I. Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Don Spitler
Ph D – Religious Studies
M. A. – Communication

Office Location: CHARTS 439
Office Hours: MW - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
TR - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
F - 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

E-mail: dspitler@uaptc.edu (preferred method of contact)

Telephone: 501-812-2246

Mailbox Location: CHARTS 410, North Little Rock Campus

II. Catalog Description

This course explores the collection of books that make up the Jewish Bible/ Old Testament. It includes an examination of the socio-historical contexts and academic analyses of representative portions of the Pentateuch, Prophets and Writings. 3 Credit Hours (3 hours lecture per week).

III. Course Resources

Required textbook:


Recommended textbook:

- The Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha (NRSV)

IV. Institutional Learning Outcomes

PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism  
6. Quantitative Literacy  
7. Technological Literacy  

For more information, please consult the following website:  
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sla/mission.asp  

V. Department/Program Learning Outcomes  

The Philosophy and Humanities Department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:  

1. Critical and creative thought  
2. Effective argumentation  
3. Academic Integrity  
4. Independent thinking and learning  
5. Written communication on a collegiate level  
6. Exposure to various cultures and subcultures  
7. The influence of culture on individuals and their work  
8. Collaborative study and writing  
9. The importance of community/civic involvement  

VI. Course Outcomes  

The student will:  

1. Recognize and acquire an appreciation for modern biblical criticism  
2. Identify and interpret sources that form the bases of Jewish and Christian beliefs and practices  
3. Recognize the influence of cognate literatures upon the writers of the HB/OT  
4. Appreciate the HB/OT’s influence on Western culture and values  

VII. Attendance Policy  

Agencies granting financial assistance may be notified of the violation of the attendance policy by students receiving financial aid.  

Attendance is taken starting the first day of the semester, with the exception of students who enroll after classes have started. Teachers have the right to enforce PTC’s administrative drop policy for seven days of consecutive nonattendance, i.e., nonattendance means not logging on.  

Attendance: You will need to log in regularly each week. I would suggest a minimum of 3 hours a week, but given the nature of online courses, you will need to spend more than 3 hours a week working on assignments, responding to discussion messages, and reading both the text and notes I may post. In order to be counted present during a week, you not only must log in, but you must complete all assignments required for any given week.  

PLEASE NOTE: In an online class, eligibility for financial aid is based on student participation. Logging in to the course does not constitute participation. Examples of participation include, but are not limited to, posting to the discussion board, submitting an assignment, taking an assessment, or emailing the
instructor about the course. Students who do not participate will not be able to collect financial aid for an online class.

VIII. ONLINE POLICIES

The PTC Student Handbook rules and regulations will be enforced in this class at all times. Professional behavior is required, and intelligent participation is expected. The following are policies I have for the course. I may have to adjust policies according to situations that may arise during the semester.

1. Keep the language and tone of all communications civil. No vulgar language or demeaning comments will be tolerated. Should you communicate in this way, I will warn you through private e-mail should the offense take place via private e-mail. However, if you post an inappropriate message on the discussion board, for all to read, I will respond publicly. I may also take action by shutting you out of the course.

2. If you have a problem with me, or if you have a question for me, please send me a private e-mail through Blackboard. DO NOT post such messages on the discussion board. The discussion board is for posting assignments; socializing needs to be take place in the student lounge area.

3. When communicating, do not YELL. Using all capital letters signifies you are indeed yelling.

4. I will respond to your e-mails as quickly as I can. But please understand that it may take me a day or two to get back to you.

5. I do not mind answering questions you might have, but I should not have to answer questions I have already answered through previous correspondences. So before asking a question, check all e-mails I have sent and read every page that I have posted in the course that is related to your question. If I have not addressed your question in any of the information I have provided, then you can ask me.

6. If I see the same question asked by several students, I may send out an e-mail to all students instead of e-mailing individual responses. So do not think I am ignoring you if I do not answer you directly.

7. NO EXCUSES: you are in college, and you are expected to complete all assignments and tests ON TIME.

PLEASE NOTE: A certain amount of computer skills is expected of you, considering you have chosen to take an online course. You need to know how to send e-mails, how to send attachments, how to download audio files, and other basic computer functions. Also, you will be at a great disadvantage taking any online course if you do not have high-speed Internet at home. If you are coming on to campus to access to log in to the course because you do not have Internet service at home, then be aware that you will still be expected to complete all assignments and take all tests ON TIME.

IX. Grading

Course Requirements

Readings
The assigned readings are the foundation for our discussion postings, assignments, and exams. It is expected that you will complete readings before the assigned date. While not always discussed in the postings, all
assigned readings represent testable material. This course will require a great deal of reading, considering the two required texts plus the New Testament books.

Exams = 400 Points
Four exams (100 points each) will be given during the course of the semester. For each exam you are responsible for all material presented in your required readings, as well as additional materials I provide.

Unit Writing Assignments = 200 Points
For each unit, I will post writing assignments in which you will write about some topic covered in that unit. The purpose of each writing assignment is to get you to think about various issues raised in the textbook or in a book of the Old Testament, and they will require more than an answer taken directly from the text. Answers that are merely taken directly from the textbook or some other source that are presented as one’s own writing will receive a zero; I want you to use your own words. I will provide some suggested topics that you could focus on.

Please follow the rules of standard written English. Points will be deducted for errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Also, make sure you use separate paragraphs; a good response will contain about three or four paragraphs.

Writing assignments will NOT be accepted late, not will they be accepted via e-mail. Writing assignments MUST be completed in the assignment itself, since I have a rubric set up for each assignment. I also have a program set up to check for plagiarism.

Miscellaneous Activities = 50 Points
Two other assignments are required as well, and both will be completed within the first two weeks of class: the syllabus agreement assignment (worth 15 points) and an introduction assignment (worth 35 points).

Grading Scale
Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (Excellent)</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>(585 - 650 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Good)</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>(520 - 584 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Average)</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>(455 - 519 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Below Average)</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>(390 - 449 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F (Failing)</td>
<td>59% or Less</td>
<td>(0 - 389 points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make-Up Policy
Tests. I will provide plenty of time for you to take tests, so when the test period ends, you CANNOT take the test. In other words, I will not reset the test for you if you did not take the test when it was available. No make-ups on tests will be allowed, regardless of the reason.

What I will do is this: for one missed test (and one only), I will double the score of the next test you take and replace the grade of the one missed test.

Contacting Me
I will make every effort to answer e-mails as quickly as I can, but please understand that it may take me a day or two to respond. If I have delayed in responding to you in Blackboard, then feel free to contact me through my PTC e-mail (dspitler@pulaskitech.edu). Please do not post private messages to me on the discussion board; the discussion board will be used for assignments only.
X. Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The PTC catalogue states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.” The catalogue also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.” The complete Academic Integrity Policy can be found in the PTC code of conduct.

XI. Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Coordinator of Disability Services in Counseling Services (501/812-2220 or www.pulaskitech.edu) prior to the semester of planned enrollment, and must provide recent documentation of medical, educational, and/or psychological records.

Students who need accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Accommodations will only be provided if the instructor receives a letter of approved accommodations from the Coordinator of Disability Services. Failure to provide sufficient notification may result in a delay of services.

XII. Sexual Misconduct

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Dean of Students
Campus Center Building Room 212
501-812-2756
manderson@pulaskitech.edu

Additional information, including the PTC sexual assault policy, procedures, and resources may be found online at the following web address:
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sexual_misconduct_awareness/.

XIII. Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

XIV. Information Literacy
PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.

XV. Course Schedule and Assignments

**Disclaimer:** This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/16 – 1/20 | Read Syllabus/Course Agreement  
Introduction of Self  
Read Chapter 1- Text  
Read Genesis |
| 2    | 1/21 – 1/27 | Read Chapters 2 – 4 - Text  
Read Genesis |
| 3    | 1/28 – 2/3 | Read Chapters 5 – 6 - Text  
Read Exodus; first half of Leviticus |
| 4    | 2/4 – 2/10 | Read Chapters 7 – 8 - Text  
Read second half of Leviticus; Deuteronomy  
**Unit 1 Exam - Chapters 1 – 8 (Opens – 2/9; Closes 2/15)** |
| 5    | 2/11 – 2/17 | Read Chapter 9 – 10 - Text  
Read Joshua; Judges |
| 6    | 2/18 – 2/24 | Read Chapters 11 – 12 - Text  
1 Samuel |
| 7    | 2/25 – 3/3 | Read Chapters 13 and 14 - Text  
Read 2 Samuel  
**Unit 2 Exam – Chapters 9 – 14 (Opens – 3/2; Closes – 3/8)** |
| 8    | 3/4 – 3/10 | Read Chapters 15 and 16 - Text  
Read Amos; Hosea; Isaiah 1 - 39 |
| 9    | 3/11 – 3/17 | Read Chapters 17 and 18 - Text  
Read Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Lamentations |
| 10   | 3/18 – 3/24 | **SPRING BREAK** |
| 11   | 3/25 – 3/31 | Read Chapter 19 - Text  
Read Isaiah 40 – 66 |
| 12   | 4/1 – 4/7  | Read Chapter 20 - Text  
Read Haggai; Zechariah |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/8 – 4/14</td>
<td>Read Chapters 21, 22, and 23 - Text</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read Ezra; Nehemiah; Psalms 1, 2, 22, 48, 72, 96, 100, 137</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15 – 4/21</td>
<td>Read Chapters 24, 25 and 26 - Text</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read Proverbs 1 – 9; Job; Ecclesiastes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/22 – 4/28</td>
<td>Read Chapters 27 and 28 - Text</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read Ruth; Jonah; Esther</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/29 – 5/5</td>
<td>Read Chapter 29 - Text</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read Daniel; 1 Maccabees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 – 5/11</td>
<td><em>(Final Exams Week)</em> - Unit 4 Exam - Chapters 21 – 29 (Counts as final)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XVI. Course Agreement Form

On the Start Here page, I have created an assignment entitled Syllabus Agreement. Follow the instructions given and submit the assignment to me.

**NOTE:** Below is the Assignment Tracker, which will help you keep track of your assignments and grades for those assignments.

Assignment Tracker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Agreement</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduce Yourself</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Writing Assignment</td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Writing Assignment</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Writing Assignment</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4 Writing Assignment</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Exam</td>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Exam</td>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Exam</td>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4 Exam</td>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>