



School of
Distance Education
Andrews University



SYLLABUS

**RELB 216 Law and Writings
of the Old Testament**

202141

RELB 216 Law and Writings of the Old Testament

School of Distance Education

Self-Paced Format

This course follows a self-paced online format. You have 180 days from your selected start date to complete the course. The last day to withdraw with a full refund is 15 days after your start date.

Instructor Contact

Please refer to course in Learning Hub for the teacher contact information.

Communication with the Instructor

It is important to remember that while the Internet is available 24 hours a day, your instructor is not. You can expect that your instructor will respond to e-mail message to you within *2 business days* during the week and may not be available to respond on weekends.

Other Assistance

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Enrollment and withdrawal questions	sderegister@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6323
Technical assistance with online courses	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Exam requests and online proctoring	sdeexams@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6566
Distance Student Services - any other questions	sdestudents@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6566

Part 1: Course Information

Course Descriptions

An introduction to the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) and the Writings (historical books, Psalms, and Wisdom literature).

Required Text/Material

Note: Textbooks for online courses may be purchased from any supplier. For financial aid in payment, contact your financial advisor at the university where you are completing your degree. Andrews University degree students who have confirmed that funds are available will then purchase the books themselves and send receipts to their financial advisor for reimbursement.

The Bible (any English translation is acceptable).

Hill, A. E., & Walton, J. H. (2009). *A Survey of the Old Testament* (3rd ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ISBN-13: 9780310280958.

Sigvartsen, J. A., & Sigvartsen, L. M. (2014). *My Sermon Ideas*. Berrien Springs, MI: ClergyEd.com. ISBN-13: 9781502703880.

Sigvartsen, J. A. (2011). *How to Write an Exegesis Paper* [Webpage]. Retrieved from www.ExegesisPaper.com.

Please note, you will need access to a scanner for this class.

Optional Text/Material

Longman III, T., & Enns, P. (Eds.). (2008). *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry and Writings*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity. ISBN-13: 978-0830817832.

Stuart, D. (2009). *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* (4th ed.). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox. ISBN-13: 978-0664233440.

Wolf, H. (2007). *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Chicago, IL: Moody. ISBN-13: 978-0802441560.

Credit Hour and Commitment

This course is offered for 3 semester credits; therefore it is expected that you will spend 135 hours total on this course. This course has a blogs, 3 reflection papers based on your textbook with 1 optional bonus reflection paper, 10 Sermon/Worship Journal entries, 1 exegesis paper, and a final comprehensive exam. Each module represents a week of a typical semester course. It is recommended that you budget 9 hours for studying and completing the activities for each module. There are suggested schedules to accomplish this work included in this syllabus

Institutional Outcomes:

- 3.a. Articulate a biblical worldview in order to interpret life, learning, and civic responsibility from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective.
- 3.b. Address the needs of diverse communities in a manner consistent with Christian thought and practice.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Possess a foundational knowledge in the areas of Bible, history, and theology, from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective. (Seek Knowledge)
- Express faith in the context of present society, history, theology, and be able to articulate the Seventh-day Adventist view of life both orally and in writing. (Affirm Faith)
- Exhibit growth in Christian life skills. (Affirm Faith)
- Document an attitude of mission, experience & skills in personal service. (Change the World)

Student Learning Outcomes

The primary objectives of this three credit class are:

- P1: To provide students with the opportunity to study the Pentateuch and Writings from an academic perspective, ensuring they possess both an understanding and appreciation for critical scholarship (cognitive and affective);
- P2: To introduce the student to exegesis skills and aid the student through the process of writing an exegetical paper (psychomotor).

Secondary objectives include:

- S1: Provide students with an overview of the Pentateuch and Writings in order to enable them to prepare informed and well researched biblical scholarship publications, and if training to be clergy, sermons and worship programs (cognitive and psychomotor);
- S2: Develop critical thought competence in students and the ability to professionally evaluate and articulate their own responses to assigned reading (affective).

Part 2: Course Methods and Delivery

Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction include assigned readings from the textbook and the course material, use of www.ExegesisPaper.com, and interactions with the instructor via Discussion Forums. Regular participation in the course is essential for good performance.

Technical Requirements

- Computer: PC (Win 10 or newer) or MAC (10.14 or better)
- A webcam with microphone, and speakers (or plug in headset)
- Internet: 2.4 Mbps or faster DSL, cable or Wi-Fi connection
- Browser: Current version of Chrome or Firefox
- Software: Office 2013 or newer ([Office 365 available here](#))

LearningHub Access

This course is delivered online through LearningHub at <http://learninghub.andrews.edu>

Your username and password are your Andrews username and password. You need to activate your username and password to access LearningHub.

Please do this online here: <https://vault.andrews.edu/vault/pages/activation/information.jsp> if you haven't already. If you need assistance, call or email us: (296) 471-6016 or <mailto:helpdesk@andrews.edu>.

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub, please email dlit@andrews.edu or call (269) 471-3960.

Part 3: Course Requirements

Important Note: Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each learning module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

Your Schedule

In Learning Hub, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. This course is self-paced. You must complete the course within 180 days. This is the Consortium policy. You may have a stricter deadline imposed by graduation, financial aid, or other restrictions.

Start by creating a schedule for completion of the course.

- Determine your deadline. Do you need a transcript sent to your home institution?
- Working from your deadline, count backwards. Allow 2 weeks after you take your final exam for your final grade to be calculated. Allow another 2 weeks for the transcript to be processed and sent.
- Now use the suggested schedules to create a schedule for yourself that ensures completion 4 weeks before your deadline.

Submit your course plan to your instructor within Learning Hub AND discipline yourself to make regular progress.

Assessment Descriptions

1. **Pentateuch Reflection Paper** – Write a two page (500 words) reflection paper on the Pentateuch section of the textbook (pages 56-178). The paper should include:
 - i. What you **liked** and **did not like** about the Pentateuch chapters and **WHY**.
 - ii. Some **new discoveries** you made and how these may have **changed your thinking**.

Please note: This is **not** a book report nor is it a critique or summary of the textbook. Rather, it is your own personal reflection of the journey you took in studying the Pentateuch at an academic level. (Objectives P1 & S1.)

2. **Historical Books Reflection Paper** – Write a two page (500 words) reflection paper on the Historical Books section of the textbook (pages 204-355). The paper should include:
 - i. What you **liked** and **did not like** about the Historical Books chapters and **WHY**.
 - ii. Some **new discoveries** you made and how these may have **changed your thinking**.

Please note: This is **not** a book report nor is it a critique or summary of the textbook. Rather, it is your own personal reflection of the journey you took in studying the Historical Books at an academic level. (Objectives P1 & S1.)

3. **Poetic Books (Writings) Reflection Paper** – Write a two page (500 words) reflection paper on the Poetic Books (Writings) section of the textbook (pages 374-499). The paper should include:
 - i. What you **liked** and **did not like** about the Poetic Books (Writings) chapters and **WHY**.
 - ii. Some **new discoveries** you made and how these may have **changed your thinking**.

Please note: This is **not** a book report nor is it a critique or summary of the textbook. Rather, it is your own personal reflection of the journey you took in studying the Poetic Books (Writings) at an academic level. (Objectives P1 & S1.)

4. **Sermon/Worship Ideas Journal** – Using the My Sermon Idea’s journal that you purchased as a textbook, complete 10 sermon/worship ideas based on topics covered in the course content – 5 from the Pentateuch and 5 from the Historical/Poetic Books. You will need to scan and submit each journal online. You will need access to a scanner to complete this assignment. Include at least one idea from your exegesis paper. (Objective S1.)

The due dates are provided in the Outline of Topics and Assignments table in this syllabus.

5. **Blog Participation** – Each module has a posted questions relating to your exegesis paper. You may also post questions or start a topic discussion on this blog too. You will be graded on the value and accuracy of what you post relating to your own answers and the critique you give of other’s posts. (Objective S2.)

6. **Exegesis paper.** Write a 2000 word exegesis paper (not a sermon) on a narrow topic/passage not covered in class. The paper needs to be strictly formatted following The Andrews University Standards for Written Work (Turabian). Your primary resource for this component is a website I have developed which can be found at www.ExegesisPaper.com. This website provides all the information you need to write a scholarly exegesis paper. Some of the necessary steps will be covered in your course material too. If you have any further questions about your paper, please do not hesitate to contact me. (Objectives P1 & P2.)

The exegesis paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria (for grade evaluation, see the attachments: *Criteria for Assessment Guidelines and Criteria for Assessment*):

- i. Is the exegetical methodology presented in class lectures and reading understood and carefully applied?
 - ii. Is the passage analyzed so that its linguistic and literary features as well as the main issues and theological themes were identified and addressed?
 - iii. Is the paper well structured (brief introduction, logical sequence, conclusion, bibliography, clarity in format, good writing quality)?
 - iv. Does the paper show acquaintance with the scholarly literature (books, commentaries, journal articles, unpublished dissertations) on the passage?
 - v. Does the paper follow the format of the *Andrews University Standards for Written Work*?
 - vi. Is the paper original and interesting?
 - vii. Are the findings convincing, logical, and biblically valuable?
7. **Bonus: Class Experience Reflection Paper** - Write a two page (500 words) reflection paper on
- the movie "Ushpizin" which is available in full for free on Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgiCDDGdntv4> **OR**
 - the movie "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed" which is also available in full for free on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5EPymcWp-g> **OR**
 - on the Friday night Kiddush ceremony that will be presented in this course.

The paper should include:

- i. What you liked and did not like about the movie or the Kiddush ceremony and WHY.
- ii. Some new discoveries you made and how these may have changed your thinking.
Please note: This is a bonus paper, and as such, cannot be substituted for any assessment mentioned above. This is not a movie or ceremony review, nor is it a summary of the movie or ceremony. Rather, it is your own personal reflection of the journey you took while watching one of these movies or the Kiddush ceremony. (Objectives P1, S1 & S2.)

Rubrics

See grading rubric on the **LearningHub** for this course.

Exams

The final exam is worth 15% of your grade. You are allowed 180 minutes to complete this exam.

Follow prompts in the course space to set up your exam session. In each module that contains an exam, you will find what to review and what materials are allowed (if any) during the exam.

Please read the important information about taking exams and how online proctoring works at www.andrews.edu/distance/students/exams.html. Then follow the instructions that apply to your situation on the [exam request form](#) to set up your exam session.

Please note that an exam code is never released to the student. All students must present photo identification before each exam session. Exams can only be proctored after a deadline with approval directly from the instructor to the Testing Center (sdeexams@andrews.edu or 269-471-6566). No exam is returned to the student for review. The instructor, to aid studying for future exams can provide feedback on exams.

Suggested schedule for completion in 8 weeks:

If you wish to complete this course in 8 weeks, and accelerate your course, you will need to start your exegesis paper as soon as possible to ensure you have enough time to complete it.

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments
Intro	These items will need to be completed before you will have access to the rest of the course	Orientation Course Overview Introductions Academic Integrity	Schedule Introduce Yourself Academic Integrity Quiz Academic Integrity Statement
1	Introduction to Law and Writings Introduction to the Pentateuch	A Survey of the Old Testament Chps. 1-3 Optional Ch. 9 Class Materials: Introduction to Law & Writings, Introductions to Pentateuch	Introduction Blog
	The first Creation Story (Gen 1) The second Creation Story: The Eden Narrative (Gen 2-3)	Holy Bible :Genesis Chps. 1-3 A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 4 Class Materials: The First Creation Story, The Second Creation Story	Find the structure of Gen 1 Blog Find key phrases in Gen 2-3 Blog
2	Concluding remarks regarding the Creation Stories (one or two stories?)	Class Materials : Concluding Remarks	My Sermon Ideas Journal 1
	The Historical Critical Method - JEPD The Flood Story (Gen 5-9)	Holy Bible: Genesis Chps.5-9 Class Materials: The Flood Story, The Historical Method	My Sermon Ideas Journal 2 Passage for Exegesis Paper chosen History Writing Blog Flood Story Blog
3	The Abraham Narrative (Gen 12-22)	Holy Bible: Genesis Chps. 12-22 Class Materials: The Gospel of Abraham	My Sermon Ideas Journal 3
4	The Book of Exodus The Sabbath (Jewish Celebration)	A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 5-8 Class Materials: The Book of Exodus, The Sabbath	My Sermon Ideas Journal 4 My Sermon Ideas Journal 5 Reflection Paper on Pentateuch due Old Testament Law Blog Ten Commandments Blog

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments
5	Introduction to the Writings	A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 10-12, 14-17 Optional Ch. 19 Class Materials: Introductions to Writings	The Writing Blog
	The Book of Ruth	Holy Bible: The Book of Ruth A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 13 Class Materials: The Book of Ruth	My Sermon Ideas Journal 6 Ruth Blog
6	The Book of Esther	Holy Bible: The Book of Esther A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 18 Class Materials: The Book Of Esther	My Sermon Ideas Journal 7 Reflection Paper on Historical Books due Esther Blog The LXX Version Blog
	The Book of Job	Holy Bible: Job Chps. 1-3 A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 20-21 Class Materials: The Book of Job	My Sermon Ideas Journal 8 Job Blog
7	The Book of Proverbs and Song of Songs	Holy Bible: Proverbs, Songs Of Songs A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 23-25 Class Materials: The Book Of Proverbs, The Book of Song Of Songs	My Sermon Ideas Journal 9 Proverbs Blog Song of Songs Blog
	The Books of Psalms	Holy Bible: Psalms Chps. 1-2, 34, 40, 54, 55, 85, 95, 135 A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 22, 26 Class Materials: The Book of Psalms	My Sermon Ideas Journal 10 Hebrew Parallelism Blog Psalms Blog
8	Concluding Remarks regarding Law and Writings		Exegesis Paper due (2000 Words) Reflection Paper on the Poetic Books (Writings) due Optional Bonus Reflection Paper on Class Experience due
	PROCTORED FINAL EXAM		

Suggested schedule for completion in 16 weeks:

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments
Intro	These items will need to be completed before you will have access to the rest of the course	Orientation Course Overview Introductions Academic Integrity	Schedule Introduce Yourself Academic Integrity Quiz Academic Integrity Statement
1	Introduction to Law and Writings Introduction to the Pentateuch	A Survey of the Old Testament Chps. 1-3 Optional Ch. 9 Class Materials: Introduction to Law & Writings, Introductions to Pentateuch	Introduction Blog
2	The first Creation Story (Gen 1) The second Creation Story: The Eden Narrative (Gen 2-3)	Holy Bible :Genesis Chps. 1-3 A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 4 Class Materials: The First Creation Story, The Second Creation Story	Find the structure of Gen 1 Blog Find key phrases in Gen 2-3 Blog
3	Concluding remarks regarding the Creation Stories (one or two stories?)	Class Materials : Concluding Remarks	My Sermon Ideas Journal 1
4	The Historical Critical Method - JEPD The Flood Story (Gen 5-9)	Holy Bible: Genesis Chps.5-9 Class Materials: The Flood Story, The Historical Method	My Sermon Ideas Journal 2 Passage for Exegesis Paper chosen History Writing Blog Flood Story Blog

Module	Lessons	Readings	Assignments
5 & 6	The Abraham Narrative (Gen 12-22)	Holy Bible: Genesis Chps. 12-22 Class Materials: The Gospel of Abraham	My Sermon Ideas Journal 3
7, 8 & 9	The Book of Exodus The Sabbath (Jewish Celebration)	A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 5-8 Class Materials: The Book of Exodus, The Sabbath	My Sermon Ideas Journal 4 My Sermon Ideas Journal 5 Reflection Paper on Pentateuch due Old Testament Law Blog Ten Commandments Blog
10	Introduction to the Writings	A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 10-12, 14-17 Optional Ch. 19 Class Materials: Introductions to Writings	The Writing Blog
11	The Book of Ruth	Holy Bible: The Book of Ruth A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 13 Class Materials: The Book of Ruth	My Sermon Ideas Journal 6 Ruth Blog
12	The Book of Esther	Holy Bible: The Book of Esther A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 18 Class Materials: The Book Of Esther	My Sermon Ideas Journal 7 Reflection Paper on Historical Books due Esther Blog The LXX Version Blog
13	The Book of Job	Holy Bible: Job Chps. 1-3 A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 20-21 Class Materials: The Book of Job	My Sermon Ideas Journal 8 Job Blog
14	The Book of Proverbs and Song of Songs	Holy Bible: Proverbs, Songs Of Songs A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 23-25 Class Materials: The Book Of Proverbs, The Book of Song Of Songs	My Sermon Ideas Journal 9 Proverbs Blog Song of Songs Blog
15	The Books of Psalms	Holy Bible: Psalms Chps. 1-2, 34, 40, 54, 55, 85, 95, 135 A Survey of the Old Testament Ch. 22, 26 Class Materials: The Book of Psalms	My Sermon Ideas Journal 10 Hebrew Parallelism Blog Psalms Blog
16	Concluding Remarks regarding Law and Writings		Exegesis Paper due (2000 Words) Reflection Paper on the Poetic Books (Writings) due Optional Bonus Reflection Paper on Class Experience due
PROCTORED FINAL EXAM			

Completing Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through LearningHub unless otherwise instructed. Assignments and exams must be completed **within 180 days** of course registration date. This timeframe is subject to change depending on deadlines set by your home institution.

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

Percent %	Description
10	Pentateuch Reflection Paper
10	Historical Books Reflection Paper
10	Poetic Books (Writings) Reflection Paper
20	Sermon/Worship Ideas Journal
10	Blog participation
15	Final Examination
25	Exegesis Paper
10 (Bonus)	Bonus: Additional Reflection Paper
100	Total Percent Possible

Viewing Grades in Moodle

- Click into the course.
- Click on the **Grades** link in Administration Block to the left of the main course page.

Letter Grade Assignment

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Part 5: Course Policies

Withdrawal and Incomplete Policies

The current withdrawal policy can be found online at <https://www.andrews.edu/distance/students/gradplus/withdrawal.html>. The incomplete policy is found online at <http://www.andrews.edu/web/msc/moodle/public/incompletes.html>.

Maintain Professional Conduct Both in the Classroom and Online

The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. Your instructor will make every effort to make this environment safe for you to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas, and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication. Students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption.

Academic Accommodations

Students who require accommodations may request an academic adjustment as follows:

1. Read the Andrews University Disability Accommodation information at <https://www.andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/>
2. Download and fill in the disability form at <http://www.andrews.edu/services/sscenter/disability/accommodationsreqform.pdf> . Preferably type answers. To save a digital copy, 1) print to file and save or 2) print and scan. Email the completed form and disability documentation (if any) to success@andrews.edu or fax it to (269) 471-8407.
3. Email sdestudents@andrews.edu to inform the School of Distance Education that a disability has been reported to Student Success.

Commitment to Integrity

As a student in this course, and at the university, you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning, participation in this course, and integrity in your behavior in and out of this online classroom.

Commitment to Excellence

You deserve a standing ovation based on your decision to enroll in, and effectively complete this course. Along with your pledge of “commitment to Integrity” you are expected to adhere to a “commitment to excellence.” Andrews University has established high academic standards that will truly enhance your writing and communication skills across the disciplines and in diverse milieu with many discourse communities in the workplace.

Honesty

Using the work of another student or allowing work to be used by another student jeopardizes not only the teacher-student relationship but also the student’s academic standing. Lessons may be discussed with other students, tutors may help to guide a student’s work, and textbooks, encyclopedias and other resource materials may be used for additional assistance, but the actual response must be the student’s own work. A student who gives information to another student to be used in a dishonest way is equally guilty of dishonesty.

Any violation of this policy will be taken before the Higher Education Academic and Curriculum Committee for appropriate punitive action.