



B110 Introduction to the Old Testament

3 credits. Prerequisites: *None*.

For Horizon students, this course is transferable to the University of Saskatchewan.

Mississauga Campus Livestream Video on Demand

November 9–December 18, 2026

Term B

Monday & Wednesday, 10am–1pm ET (9am–12pm SK)

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*The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. —Exodus 34:6*

Course Goals

Course Description

This course is a general introduction to the content and theology of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. It will survey key portions according to the ancient near eastern cultural, social, religious, and literary environment and highlight the theological importance of the Old Testament, including the nature of God revealed, for Christian life and ministry in the present-day.

Relationship to Horizon and MCS's Missions

The Old Testament is a collection of documents that narrate and comment on God's plan to dwell with his people and bless all nations through them. For Christians, the Old Testament is the first part of a story that finds its climax in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, who completes the narrative arc that began in Genesis. Understanding the Old Testament provides ministry leaders with a holistic perspective on the God who desires to make his home with his people, experienced through the indwelling presence and empowerment of the Spirit of Christ.

Core Competencies and Learning Outcomes



To demonstrate competency in *biblical and theological literacy*, students will:

1. Interpret the Old Testament in reference to the ancient Near Eastern context.
 - *Assessment:* Research and Reflection Paper; Reading and Response
2. Explain the character of God as revealed in the Old Testament.
 - *Assessment:* Research and Reflection Paper; Reading and Response
3. Use the entry-level resources necessary for researching the Old Testament.

- *Assessment*: Glossary Quizzes; Research and Reflection Paper
- 4. Explain or identify key terms in Old Testament studies.
 - *Assessment*: Glossary Quizzes; Research and Reflection Paper
- 5. Apply the theological witness of the Old Testament to contemporary issues.
 - *Assessment*: Research and Reflection Paper; Reading and Response
- 6. Articulate the narrative structure of the Old Testament including how it anticipates New Testament developments.
 - *Assessment*: Biblical Narrative; Research and Reflection Paper

Course Work

Required Readings

Hill, Andrew E. and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. 4th Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2023. ISBN: 9780310119562

[DTL](#)

* Note that not all chapters of the text are required reading. See the Reading and Response assignment below for details.

Selected chapters from the Old Testament. Students may use a modern translation of their choice (e.g., NRSV, NIV, NLT, ESV, etc.) but *not* a paraphrase (e.g., Passion, Message). Note that the professor will use the NRSV in class.

Optional Readings

Matheny, Jennifer M. *Hesed, the Seed of the Biblical Story: New Life for Old Testament Theology*. Baker Academic, 2026. ISBN: 9781540966681

**While students have the benefit of accessing many of their textbooks online through the [Digital Theological Library](#), they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library.

Course Assignments and Activities

1. Reading & Response – 25%

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the Old Testament and its contemporary relevance by recording a video response to the three following questions associated with the major divisions of the Hebrew Bible.

Question 1 (Law): The books of the law focus on one main character: Moses. Describe how Moses' life is shaped by his encounters with Yahweh throughout his life. Be sure to include episodes from Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. What specific quality of Moses' life most inspires you, and why?

Question 2 (Prophets): God reveals himself through the day-to-day events of history. Using examples from both the Former and Latter Prophets, show how God reveals his heart differently in various situations. How does this encourage you?

Question 3 (Writings): The writings are full of poetry that use metaphor to describe God. Choose 2 different metaphors for God, each from a different book of the Writings, explain what it would have meant to the original hearers, and why you value it today.

Answers should draw substantially on material from the assigned readings:

Old Testament: Students will *listen* to passages from the Old Testament as assigned in the Class & Listening Schedule below. This can be accomplished by listening to the chapters from a Bible website or app or by gathering as a group and taking turns reading out loud. Links to the required passages of scripture are also provided in the “Lessons” tab in Populi. All Old Testament passages must be *heard* prior to the beginning of the assigned class.

Textbook: Students will read selected chapters from the textbook as assigned in the Class & Listening Schedule. These readings must be completed prior to answering each of the questions in this assignment. Read the chapters assigned in the Law Unit prior to answering Question 1, the Prophets Unit prior to answering Question 2, and the Writings Unit before answering Question 3.

This assignment will enable students to increase their competency in biblical and theological literacy by introducing them to a representative sample of Old Testament scripture and prompting them to engage in critical evaluation. For this assignment to be considered complete, the following points must be observed:

- Video responses should be 3–5 minutes long each.
- Responses must demonstrate engagement with the text through the use of at least three specific quotations (including page numbers).
- Responses must include specific reference to relevant passages of Scripture from the relevant division of the Old Testament (Law, Prophets, or Writings).
- The video should be uploaded to a cloud service of the student’s choice (e.g., OneDrive, Dropbox, Loom, YouTube, etc.) and the link to the completed video submitted on Populi as a comment on the assignment. There is no need to share this video publicly.
- Related learning outcomes: #1, 2, 5.
- **Assignment length:** Three 3–5-minute videos.
- **Due dates:**
 - Question 1 (Law): Friday, November 20.
 - Question 2 (Prophets): Tuesday, December 1.
 - Question 3 (Writings): Tuesday, December 8.

2. *Glossary Quizzes* – 20%

Study of the Old Testament will introduce students to unfamiliar terminology. New vocabulary will be introduced in the classroom sessions and reinforced by the textbook. Students’ understanding of these terms will be evaluated in two quizzes where they will match the term to its definition. The first quiz covers classes 1–5, the second covers classes 6–10. Students are encouraged to make note of unfamiliar terms as they encounter them during class. Since this is a closed-book quiz and viewing the questions gives the student an advantage, there will be no

opportunity for revision.

This assignment will enable students to increase their competency in biblical and theological literacy by improving their vocabulary and enabling them to read Old Testament scholarship with increased understanding. For this assignment to be considered complete, the following points must be observed:

- The quizzes are closed-book: students will close all study aids before beginning each quiz.
- Students may complete the quiz any time before the due date, after Class 5 and after Class 10.
- Related learning outcomes: #3, 4.
- **Assignment length:** 2 x 30-minute quizzes.
- **Due dates:**
 - Quiz 1: Friday, November 27.
 - Quiz 2: Thursday, December 10.

3. *Research & Reflection Paper* – 35%

Students will write a research and reflection paper centered on an attribute of God. The research portion of the paper will explore this attribute by drawing on material from the Law, Prophets, and Writings as well as scholarly sources. The reflection portion of this paper will explore how the chosen attribute of God can speak to a specific contemporary situation.

This assignment will enable students to increase their competency in biblical and theological literacy by gaining a deeper understanding of God's character as revealed throughout the Old Testament and exploring how that can inform daily life. For this assignment to be considered complete, the following points must be observed:

- The student will choose one characteristic of God as listed in ch. 45 of the textbook:

○ Creator	○ Righteous and Just
○ Wise	○ Compassionate and Gracious
○ Only God	○ Covenant-Making God
○ Holy	○ Loyal
○ Transcendence	○ Redeemer
- The character of God should be supported with three well-researched scripture passages from each part of the Old Testament: Law, Prophets, and Writings.

Scripture passages should be understood within their historical-cultural and narrative context.

- Key terms related to the study of the chosen passages should be used accurately.
- Sources:
 - Students are expected to use a minimum of four academic sources, not including the Bible, notes from a Study Bible, and textbook. Sources should include biblical commentaries to aid in understanding the chosen passages in context and at least one article from a Bible Dictionary.
 - Sources should be current. Publication dates should be at least post 1990 and ideally post 2000.

- Sources should be scholarly. Websites and online commentaries (e.g., Enduring Word, Got Questions, etc.) are not acceptable. The online [Digital Theological Library](#) should be your first stop for research material.
- The submission should include a title page, paper, and bibliography as specified in the [Horizon & MCS Format Guide](#). The paper should include:
 - A brief introductory paragraph that sparks interest in the theme
 - A clear thesis statement
 - Two headings: Research and Reflection
 - A brief conclusion that summarizes the paper and points forward
- The reflection portion of the paper should describe a *specific* situation (personal, or church-related) faced by the student and explore how God's character as researched in the first section relates to the situation. This section should be 300–400 words.
- The assignment should be submitted to Populi by the date specified as a Word Document (.docx or .rtf).
- Related learning outcome(s): #1–6.
- **Assignment length:** 2,000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography.
- **Due date:** Friday, December 4.

4. *Biblical Narrative: Quiz and Video* – 20%

The Old Testament tells a complex story that spans centuries. In order to understand where the details of the Old Testament fit into the bigger picture, students will complete this two-part assignment.

Part One—Populi Quiz (10%): Students will complete a 30-minute closed-book quiz on Populi where they will be required to place 40 events and literature from the Old Testament into chronological order. Since this is a closed-book quiz and viewing the questions gives the student an advantage, there will be no opportunity for revision.

Part Two—Video Report (10%): Students will follow up the quiz by recording a video report where they explain three ways that the narrative themes of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament. To benefit from this assignment, students must think through these connections without assistance from AI search results commonly found at the top of each search result. Using AI to brainstorm this assignment is not allowed. Instead, students are encouraged to note connections between the Old and New Testaments as they come up during class time.

This assignment will enable students to increase their competency in biblical and theological literacy by assessing their capacity to see the big picture of the Old Testament and understand how the details fit into the broader story. For this assignment to be considered complete, the following points must be observed:

- **Populi Quiz:**
 - The quiz is closed-book: students will close all study aids before beginning the quiz.
 - Students may complete the quiz any time before the due date.
- **Video Report:**

- The video must include 5–7 minutes of content.
 - The video should be uploaded to a cloud service of the student's choice (e.g., OneDrive, Dropbox, Loom, YouTube, etc.) and the link to the completed video submitted on Populi as a comment on the assignment. There is no need to share this video publicly.
 - Students should choose three distinct narrative themes from the Old Testament and explain how they are fulfilled in the New Testament.
 - Students should quote appropriate Old Testament and New Testament scripture references for each of the three chosen themes.
- Related learning outcome: #6.
 - **Assignment length:** 30-minute quiz, 5–7-minute video.
 - **Quiz due date:** Wednesday, December 9.
 - **Video due date:** Friday, December 11.

Video-on-Demand (VOD) Student Requirements

As indicated on the course schedule, this class is offered by VOD. Students taking the course through VOD are required to indicate this during their course registration. While VOD recordings are available for any student who may be absent from class, non-VOD students are expected to attend class live following the class attendance policy.

- For this course, VOD students have some different assignment due dates as in-class students.
 - *Reading & Response*
 - **Question 1 (Law):** Friday, November 20
 - **Question 2 (Prophets):** Tuesday, December 1
 - **Question 3 (Writings):** Tuesday, December 8
 - *Glossary Quizzes*
 - **Quiz 1:** Friday, November 27
 - **Quiz 2:** Thursday, December 10
 - *Research & Reflection Paper*
 - **Due date:** Friday, December 4
 - *Biblical Narrative: Quiz and Video*
 - **Quiz Due Date:** Friday, December 11
 - **Video Due date:** Friday, December 11
 - Although the Padlet video for classes 9 and 10 is due on December 12, students should view the final lectures before attempting these assignments.
- By Saturday at 11:59PM each week, VOD students are required to watch and engage with all lecture content and in-class activities from the previous week's class. VOD students will submit a 2–3-minute video report that 1) affirms you have watched the required recording, 2) summarizes one thing you learned that will help you reach the course learning outcomes, and 3) explains at least one question you had after watching the class recording.
- Video Submission Dates
 - Week 1 (Mon & Wed) Lectures and Report due Saturday, November 14
 - Week 2 (Mon & Wed) Lectures and Report due Thursday, November 21

- Week 3 (Mon & Wed) Lectures and Report due Tuesday, November 28
 - Week 4 (Mon & Wed) Lectures and Report due Monday, December 5
 - Week 5 (Mon & Wed) Lectures and Report due Saturday, December 12
- Students registered to attend by VOD will fulfill the course attendance requirements through their video report submissions. They must submit their VOD reports on time to be registered as present for class.

Estimate of Time Investment (individual time investments may vary)

Classroom time	30 hrs	N/A	N/A
1. Reading and Response	35 hrs		25%
a. Question 1 (Law)		Nov 20	
b. Question 2 (Prophets)		Dec 1	
c. Question 3 (Writings)		Dec 8	
2. Glossary Quizzes	5 hrs		20%
a. Quiz 1		Nov 27	
b. Quiz 2		Dec 10	
3. Research and Reflection Paper	20 hrs	Dec 4	35%
4. Biblical Narrative: Quiz and Video	5 hrs		20%
a. Quiz		Dec 9	
b. Video		Dec 11	
Total = 95 hrs			

All assignments are due at 8pm **ET**, unless otherwise indicated.

Assessment Rubrics

Assignment rubrics can be found on Populi. Click on the name of the assignment to access each rubric.

Class & Listening Schedule

Unit	Class	Topic	Listening	Textbook
Intro	Class 1: Nov 9	- Getting to know each other - Why the Old Testament?	Psalm 78, 135, 150	Ch. 1
Law	Class 2: Nov 11	- The Tanakh - Introduction to the Torah - Genesis	Gen 1–4, 12:1–8, 50:15–26	Ch. 4
	Class 3: Nov 16	- Exodus - Leviticus–Deuteronomy	- Exod 3, 20, 34 - Deut 6	Chs. 5–8
Prophets	Class 4: Nov 18	- Introduction to the Former Prophets - Joshua - Judges	- Josh 3–4 - Judg 13–16	Chs. 11, 12
	Class 5: Nov 23	- Samuel - Kings	1 Sam 8 2 Sam 7 1 Kgs 11–12	Chs. 14, 15

			• 2 Kgs 25	
	Class 6: Nov 25	• Introduction to the Latter Prophets • Isaiah	• Isaiah 6–7, 40, 53, 61	• Chs. 27–28
	Class 7: Nov 30	• Jeremiah • Ezekiel • The Twelve	• Jer 20 • Ezek 36 • Joel 2 • Mal 4	• Chs. 29, 31 • Choose one of chs. 33–44
Writings	Class 8: Dec 2	• Introduction to the Writings • Psalms • Proverbs	• Psalm 1–2, 13 • Prov 1, 8, 10	• Chs. 22, 23
	Class 9: Dec 7	• Job • The Megillot	• Job 1–2, 38, 42 • Ruth 1–4	• Ch. 21 • Choose two of chs. 13, 18, 24, 25, 30
	Class 10: Dec 9	• Chronicles • Ezra-Nehemiah • Daniel • Conclusions	• 1 Chr 16 • Ezra 1, 9–10 • Daniel 7	• Chs. 16, 17, 32

- Revision week is December 14–18. Students are encouraged to submit revised assignments soon after they receive their marked assignments.
- No assignments will be accepted after the course end date: *December 18*.

Academic Policies

General Assignment Guidelines

Please see the [Horizon](#) & [MCS](#) Format Guide for assignment submission, grammar, and formatting guidelines. The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded. Assignments should be submitted via Populi under *Submissions* (not *Comments*). The resource at this [link](#) explains how to submit assignments on Populi.

Extensions

To submit extension requests, students must submit the *Request Extension Form* on the [MCS](#) or [Horizon](#) website and *before the due date*. Professors reserve the right to deny extensions. Generally, the sooner that a student asks for an extension, the more willing faculty tend to be in granting extensions. Furthermore, no extensions will be granted beyond the final day of a term or semester unless approval is granted by the Associate Academic Dean (MCS) or Assistant Academic Dean (Horizon).

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit work by the assigned or extended due dates, as part of their development of the Leadership and Administration competency. A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 calendar days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 calendar days late, penalty of 20%; after 6 calendar days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0 and no opportunity for revision. Any late penalty incurred on a first submission will be applied regardless of if the student chooses to continue learning through the revision process.

Assignment Completion

Professors usually will not accept assignments that have not been completed according to the instructions given in the syllabus. If a professor informs a student that a submitted assignment is incomplete, the student will be given the opportunity to complete and resubmit the assignment quickly. If this is not possible, the assignment will be regarded as submitted late.

Competency Assignment Revisions

After each assignment has been marked, students have the opportunity to continue learning in response to feedback they receive on assignments. Students can submit one revision for each assignment, although a professor may accept more revisions if the professor determines the student is addressing all of the professor's instructions and making significant progress toward demonstrating competency. Revised assignments may be submitted up to the course end date, although students are encouraged to submit them soon after they receive their marked assignments. Assignments submitted later than one week before the course end date are ineligible for revisions.

Horizon and MCS's College Assessment of Student Work

The goal of courses is to help students develop their competency, rather than solely earn letter grades. Assignments are the means by which instructors evaluate development of competency by assessing learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus and each assignment. Once a student's assignment has met all assignment completion requirements, the professor will assign a grade for that assignment. The opportunity for revisions exists according to the "Assignment Revisions" policy.

Horizon and MCS Competency Scale		Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point	U of S Equivalency
E	Exceeding expectations	Student demonstrated exceptional achievement of the learning outcomes.	A+	4.0	90-100
		Student demonstrated excellent achievement of the learning outcomes.	A	4.0	85-89
			A-	3.7	80-84
M	Meeting expectations	Student demonstrated good achievement of the learning outcomes.	B+	3.3	77-79
			B	3.0	73-76
			B-	2.7	70-72
BTM	Beginning to meet expectations	Student demonstrated satisfactory progress in achieving the learning outcomes.	C+	2.3	67-69
			C	2.0	63-66
			C-	1.7	60-62
		Student demonstrated minimal progress in achieving the learning outcomes.	D+	1.3	57-59
			D	1.0	53-56
			D-	0.7	50-52

NYM	Not yet meeting expectations	Student made insufficient progress toward meeting learning outcomes.	F	0.0	0-49
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Academic Integrity

Students learn best when practicing academic integrity. A lack of integrity is displayed in acts such as deception, abuse of confidentiality, cheating, inappropriate collaboration, or plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the words or ideas of another person or an artificial intelligence (AI) tool in such a way as to give others the impression that it is their own words or ideas. In academic writing, there should be no doubt which words or ideas are the student's and which are drawn from other sources or AI. Students are expected to submit their own original work and give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences, or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Horizon and MCS have a subscription to software that ensures the originality of academic writing, verifies the proper citation of all sources, and detects AI-generated content. When you submit an assignment, you will automatically receive a summary on Populi that includes your submitted files along with an originality score (a high originality score is positive).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage

In keeping with the Academic Integrity policy above, students must disclose on the title page of all assignments whether or not they have used AI and how they have used it. If the assignment has no title page, the student must disclose this to the instructor by some other means, such as in a comment on Populi. Students are expected to follow the policy for acceptable use of AI that is published in the [Horizon](#) and [MCS](#) Student Handbooks.

Accessible Learning Services Information

Horizon and MCS are committed to provide safe and inclusive learning environments which equalize the opportunity for students with disabilities to meet the requirements of the institutions, programs, and courses. The application for Academic Accommodations begins with a student disclosing a medical diagnosis or professionally documented learning disability during the application process. Enrolled students may contact Accessibility services personnel (at MCS, the Director of Academic Success, Wendy Holmes at wendy.holmes@mcs.edu; at Horizon, the Academic Accommodations Coordinator, Richelle Bekkattla at rbekkattla@horizon.edu). All Academic Accommodations will adhere to the Guiding Principles listed in the Student Handbooks. Students with documented accommodations on file pertaining to accessing course readings in alternate formats are encouraged to contact the librarian for assistance with as much advanced notice as possible.

Class Attendance

Students should attend all classes in order to facilitate competency development. Students are expected to be present through the delivery method that they registered for. Students registered to attend on-campus or via livestream must be present for the full duration of a class period to be

marked as present for the class. Students registered to attend by VOD must submit their VOD reports on time to be marked as present for class. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, students may miss up to twenty percent of the total class time (e.g., one day of a module course, two 3-hour classes, etc.) without academic penalty. Students who are absent for more than this will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances may make an academic appeal, where they will need to document and verify those circumstances. Students who miss a class are responsible to get missed notes or handouts from another student, rather than from the professor.

Livestreaming Etiquette

Students taking the course through livestreaming are required to indicate this during their course registration. While livestreaming access is available for on-campus students who are unable to attend class due to illness, on-campus students are expected to attend class in person following the class attendance policy.

If attending class online via livestream, in order to be marked present for class, you must keep your camera on and stay present and attentive throughout the class session, extending the gift of engagement. Access your class with a computer (preferably) or tablet, not a cell phone. Arrive to class on time, and dress as you would if you were attending class on campus. Join the class from a quiet space with minimal background noise and mute your microphone until you wish to speak to the class.

Use of Technology

Horizon and MCS encourage the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction (potentially including future online video courses) and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.
- In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media.

Library Support and Research Assistance

Library staff are available to meet with students (online or in person) who need assistance with

- citing sources and identifying credible resources;

- developing research and information literacy skills;
- searching DTL and other library resources.

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General Old Testament

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Law

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Prophets

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