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Office Hours:
Tuesdays 2-3
Thursdays 11-12
or by appointment

Religion 302: The Old Testament

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to become familiar with the Old Testament from the death of Solomon (I Kings 12) to Malachi, Chapter 4. In addition to examining the cultural and historical background, we will identify concepts which have significance from our own lives. (For further objectives, see An Introduction to The Old Testament and Its Teachings, Ellis T. Rasmussen pp. i - iii (Hereafter, Syllabus).

Course Requirements: Your summaries of the Assigned Readings, carefully done, will be the only examinations in this course. Therefore, your grade will be determined by the quality of your reading and reporting on that reading.

To earn a "C" grade:

- 1) Read the assigned chapters in The Old Testament, (plus occasional other scriptures). Write a careful, coherent summary of what you read for each of the 15 units. Each summary should be typed, double-spaced and at least one page in length. Be sure to give the references for biblical passages you quote.

To earn a "B" grade:

- 1) Before writing your summary read from at least one other source for each unit. Then write at least 1-2 pages of summary, including important ideas learned from the other source. (Please cite page numbers as you quote from other sources.)

To earn an "A" grade:

Complete the requirements for a "B" and in addition:

- 1) *Read from one additional other source (totaling 2). Then write a 1-2 page summary, or
- 2) *Memorize 2 scriptures/unit of your own choosing, or
- 3) *Give a 5 minute oral report in class on one of the outside readings you find particularly thought provoking.

*Numbers 1-3 may be completed for extra credit in any grade category. Summaries will be due the last day we study a unit, which will ordinarily be each Thursday, and should be turned in during class, (or no later than 5 p.m. that day at my office.) Attendance at class is required and any more than 5 absences will lower your grade.

Note: Forum and Devotional Assemblies are as good "other sources" as the books on reserve.

*Syllabus
in an
extra source*

July 2-3

Books Required:

Ellis T. Rasmussen, An Introduction to the Old Testament and Its Teachings, Part II.

The Bible (whatever translation you own)

Books in the Reserve Library for your convenience:

Albright, Wm. F., The Biblical Period from Abraham to Ezra

Albright, Wm. F., From the Stone Age to Christianity

Anderson, B.W., The Living World of the Old Testament

Bright, John, A History of Israel

Buber, Martin, On the Bible

Gordon, Cyrus H., The Ancient Near East

Harrelson, Walter J., Interpreting the Old Testament

Harrison, Roland K., Introduction to the Old Testament

Heschel, Abraham, The Prophets, Volumes I and II

Noth, Martin, The History of Israel

Paul, Whalon M. and Wm. G. Dever, ed., Biblical Archeology

Sperry, Sidney B., The Voice of Israel's Prophets

Thomas, David W., Documents from Old Testament Times

Yadin, Yigael, The Art of Warfare in Biblical Lands, (Vol. 1)

Yadin, Yigael, The Art of Warfare in Biblical Lands, (Vol. 2)

Young, Edw. J., An Introduction to the Old Testament

Misc 539 Bruce R. McConkie, "Keys to Understanding Isaiah," Ensign, Oct. 1973

Misca 539 Lewis, C.S. The Problem of Pain, pp. 89-112.

EXAMPLE OF SUMMARY

YOUR NAME

Unit I

(Title)

Division in Israel

I read: I Kings 12-22, II Kings 1-8 (Assigned Scriptures)

Other Sources:

Syllabus pp. 1-16

Albright pp. 58-66

I Memorized:

I Kings 2:2-4

Chosen man

First Paragraph - Brief summary of the scriptures read. "What happened?"

Second Paragraph - Answer or comment on one of the "Points to Ponder" or "Evaluation Conclusion" for this Unit in the Syllabus.

Third Paragraph - Answer the question, "Was there anything in this week's reading that particularly interested me or applies to my life?"