

# Uganda Christian University

## Department of Foundation Studies

<b>Course Title</b>	Understanding the Old Testament		
<b>Course Code</b>	FS 1103	<b>Credit Hours</b>	3
<b>Contact Hours</b>	4	<b>Core / Elective</b>	Core
<b>Lecturer</b>	A Turyahabwe / E Kansiime	<b>Tutorial Asst.</b>	various
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### 1. Course Description

This course offers students a thorough survey of the Old Testament. Students will be expected to understand the basic historical framework of ancient Israel, the general content of the Old Testament books, and the theological message(s) they convey.

### 2. Course Objectives

- To gain an appreciation of the Old Testament books as God's Word
- To understand the history of Israel and the purpose of Israel as God's people
- To understand the message and major themes of the Old Testament
- To learn basic skills of interpretation using selected texts
- To relate the message of the Old Testament to one's own life in the contemporary African context and the world

### 3. Required Readings

All students will need a Bible

- *Understanding the Old Testament: a UCU Foundation Course Study Guide*
- *Lion Handbook to the Bible*, Alexander, David & Pat (eds.), Oxford: Lion, 1973/1999.

### 4. Course Content

#### 4.1 Course Outline and Content Description

- 1 Getting Our Bearings: An overview of the historical and literary context
- 2 Forming the Biblical Worldview: The Primeval Period & human origins (Genesis 1-11)
- 3 Promise and Deliverance: The Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50)
- 4 God Commanded Us a Law: The 10 Commandments & the Law (Exodus-Leviticus)
- 5 Consummating the Covenant: Israel, the People and the Land (Numbers-Deut-Josh)
- 6 Leadership in Crisis: Cycles of Sin and Judgement (Judges-1 Samuel-Ruth)
- 7 The Messianic Kingdom: Davidic kingship and the future (2 Samuel-1 Kings)
- 8 The Covenant Community: Broken and Restored (2 Kings-Extra-Nehemiah-Esther)
- 9 The Prophet's Word – A Two-Edged Sword: Understanding prophecy (Overview)
- 10 The Kingdoms of the World and the Kingdom of God: (Major prophets)
- 11 Get Wisdom: An overview of the wisdom literature (Prov-Job-Eccles-Song of Songs)
- 12 The Psalms: Biblical Prayer and Praise (Psalms)

## 4.2 Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Required Reading	Assignments
1	Getting Our Bearings	Study Guide Chapter 1 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	
2	Forming the Biblical Worldview	Study Guide Chapter 2 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 1
3	Promise & Deliverance	Study Guide Chapter 3 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 2
4	God Commanded Us a Law	Study Guide Chapter 4 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 3
5	Consummating the Covenant	Study Guide Chapter 5 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 4 Essay 1
6	Leadership in Crisis	Study Guide Chapter 6 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 5
7	The Messianic Kingdom	Study Guide Chapter 7 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 6 Test
8	The Covenant Community: Broken and Restored	Study Guide Chapter 8 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 7
9	The Prophet's Word: A Two- Edged Sword	Study Guide Chapter 9 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 8 Essay 2
10	The Kingdoms of the World and the Kingdom of God	Study Guide Chapter 10 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignment 9
11	Get Wisdom	Study Guide Chapter 11 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	Tutorial Group Assignm't 10
12	The Psalms: Biblical Prayer and Praise	Study Guide Chapter 12 Selections from the Bible Lion / Zondervan Handbook	

### 4.3 Assignment Explanations

Tutorial sessions are of vital importance for students to process, discuss, and interact with the material covered in the lecture each week. In addition, weekly assignments and coursework will be handled in the tutorial setting.

Ten **weekly assignment** options, of which five are required, may be found at the end of each chapter in the study guide. The tutor may assign any option in the book or an alternative option. If more than 5 assignments are done, the **best 5** will be included in the coursework assessment.

Two **essays** will be required on a topic to be assigned by the tutor.

A short **test** will be given midway through the semester, normally in week 7.

Overall knowledge of the Old Testament will be tested on the **final exam**. Students should read the relevant sections of the Lion (or Zondervan) Handbook each week and be familiar with the 'Terms to Note' at the end of each chapter.

## 5. Assessment Criteria

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials, and to come prepared with bibles and this study guide. Students should be prepared to discuss the assignment for the day, having completed the work **before** the tutorial session. Tutors will collect assignments each week.

10%	<b>Tutorial Group Attendance and Participation</b>
10%	<b>Essay Assignments (to be given during the semester)</b>
20%	<b>Weekly Assignments (best of 5 to be assessed)</b>
10%	<b>Test(s)</b>
50%	<b>Exam</b>

## 6. Faith in Teaching

The primary purpose of this course is to encourage students to read and personally engage with the Bible. The course is content-based and students join in a general survey of the Old Testament literature, learn to understand the historical framework of ancient Israel, the general thematic and narrative content of the Old Testament books, and the theological message(s) they convey. The course is not taught with an assumption of faith, but with the view that even Christian students may not understand their faith or its origins; therefore the tutorial system works to make the course interactive and relevant to the issues students are facing in their lives today, from a biblical perspective.

## 7. Bibliography

Alexander, David & Pat (eds.)	<i>Lion Handbook to the Bible</i> , Oxford: Lion, 1973/1999.
Arnold, Bill & Bryan Beyer	<i>Encountering the Old Testament</i> , Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
Charpentier, Etienne	<i>How to Read the Old Testament</i> , London: SCM, 1981.
Dillard, R. and T. Longman III	<i>An Introduction to the OT</i> , Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
Drane, John	<i>Introducing the Old Testament</i> , Oxford: Lion, 1987.
Freeman, Hobart E.	<i>An Introduction to the OT Prophets</i> , Warsaw: Faith Ministries, 1994.
Hill, Andrew E. & John Walton	<i>A Survey of the OT</i> , Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991/2000.
Knowles, Andrew	<i>The Bible Guide: An all-in-one Introduction</i> , Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2001.