What to Expect
REL 201  THE OLD TESTAMENT

This is a general course preview. The actual course syllabus may change each term.

Course Description: REL 201 THE OLD TESTAMENT is an overview of the Old Testament intended to acquaint the student with its background, content, and messages. This introductory course satisfies the core curriculum requirement for Bible content, but students who take it must also take REL 203 New Testament elsewhere in their programs. It is required for students in a church-work program. 3 credit hours.

Grading
Discussions (3 per unit) 75%
Written Assignment Questions (5 per unit) 25%

Required Resources
- Students will need a study Bible. The Lutheran Study Bible is recommended. A contemporary translation such as the New International Version or the English Standard Version is expected.
- Video lectures by Dr. Paavola are in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15
- Students read articles by various authors in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14
- Online resources biblegateway.com and americanbible.org.

Course Units: The course has eight units
- units 1-7: two weeks each
- unit 8: one week

Each unit involves readings from the Bible and other texts, three discussion questions to be shared with others, and five questions whose answers are shared only with the instructor.

Shared Discussions: Posted answers should be 7-8 sentences. Replies to the posts of others should be about 4 sentences in length.

Written Assignment Questions: There are five private discussion questions for each unit read only by the instructor. These are to be 4-5 sentences long each.

Counts as... REL 201 is a required course for students in a church-work major. If REL 203 is also taken, both can be used to satisfy the REL 100 requirement for the Concordia Core Curriculum for other majors.

Technology Requirements
- Students need a laptop or desktop with reliable broadband internet access.
- The Blackboard App should be used on tablets and mobile devices.
- (Some courses) Camera & microphone may be needed for video conferencing.
- Speakers or headphones.

Browser
- Concordia uses Blackboard Learn which runs best in Firefox or Chrome.
- Disable pop-up blockers and ENABLE cookies.
- Check your browser compliance at: bit.ly/cuwaacheck
- Errors are OK if they are for compliance of Java, Shockwave, and Flash.

Software
- A word processor is required. Office, Pages, Google docs will work.
- Some courses will require presentation or video software (PowerPoint or equivalent).
- Students have FREE access to Microsoft Office 365 (download / instructions)
Course Schedule

For weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 there is extensive reading in the Old Testament. You would be wise to plan accordingly and do some of this reading in the previous week when the reading assignment is shorter.

Please post your initial answer to the discussion questions as early in the week as possible as this gives others the most time to comment on your good ideas.

Visit the online course 3-4 times a week to play an active role in these discussions.

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