Southeastern University  
BIOT 1433 Old Testament and its Interpretation – Classical Conversations  
Fall 2018 – Course Summary

Catalog Description
The course serves as an introduction to Old Testament interpretation. It provides an elemental framework for interpreting the Old Testament by exploring its ancient Near Eastern contexts; discussing literary, thematic, and theological constructs; and demonstrating how it informs Christian thought and practice.

Course Overview
This course surveys the books of the Old Testament and highlights their religious and historical context. The Old Testament holds great value aside from the names, dates, and historical events it records. Students will gain an increased appreciation of the nature and character of God and His plan to redeem humankind. By surveying the entire Old Testament in one sweeping overview, the student will have a foundation upon which to build in upper level bible courses that focus on particular Old Testament books or theological concepts. The course emphasizes developing tools and practices of biblical interpretation. This study will be a wonderful learning and growing experience for the student who wants to understand God in a richer and fuller way.

Required Course Materials
2018-19 Classical Conversations Challenge IV – Semester One  
Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms by Daniel Estes. Published by Baker Academic.  
The Holy Bible.

Recommended Additional Reading:
Primer on biblical interpretation [will be a link in the course as a supplemental resource provide by SEU]  
How to Read the Bible for All its Worth, 4th edition by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. Published by Zondervan.

Prerequisites and Credit Hours
Students must be currently enrolled in Classical Conversations Challenge IV. Students should have or be capable of writing at the college level. ENGL 1133: English Comp I is recommended, but not required. Students should have access to the textbook and ability to do independent research. Student must have demonstrated maturity to be self-directed and capable of completing all the Challenge assignments on time and at the college level. The successful completion of BIOT 1433 at Southeastern University will earn a letter grade for 3 credit hours.

Course Evaluator
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Intended Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students should . . .
1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the canon, including its formation, transmission, and reliability as Scripture.
2. Explain the process of OT interpretation and how to employ basic research tools.
3. Identify the ancient Near Eastern cultural, historical, and geographic contexts that inform biblical interpretation.
4. Recognize genres of the OT and how they inform interpretation.
5. Identify key themes, unique characteristics, and theological constructs of the OT that inform the Christian faith.

Assessments and Grading
The goal is for students to master all of the intended learning outcomes for this course. Most of the assessments are assignments already associated with Challenge IV first semester curriculum. Students will be provided a collegiate-level evaluation of each assessment and assigned a point value on a 100 point scale. A student must pass (i.e. receive a score of 60 or higher) all graded assignments in order to pass the class. Students shall respect the teaching authority of their parents.

The university’s general grading scale is provided in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the Southeastern University Catalog. All online courses use the following scale: [insert table]

Drop/Add and Withdrawal
The last day to drop this course with a full refund and no grade is before the third day of the semester. The last day to officially withdraw from this course and receive a grade of “W” is before 60% of the course has been completed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weighted Course Percentage</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reflections</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Students will submit weekly reflections of their readings from scripture, the textbook, and Socratic community discussions. They will identify the genre of literature (ILO 4) and identify any cultural, historical, and geographic contexts that inform interpretation (ILO 3). The reflection should identify key themes, unique characteristics, and theological constructs of the OT that inform the Christian faith (ILO 5). The reflections can be an audio or video recording of 3-5 minutes or an essay of 450-550 words. Due each week, submitted to MyFire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socratic Dialog</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Students will submit their preparation notes and prepared questions for the week in which they lead the Socratic discussion. Notes and questions should be prepared for each of the following: Who? When? Where? Why? Due by the week in which the student is assigned to lead discussion, or no later than week 11.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Old Testament Canon</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Students will write 3-5 page paper in which they describe the formation, transmission and authority of the Old Testament Canon. Provide at least three sources (ILO 1). Due Week 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Interpretation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Please refer to the Rhetorical Assignments Key in the Challenge IV guide p. 116 and in MyFire (ILO 5). Due Week 15.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue book exams</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Students will write responses to a list of comprehensive questions. A list of potential questions will be distributed at the beginning of the course (ILOs 2, 3, 4, 5). Exam 1 will be Due week 8 and Exam 2 Due Week 14.</td>
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**Fall 2018 Due Dates**

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<tr>
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<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Reflections</td>
<td>Every week, beginning Sept 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Testament Canon</td>
<td>Week 4: September 28, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue book Exam 1</td>
<td>Week 7: October 19, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socratic Dialog</td>
<td>Week 11: (Can be turned sooner, but due by November 16, 2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue book Exam 2</td>
<td>Week 14: December 7th, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Interpretation</td>
<td>Week 15: December 14th, 2018</td>
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Late work is not accepted except in the case of an emergency, or with prior approval from the professor.