

# EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## SYLLABUS FOR MINISTRY (MINS) 1113

### Old Testament 3: The Exile to the Intertestamental Period

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** a study of the books of the Old Testament and other literature that record the history of Israel from the Babylonian exile to the intertestamental period. Attention will be given to the cultural and historical background of the nation of Israel and the surrounding nations, the theological concepts found in the biblical material, wisdom literature, the prophets and their messages, and the events and literature associated with the intertestamental period.

### **II. COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

- English Bible
- Tullock, John H. The Old Testament Story. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, ISBN 978-0205-09783-8.

### **III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

#### *Chapter 11: The Exile, Judah's Dark Night of the Soul*

- The student will be able to clearly state the literary features of the book of Lamentations.
- The student will demonstrate knowledge of the new developments in the story of the Israelites as a result of their time of exile in Babylon (e.g., the synagogue, lay leadership, the influence on the formation of the Hebrew canon, scribal leadership, and the elevation of the law in worship).
- The student will display knowledge of the life and background of the prophet Ezekiel and the structure and themes of the book of Ezekiel.
- The student will display a clear understanding of the enacted parables contained in the book of Ezekiel.
- The student will be able to describe the historical events that led to the downfall of the Babylonian Empire and the rise of the Persian Empire.

*Chapter 12: The Postexilic Period, Judah Revived*

- The student will articulate the obstacles (e.g., the opposition of the indigenous peoples) faced by the first returning Jews.
- The student will demonstrate knowledge of the structure and messages found in the books of Haggai and Zechariah.
- The student will display knowledge of the historical figures of Ezra and Nehemiah, including the approximate dates of their work in Palestine.
- The student will demonstrate knowledge of the nature of Ezra's religious reforms in Palestine.

*Chapter 13: A Legacy of Israel: Wise Men and Psalm Singers*

- The student will demonstrate a clear understanding of the setting, nature, background and development of the wisdom tradition in ancient Israel.
- The student will articulate an understanding of the different categories of wisdom literature.
- The student will explain the structure and purpose of the book of Proverbs.
- The student will display a clear understanding of the original purpose of the book of Song of Songs and the theological disputes that have surrounded it.
- The student will summarize the purpose and theological themes of the books of Job, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes.
- The student will recall the major categories of the psalms in the book of Psalms as well as their characteristics, such as the nature, characteristics, and style of Hebrew poetry and parallelism.
- The student will demonstrate the ability to articulate the significance of the literary development and the narrative shaping of the psalm collection as a whole.

*Chapter 14: The Time of Silence, Judah in Eclipse*

- The student will know the main themes of the books of Obadiah, Malachi, Daniel, Esther, Ruth, Jonah, and Joel.
- The student will display a clear understanding of the basic purpose of apocalyptic literature and how the books of Zechariah and Daniel fit into this genre.

*Chapter 15: Epilogue: The Continuing Story*

- The student will display knowledge of the term "diaspora."
- The student will demonstrate knowledge of the following Jewish sects and parties: Samaritans, Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes.
- The student will articulate an understanding of the following types of Jewish literature: Apocrypha, Pseudipigrapha, Dead Sea Scrolls, and Talmud.

#### **IV. COURSE OUTLINE:**

- The Exile: Judah's Dark Night of the Soul
  - After the Fall
  - With the Exiles in Babylon
  - The Prophet of the Transition: Ezekiel
  - The End Has Come for Babylon
  - The Exile's Great Unknown Prophet
  
- The Post-Exilic Period: Judah Revised
  - The International Situation (538-522 B.C.E.)
  - The Restored Community
  - The Time of Silence
  - Ezra and Nehemiah
  
- A Legacy of Israel: Wise Men and Psalm Singers
  - Wise Men and Wisdom Literature
  - The Sweet Singers of Israel
  
- The Time of Silence: Judah in Eclipse
  - The Historical Situation
  - The Maccabbean Revolt
  - The Word of the Lord in Difficult Times
  
- Epilogue: the Continuing Story
  - Life in the Jewish Community
  - The Rise of Parties and Sects
  - Literary Activity
  - Judaism's Oral Tradition
  - The End of the Matter

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Students should overview the pertinent biblical material and read the assigned pages in the textbook prior to each class session.
- Students will complete one examination.

## VI. COURSE ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES:

- Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Please be in class and be on time. An automatic failing grade will be given if the allowed percentage of absences set by East Texas Baptist University is exceeded. According to school policy, to be eligible to earn credit in a course, the student must attend at least 75% of all class meetings. Students **must attend a minimum of twelve** of the fifteen class sessions in order to be eligible to receive credit.
- Please turn off all electronic equipment that makes a sound during class (e.g., cell phones, PDA alarms, and beepers). **If you are seen using your cell phone for any purpose (calling, text messaging, etc.) and/or if you are seen listing to an ipod or any other electronic devise that does not pertain to the day's subject matter, you will be asked to leave the class, and you will be counted as absent for the day.**
- Students who must leave early are asked to give notification to the professor in advance.
- Constant tardiness as well as constant early departures will incur a semester grade percentage reduction of five (5)%, at the discretion of the professor.
- Although I do understand that a state of sleepiness can attack anyone at anytime, especially in a classroom, please do not make it a habit in class, and certainly, please do not lay your head on the desk and sleep, because you will be asked to leave the class and encouraged to go home to rest; **you will also be counted as absent for the day.**
- Please do not spend class time working on assignments for another class. If it becomes known that you have done so, **you will be counted as absent for the day.**

## **VII. COURSE GRADING:**

Students who earn

- 90 points or more earn an A
- 80-89 points earn a B
- 70-79 points earn a C
- 60-69 points earn a D
- 59 points or less earn a F

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

### Week 1:

- Hour One: Registration
- Hour Two: Teacher/Student Introductions, the Review of Certificate in Ministry Program, and the Overview of the Syllabus
- Hour Three: Tullock Chapter 11 (Lamentations/Introduction to Ezekiel), pages 267-74

### Week 2:

- Hour One: Tullock Chapter 11(Ezekiel), pages 274-308
- Hour Two: Tullock Chapter 12 (Haggai and Zechariah), pages 309-16
- Hour Three: Tullock Chapter 12 (Ezra and Nehemiah), pages 316-23

### Week 3:

- Hour One: Tullock Chapter 13 (Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes), pages 324-46
- Hour Two: Tullock Chapter 13 (Song of Songs and Psalms), pages 346-62
- Hour Three: Tullock Chapter 14 (Obadiah, Malachi, and Joel), pages 363-71

### Week 4:

- Hour One: Tullock Chapter 14 (Daniel), pages 371-76
- Hour Two: Tullock Chapter 14 (Esther, Ruth, and Jonah), pages 376-84
- Hour Three: Tullock Chapter 15 (Intertestamental Period), pages 385-93

### Week 5:

- Hour One: Final Examination

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