

# Intro To The Old Testament

REL 110-001 | Fall 2017 | 3 Credit Hours

Lecture

Dr. Steve Jacobs

## Contact Information

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### UA Campus Directory:

- Dr. Steve Jacobs (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=sjacobs#listing>)

**CLASS MEETINGS:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00-12:15, FA 214 **OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:15-1:45 & By Appointment **OFFICE:** 201 Manly Hall **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 205-348-0473 **E-**

**MAIL:** [sjacobs@bama.ua.edu](mailto:sjacobs@bama.ua.edu).

## Prerequisites

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### UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prereqs found

## Course Description

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### Course Description and Credit Hours

Introduction to the books of the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible as it is known in Judaism, in their historical setting, with emphasis on textual analysis and on literary forms and their function and use in the past and present.

CORE DESIGNATION: Humanities

## Required Texts

### Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- JIGOULOV, VADIM / THE SCRIPTURES OF ANCIENT JUDAISM:(FIRST EDITION) (**Required**)
- HAYES, CHRISTINE / INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE (**Required**)
- JACOBS / YEAR OF LIVING BIBLICALLY (**Required**)

## Course Objectives

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**LEARNING GOALS:** The primary goal of this survey course of the books of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is to acquaint students with an academically-rigorous and objective view of these texts as they are presently understood by scholars in the Academy, noting full well the complexities of our

knowledge of these books as well as their importance to both the Jewish and Christian religious traditions and communities (and, to a lesser extent, the Islamic tradition and community as well).

## Student Learning Outcomes

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- (1) Students will be able to summarize concisely in a single paragraph the contents of each of these books of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) within its three divisions: (a) Five Books of Moses, (b) Prophets, and (c) Writings.
- (2) Students will be able to succinctly state in written form relevant issues and controversies surrounding the study of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) as well as specific texts.
- (3) Students will be able to identify at least five (5) of the ten (10) major themes of the Book of Genesis.
- (4) Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the Dietary System (***Kashrut***) as presented in the Book of Leviticus, along with its contemporary applications.
- (5) Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the concept of Holiness (***K'dusha***) as presented in the Book of Leviticus, along with its contemporary applications.
- (6) Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the concept of the Covenant (***B'rith***) as presented through the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).
- (7) Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the concept of prophecy as presented in the second section of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).
- (8) Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion why the first four books of the second section of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) do not meet the criteria of prophecy.
- (9) Students will be able to successfully critique the arguments for and against dividing the Book of Isaiah into 1st, 2nd, 3rd (and 4th) Isaiah.
- (10) Students will be able to briefly summarize orally in class discussion the twelve books which comprise the so-called "Minor Prophets".
- (11) Students will be able to successfully explain orally in class discussion why some books of the third section of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) are considered "Wisdom Literature" and others are not.
- (12) Students will be able to define, explain orally in class discussion, and give examples of five (5) of the (10) different types of psalms contained within the Book(s) of Psalms.
- (13) Students will be able to demonstrate their writing proficiency through the use of a brief (3-5 page) critical response paper to the text ***The Year of Living Biblically***.

## Other Course Materials

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Additional handouts, if appropriate, will be distributed by the instructor.

## Outline of Topics

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- (1) Issues and Concerns associated with studying the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).

- (2) The Five Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- (3) The Pre-Classical Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel 1 & 2, Kings 1 & 2
- (4) The Major Prophets: Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel
- (5) The Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- (6) Writings: The Wisdom Books I: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs
- (7) Writings: The Wisdom Books II: Job, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes
- (8) Writings: The "Non-Wisdom" Books: Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles 1 & 2
- (9) Apocrypha, Commentaries, and Interpretations
- (10) Other Jewish Literature I
- (11) Other Jewish Literature II
- (12) Wrap-Up

## Exams and Assignments

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- (1) 3-5 page Response Paper to *The Year of Living Biblically*. (Hard-copy, MS Word, 12-point font, Double-spaced, citations at end.)
- (2) Exam #1: The Five Books of Moses. 50 Questions, multiple-choice.
- (3) Exam #2: The Prophets. 50 Questions, multiple-choice.
- (4) Exam #3: The Writings. 50 Questions, multiple-choice.

## Grading Policy

25% = Response Paper

25% = Exam #1--The Five Books of Moses

25% = Exam #2--The Prophets

25% = Exam #3--The Writings

## Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

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Missed exams and missed coursework to be determined in consultation with the instructor.

## Attendance Policy

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Attendance is **required** unless otherwise noted on the Calendar of Meetings.

## Notification of Changes

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The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

## Statement on Academic Misconduct

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Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Code of Academic Conduct (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/code-academic-conduct/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

## Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

## Severe Weather Protocol

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Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

## UAct Statement

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The UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/>) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.

# CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

## FALL, 2017

**REL 110.001**

**“Survey of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible)”**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-12:15 FA 214**

**REL 238.001**

**“Philosophies of Judaism”**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00-3:15 MA 207**

### AUGUST

24 Thursday INTRODUCTION, POLICIES, SYLLABI, ETC.  
29 Tuesday  
31 Thursday

### SEPTEMBER

5 Tuesday  
7 Thursday  
12 Tuesday  
14 Thursday  
19 Tuesday  
21 Thursday NO CLASS: ROSH HA-SHANA (JEWISH NEW YEAR)  
26 Tuesday  
28 Thursday

### OCTOBER

3 Tuesday  
5 Thursday REL 110: EXAM # 1 (FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES)  
10 Tuesday REL 238: SEESKIN RESPONSE PAPER DUE!

11	WEDNESDAY	<u>MID-TERM GRADES DUE FOR ALL 100- &amp; 200- LEVEL COURSES</u>
12	Thursday	
17	Tuesday	
19	Thursday	
24	TUESDAY	<u>NO CLASS: MID-WEST JEWISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, DETROIT, MI</u>
26	THURSDAY	<u>NO CLASS: MID-SEMESTER STUDY-BREAK</u>
<u>NOVEMBER</u>		
2	Thursday	<u>REL 110: JACOBS' RESPONSE PAPER DUE!</u>
7	Tuesday	
9	Thursday	
14	Tuesday	
16	Thursday	
21	Tuesday	
23	THURSDAY	<u>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING</u>
28	Tuesday	
30	Thursday	<u>REL 110: EXAM #3 (WRITINGS)</u>
<u>DECEMBER</u>		
5	Tuesday	<u>REL 238: DISTRIBUTION OF FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS</u>
7	Thursday	LAST DAY OF CLASS!
11-15	MON.-FRI,	FINAL EXAMS ( <u>NO FINAL EXAMS FOR 110 OR 238!</u> )
14	Thursday	<u>REL 238: FINAL EXAM DUE @ 10:30 AM!</u>
16	SATURDAY	COMMENCEMENT
19	TUESDAY	ALL GRADES DUE!

**HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK!**

# REL 110.001

## SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT (HEBREW BIBLE)

### READING ASSIGNMENTS RE EXAMS

<b>TEXTS</b>	<b>EXAM #1 FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES</b>	<b>EXAM #2 THE PROPHETS</b>	<b>EXAM #3 THE WRITINGS</b>
<b>HAYES</b>	<b>CHAPTERS 1-11 (PAGES 1- 184)</b>	<b>CHAPTERS 12-19 (PAGES 185- 314)</b>	<b>CHAPTERS 20-24 + (PAGES 315- 402)</b>
<b>JIGOULOV, ET. AL</b>	<b>149-165</b>	<b>63-99; 187- 196</b>	<b>101-103; 108- 111; 169-184; 205-224</b>

# Appendix 1

## Torah/Hebrew Bible, Roman Catholic Bible, and the Protestant Bible

### Jewish

### Roman Catholic

### Protestant

#### FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

#### PENTATEUCH

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

#### PROPHETS

##### Preliminary prophets

Joshua  
Judges  
Samuel 1 and 2  
Kings 1 and 2

##### Major prophets

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Ezekiel

##### Minor prophets

Hosea  
Joel

#### HISTORICAL BOOKS

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
Samuel 1 and 2  
Kings 1 and 2  
Chronicles 1 and 2  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

#### WISDOM BOOKS

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
Samuel 1 and 2  
Kings 1 and 2  
Chronicles 1 and 2  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther  
Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs  
Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

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## Appendix 1 (cont.)

Jewish	Roman Catholic	Protestant
Amos		Hosea
Obadiah	<b>PROPHETS</b>	Joel
Jonah		Amos
Micah	<b>Major Prophets</b>	
Nahum		
Zephaniah	Isaiah	Obadiah
Habakkuk	Jeremiah	Jonah
Haggai	Lamentations	Micah
Zechariah	Ezekiel	Nahum
Malachi	Daniel	Habakkuk
		Zephaniah
<b>THE WRITINGS</b>	<b>Minor Prophets</b>	Haggai
		Zechariah
<b>Wisdom</b>	Hosea	Malachi
	Joel	
Psalms	Amos	
Proverbs	Obadiah	
Job	Jonah	
Song of Songs	Micah	
Ruth	Nahum	
Lamentations	Habakkuk	
Ecclesiastes	Zephaniah	
Esther	Haggai	
	Zechariah	
<b>Nonwisdom</b>	Malachi	
Daniel	<b>APOCRYPHA</b>	
Ezra		
Nehemiah	Tobit	
Chronicles 1 and 2	Judith	
	Maccabees 1 and 2	
	Ben Sirach	
	Ecclesiasticus	
	Baruch	

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*The Chronicle Review*

From the issue dated July 26, 2002

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v48/i46/46b00501.htm>**OBSERVER****Bibles du Jour**

By TIMOTHY K. BEAL

Today we are witnessing a burgeoning of bibles. Not the kind you read in a synagogue or church, but the kind you read to master Java scripting. Or to get washboard abs. Or to create the perfect window dressing. From *The Internet Bible* to *The Golfer's Bible* to *The Body Sculpting Bible* (his and hers versions) to *The Curtain Bible*, from *The Runner's Bible* to *The Small Game and Varmint Hunter's Bible*, to *Cocktail: The Drinks Bible for the 21st Century*, there's a bible for anyone who wants to do or be anything.

Calling these kinds of books bibles is not exactly new. *The Shooter's Bible* (previously *The Stoeger Gun Catalog and Handbook*, subtitled *The World's Standard*), appeared in 1940. But today we find more than ever. By my count, something like one in four books published in America over the past two years with "bible" in the title is this kind of bible. Indeed, you're likely to find more bibles in a bookstore's computer section than in its religion section.

Why call these kinds of books bibles? Because it sells, of course. But why? What currency does it give a book to call it a bible? What does this title claim for a book? What does it promise? What does "bible" mean?

It means *comprehensive*. A book called a bible promises to cover all you need to know and understand about its subject, from A to Z, Genesis to Revelation.

It means *authoritative*. A book called a bible claims to be the alpha and the omega, the first and last Word on all things golfing, draping, varmint hunting, whatever, dispensing all the right answers to all the right questions.

It means *exclusive*. A book called a bible asserts itself to be the one and only, without serious competition.

It means *practical*. A book called a bible promises to serve as a reference manual and a dependable guide for how to proceed on the path you've chosen.

And it means *devotional*. A book called a bible treats its subject as something worthy of religious dedication and discipline from practitioners. Its subject literally becomes a religion of the book -- *this* book. Take and read.

A book called a bible claims to be the one and only book for those who are devoted or who want to be

**REL 110.001**  
**SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT (HEBREW BIBLE)**  
**SUPPLEMENT 2016**

Barton, John, ed. *The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Companion*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2016.

Boer, Roland. *Marxist Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015. Second Edition.

Davis, John J. *Biblical Numerology: A Basic Study of the Use of Numbers in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1968.

Hazon, Yoram. *The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Hoffman, Joel M. *And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2010.

Hughes, Aaron W. *The Invention of Jewish identity: Bible, Philosophy, and the Art of Translation*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010.

Kushner, Aviya. *The Grammar of God: A Journey into the Words and Worlds of the Bible*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

Moreland, Milton C., ed. *Between Text and Artifact: Integrating Archaeology in Biblical Studies Teaching*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.

Pummer, Reinhard. *The Samaritans: A Profile*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2016.

Römer, Thomas. *The Invention of God*. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2015. Translated by Raymond Geuss.

Seidman, Naomi. *Faithful Renderings: Jewish-Christian Relations and the Politics of Translation*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2006.

Smoley, Richard. *How God Became God: What Scholars Are Really Saying about God and the Bible*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2016.

Swenson, Kristin. *Bible Babel: Making Sense of the Most Talked About Book of All Time*. New York and London: Harper Perennial, 2010.