



# River City School of Leadership

## Syllabus for **THE 102 Old Testament Synthesis 1**

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will develop a link between the Old and New Testaments in order to see the Bible as one book. This will be done through an examination of the history, context, and structure of the Old Testament. An overview of important Bible characters, people groups, key events, and covenants that God made with His people will be discussed. While examining the foreshadowing found throughout the Old Testament that point to the redemptive life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

### II. COURSE GOALS & OUTCOMES

- A. To learn the general content, author, and dating of each Old Testament book throughout the readings and class instruction.
- B. To recognize the theological and literary riches of the Old Testament through personal reading of the Old Testament, class instruction, and online discussions.
- C. To enrich and stimulate the student's spiritual life by the exposure to God's Word.
- D. To help the student to be able to utilize lessons learned from this class to apply in local ministry and practical life.
- E. To correctly handle the Word of Truth, understand it, apply it, and proclaim it.

### III. TEXTBOOK(S)

*Holy Bible*, several reliable modern versions, (instructor will most often refer to NIV).

Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart, Douglas. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. 444 pages

### IV. ASSIGNMENT & DUE DATES

#### A. Online Discussion (35%)

Every Monday a class discussion question will be posted by the professor under the "Discussions" portion of the online class portal. Provide a six to eight sentence response

to that question by the following Sunday. Additionally, read and review the comments of your classmates. The student is required to respond to at least two fellow students' discussion post. This weekly assignment is designed to facilitate an online dialogue that enables student to glean from one another.

#### B. Old Testament Introduction and Historical Background (25%)

- General Introduction of each book in the Old Testament
- Address who wrote the book and when, the history of the development of the text, and the historical background of its contents
- Learn about the main characters throughout the Old Testament

##### Assignment:

Create in a paragraph-style with each book in the Old Testament by first identifying each book in correct order; then in one sentence per book include who wrote the book and when; and finally 2-3 sentences of the basic message of its contents.

Ensure the correct spelling of each book and think about the theological message contained in each book and be prepared to discuss in class.

Submit your essay in a Word or PDF document under the "Assessment" portion of the online class portal.

#### C. The Narrative of Israel in the Pentateuch (20%)

The first five books of Moses relate to the beginnings of everything and then focuses especially on God's call and covenant with Abraham and his seed, promising both to make them a numerous people and to give them the land of Canaan. The covenant with Israel that takes the form of "the law" will be explored.

##### Assignment:

As the student reads through the books in this section of the Bible, the student will find various threads that hold the larger narrative together: God's covenants with His people; God's faithfulness to them despite their repeated unfaithfulness to Him; God's redeeming his people from slavery to make them His own; God's dwelling among them in the tabernacle and temple as the gift of the law in order to reshape them into his own likeness; God's provision of a sacrificial system – the "red thread" of blood poured out for life of another – as His way of offering forgiveness; God's choice of a king from

Judah who would represent Him on earth and prepare the way for His own coming in the person of Jesus.

The “Big Idea” is to pick one of the above-mentioned threads that make the whole story hold together as one story. The student will select one of the various threads they identified in their reading. The student will prepare a 500-600 word essay written in MLA format. The intent is for the student to identify one of these common threads then write about how they identified this one thread as being a part of the whole story of the Bible and what it means to them.

Submit your essay in a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

#### D. Exam (20%)

The student may complete the exam at his/her convenience during that time period. The exam is found under the “Quiz” section of the online portal.

The exam is **closed book**. This means that, while taking the exam, you may not refer to any notes or study guides.

### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### A. Grades and Assessments

##### 1. Grading Scale

- A 90 - 100%
- B 80 - 89%
- C 70 - 79%
- D 60 - 69%
- F 59% and below

##### 2. Percentage of Final Grade per Assessment & Due Date

- a) Online Discussion (35%)
- b) Old Testament Introduction (25%)
- c) Narrative of Israel in the Pentateuch (20%)
- d) Exam (20%)

## B. Correspondence

All correspondence with professors should be done through the email address provided in this syllabus.

## C. Academic Honesty

1. Plagiarism is copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structures and submitting them as one's own, which is claiming the work of others as your own without specific acknowledgment. It is always required that a student cite resources used in any paper that is written. Both students and faculty at River City School of Leadership are expected to deal ethically with other's materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software.
2. Collaboration (e.g. writing a paper with someone else so that the resulting paper is not the product of the person turning it in) is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the instructor. Unless noted on the course syllabus a student should assume that the required work is meant to represent their own efforts. It is permissible to have a proofreader review one's paper and comment on the grammar and general paper structure; however, the thought and content of the paper must be the student's.

## D. Late Assignment Policy

For each week that an assignment is late, it will receive a 10% grade deduction. An assignment will be considered late unless the student has prior permission from the instructor for a later due date. No homework will be accepted after the end of the term. Additional points can be docked by the teacher for not meeting assignment requirements or standards.

Example:

- 1-7 Days Late – Maximum Grade 90
- 8-14 Days Late – Maximum Grade 80
- 15-21 Days Late – Maximum Grade 70
- 22-28 Days Late – Maximum Grade 60
- 29+ Days Late – Maximum Grade 59

#### E. Absenteeism

An absentee is defined as not being present in-person or online when a class is being taught. Students are allowed two absences in each semester. If a student is absent more than twice, they will be given an I (Incomplete) for the semester. An **absentee can be erased if a student watches/listens the full video/audio content** of a class that they missed, writes a 250-word response to the class video that was watched/listened to, and **send the notification and the response to River City by email ([info@rivercityschool.com](mailto:info@rivercityschool.com))** that they have made up the absence, noting the date of the absence. The latest a student can submit an email to this effect is the day following the last class of that semester.

#### F. Tardiness

When attending an online class via Zoom, if a student joins 10 minutes or later after the start of the class, a Tardy will be noted for that week's attendance.

#### G. Zoom Protocol

When attending a River City class that is held via Zoom, students are expected to adhere to the following protocol. The camera must be on the whole class and audio muted unless a question is being asked or answered. It is expected that students will be interactive in the class, answering or following the instructions given by the professor.

#### H. Recorded Class Protocol

There are times when a professor might need to record a class meeting for students to view instead of meeting on the designated class night. If this does occur, in order for a student to be counted as present for that class week, the class recording will need to be viewed and then an email sent to [info@rivercityschool.com](mailto:info@rivercityschool.com) notifying that the recording has been watched. No written response is needed

### VII. COURSE CONTENT / SCHEDULE

Reading assignments: To be read prior to class meeting. The guidelines in the Fee/Stuart text should be read just prior to reading the Scripture passage.

<b>ASSIGNMENT (To be read by date)</b>	<b>CLASS DATE READING DUE</b>
Pages 9-33 of Fee/Stuart text; Genesis 1-25	
Orientating Data for Exodus through Malachi in the Fee/Stuart text	
Pages 34-62 of Fee/Stuart text; Genesis 26-50	
Exodus 1-20	
Exodus 21-40	
Leviticus 1-15	
Leviticus 16-27	
Break	
Numbers 1-20	
Numbers 21-36	
Deuteronomy 1-17	
Deuteronomy 18-34	
Exam Review	

#### VIII. CHANGES

This syllabus is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to note any revisions when released.