliography of resources you plan to consult.

2. **Step 2: Final Essay**

(See Assignment 8-2 for more details)

e. **Assignment 5-1: Covenant Enforcement Worksheet**

In this assignment, the sayings of the prophets back to their root in the covenant stipulations of the Pentateuch. Utilizing knowledge of the OT Law as well as the promises of blessings and curses found in Deuteronomy 28, correlate the pronouncements of the prophets with their antecedents in the Pentateuch.

Use your Week 5 assigned Scripture reading to find 10 such parallels and record them in the table provided in the “Covenant Enforcement Worksheet.” 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. See examples given in the “Covenant Enforcement Worksheet” for more details.

f. **Assignment 5-2: Understanding Psalm Genre Worksheet**

In this assignment you will study a list of psalms and identify their genre in the table provided in the “Understanding Psalm Genre Worksheet.” 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.

g. **Assignment 6-1: Psalm 110 Analysis Worksheet**

Your study of Hebrew Poetics in Week 5 has introduced you to how poetics are literary “keys” for unlocking the patterns of significance embedded in the Psalms. The poetic elements discussed in the text (see also the adjacent handout) are essential to understanding the psalms. Using the elements introduced, you will complete an in-depth study of Psalm 110 for the purpose of identifying its full original **message** and discern **how** and the **extent to which** it prophesies the coming messiah Jesus Christ. Consequently, this assignment will include a multistep process outlined in the Course Resources.

h. **Assignment 6-2: Historicity of the Exodus Research Paper**

For this assignment you will explore and defend a position on the historicity of the Exodus. In a 4–5-page double-spaced paper explain and defend your position.

MLA formatting is required throughout. Include a full introduction and conclusion, a clear thesis, and citations from **at least 3 published** academic publications (book, monograph, article, etc.).

i. **Assignment 7-1: Contextual Considerations Assignment**

Though this course is not intended to teach you Bible backgrounds, it is important for all students of narrative to recognize how imbedded the text is in Israelite (and ancient Near Eastern) history and culture and to understand the extent to which proper interpretation is reliant upon understanding Scripture’s context. Some of the most overlooked and misunderstood contextual factors in the Old Testament are **political and geographical considerations**. This assignment will require you to observe historical and cultural features in a text and then discuss how, specifically, the political and geographical context clarifies what is happening in both.

To complete this assignment you will use the “Historical/Cultural Analysis Worksheet”.

j. **Assignment 8-1 Loyalty Study: Achan and Rahab**

In this assignment you will complete a comparative study of Joshua 2:1–24 and 7:1–26, passages that chronicle two surprising stories that both revolve around loyalty to Yahweh. Similar to Assignment 5-1, this study will be completed in two steps outlined in the Course Resources.

k. **Assignment 8-2: Old Testament Thematic Analysis Final Essay**

You will write a 6-page double-spaced paper studying a single biblical theme that is taught in 2–4 select Old Testament passages.

Be sure to look at Assignment 8-3, which is based upon this assignment, to be sure you time your completion of this assignment to allow you to finish Assignment 8-3. **No exceptions will be made for students who are not able to complete Assignment 8-3 due to a lack of progress on this assignment.**

l. **Assignment 8-3 Thematic Analysis Presentation**

In this assignment you will create a 3–4-minute **video blog** presentation of your study in Assignment 8-1. Your video should be pedagogically effective and thus will be graded strictly.

Writing Style

Undergraduate students at Moody Bible Institute are to follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) style for all written assignments. Your instructor may waive this requirement for specific assignments such as discussion boards, blogs, emails, and the like, but if not stated otherwise, follow MLA guidelines. Assignments not in proper MLA format may be returned with a request to redo the assignment and could be subject to a late penalty.

At a minimum, all assignments submitted as a document are to be in a standard 12-point font (limited to Time New Roman, Arial, Calibri, Cambria, Century Schoolbook fonts), 8½ x 11 page size, and double-spaced and are to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx). Papers that cite other works should include a Works Cited page.

Students should follow the latest version of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (currently the 7th edition) or use the OWL website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Class Participation/Discussions	25%
Assignment 1-1 Comparing Genesis 1-2 and the Enuma Elish	5%
Assignment 2-1 Amenemope Comparative Blog	5%
Assignment 4-1 Interpreting Wisdom Literature Short Essay	10%
Assignment 4-2 Old Testament Thematic Analysis	5%
Assignment 5-1 Covenant Enforcement Worksheet	5%
Assignment 5-2 Understanding Psalm Genre Worksheet	5%
Assignment 6-1 Psalm 110 Analysis Worksheet	5%
Assignment 6-2 Historicity of the Exodus Research Paper	5%
Assignment 7-1 Contextual Considerations Assignment	5%
Assignment 8-1 Loyalty Study: Achan and Rahab	5%
Assignment 8-2 Old Testament Thematic Analysis Final Essay	10%
Assignment 8-3 Thematic Analysis Presentation	10%
	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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