THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Historical Books of the Old Testament  
TERM: 1  
YEAR: 2017-2018

PROFESSOR: Ron E. Tappy  
CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO:  
# AUDITORS: 1  
NO AUDITORS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course presents an introduction to Genesis through 2 Kings. Our primary concern will involve the reading & analysis of the Bible itself, while an exposure to recent biblical scholarship shall constitute our secondary focus. We will also consider issues related to textual & literary analyses, problems of historical and sociological reconstructions, the applicability of various archaeological data to the study of the Bible, & the literary traditions of Israel's neighbors & the impact which they had on the formation & development of ancient Israel & its literature.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: In this course, students will:
1.) engage in a critical introduction to the historical books of the Old Testament (in this case, Genesis through 2 Kings);
2.) read significant portions of each these books, develop a first-hand knowledge of the basic context of each book, and consider the theological relationships between the various books;
3.) become familiar with major figures in the area of biblical studies who, over the last century, have analyzed specific portions of the canon;
4.) consider issues related to textual and literary analyses, such as problems of historical and sociological reconstruction, the applicability of various archaeological data to the study of the Bible, and the larger world of Israel’s neighbors and their literary traditions (i.e., ancient Israel’s cultural context);
5.) assess the impact that the various socio-cultural environments and traditions had upon the formation and development of ancient Israel and its literature;
6.) develop, through the pursuit of the areas mentioned above, a holistic rather than a narrowly focused approach to the study of the Bible;
7.) arrive at an understanding of the message of these writings (a) as it related to the specific historical and cultural phase within which each text was composed and (b) as we may apply it correctly and effectively in our own culture and life circumstances (both personal and communal).

PREREQUISITES: None

READING ASSIGNMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Primary: Readings from the Old Testament

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING
Three quizzes on contents of Genesis - 2 Kings & lectures; one short writing assignment; Final Exam

Grades based on assignments listed above, attendance, and class participation

ATTENDANCE: Required