

Anglican Mission School of Ministry
Course Description and Syllabus
(June 19, 2008 edition)

Course Title: BIB 501—English Bible 1 (Old Testament Survey).

Course Texts:

Bruce K. Waltke. *An Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006

Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton. *A Survey of The Old Testament*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

O. Palmer Robertson. *The Christ of the Covenants*. Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1981.

John H. Walton. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006.

Faculty:

William Elkins. Mr. Elkins was ordained by Believer's Chapel in Dallas, Texas, and also served at Fellowship Bible Church in Woodlands, Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Houston, and also holds a Th.M. in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is a member of St. Andrew's Anglican Church (AMiA) in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Course Perspective: This course will be taught from an Evangelical Anglican perspective. Among other things, this means the belief that ...

1. The 66 books (the Old and the New Testaments) of the Holy Scriptures are divinely inspired by God. It may be properly said that both the words and concepts have their origin in the mind of God. Nevertheless, the human character of the authors of the various books is demonstrated in the writings.
2. The original texts of the Scriptures are without error in fact or doctrine. Minor errors may have crept into the text due to scribal errors (thus the need for good, conservative textual scholars). Yet, the transmission of the Bible has been safeguarded by the work of the Holy Spirit so that the great truths contained in the original text have been preserved, intact, to this day.
3. The Scriptures are the ultimate rule of faith and life for humanity. Nothing ought to be taught as a matter of faith or morals which cannot be proved from the Bible. Creeds and confessional statement are useful and necessary for the clarity of the church's teaching, but only so long as they conform to the teachings of the Scriptures.
4. The message of the redemption of humanity, by grace through faith, is revealed (some places more clearly, some place less so) throughout the Scriptures. The message of redemption is admittedly vague in the beginning of the course of revelation, but as this work of God progresses through history, the revelation becomes likewise progressively clearer.
5. The church collectively has received the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead her into all truth, which includes the proper interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. Collectively, the teachers and elders of the church are called upon by God to diligently search out and study the Scriptures so that they may properly teach the people of God to apply these Scriptures in their life.

Course Purpose: This is the first of two courses in English Bible for the Certificate in Diaconal Studies. It provides a basic overview of the content and themes of the 39 books of the canonical Old Testament as well as a survey of the important cultural, historical, and geographical background to the text. In addition, some of the more important critical theories in Old Testament studies will be examined.

Course Goals:

1. The student will gain a deeper understanding of the Old Testament and its place in the revelation of God's grace.
2. The student will learn the overall content of the Old Testament, including key figures and events.
3. The student will understand the structure and history of the Old Testament.

Course Objectives: From memory, the successful student will be able to ...

1. Know the overall structure of the Bible and the Old Testament.
2. Know the general divisions of the Old Testament and the books contained in each.
3. Provide an outline of significant Old Testament historical events, including key dates.
4. Provide biblical references (book and chapter) and outline the life and significance of key Old Testament the following figures: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Deborah, Ruth, Joshua, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Elijah, Hezekiah, Josiah, Nehemiah, and Cyrus.
5. Provide biblical references and briefly discuss the significance of the following events and concepts: creation, cultural mandate, Eden, the Fall, the Noahic covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, the Ten Commandments (both locations), the *Shema*, the dedication of the Temple, the division of the kingdom, the fall of Samaria, the exile of Judah, the call of Isaiah, the sign of Immanuel, "... pierced for our transgressions ...," the New Covenant, "a watchman," the valley of dry bones, "... I will pour out my Spirit ...," and the return from the exile.

Course Assessments:

1. Short book reviews/outlines of two to three pages on the assigned texts. One review is to be submitted each month. Standard for successful completion of this assessment: Pass/Fail.
2. Weekly journaled discussions on the course materials with the student's mentor. The journal entries must include specific topics discussed and relate these topics back to the course's goals and objectives. Copies of the journal entries are to be submitted at the end of each month. Standard for successful completion of this assessment: Pass/Fail.
3. A short term paper of six to eight pages on one of the following topics:
 - The Covenants of the Old Testament
 - The Messianic Prophecies in the Old Testament Prophets
 - The Roles of the Old Testament Covenant Offices—Prophet, Priest, and King.

The paper is to be written according to MLA or Turabian format and must use a minimum of five sources. A brief summary of MLA formatting can be found at <http://www.ccc.comnet.edu/mla/index.shtml>. Standard for successful completion of this assessment: 85%.

4. A closed book (including the Bible) final exam (to prepare for the ordination exams). Standard for successful completion of this assessment: 85%.
5. All assessments are to be mailed to the Network Administrative and Training Support Office.

Course Timetable: This course is available the Fall 2008 term. All course work is to be completed by the end of the term, November 30, 2008. The student may apply for a one month extension.