

## Syllabus Introduction to Old Testament

**Heritage Academy**  
**A University-Model School®**

*The mission of Heritage Academy, a Certified University-Model School®, is to partner with Christian parents to prepare college-worthy, character witnesses for Jesus Christ.*

### **I. Course Purpose and Content**

Why study the Old Testament? From this study, ninth through twelve grade students will learn about the literature and theology of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible through the study of literary, historical, and cultural contexts. The Old Testament includes the Pentateuch, the Histories, the Poetical/Wisdom books, and the Prophets. Students will learn about traditional view and modern scholarship on the information of the Old Testament. This course will focus on the texts, in-class discussion, research, and 3-5-page papers.

### **II. Worldview Integration**

Heritage Academy is committed to teaching subjects in such a way that students develop a biblical worldview out of which to think and act. The following are key essential truths which relate to the study of biblical studies:

- God is a trinity (three persons in one) and is the source of life and love. By Him, all things were created. In Him, all things hold together (Colossians 1:17). God desires us to thrive in relationship with him.
- Since God deliberately designed and designated mankind to reflect His own image, we, as people, have unique capacities to wrestle with the abstract, perform analysis, communicate complex ideas, exercise decision-making, and cultivate complex relationships that involve body, soul, and spirit (Genesis 1:28).
- God does not want us to embrace deception, which causes damage to ourselves and to our communion with Him and others, and can eventually lead to painful destruction (John 10:10, James 1:16-17, Galatians 6:7-8, Proverbs 3:5-8).
- Because of sin (unbelief toward God and turning away from him), God's image in us is fragmented and distorted. A principle of rebellion is now at work within ourselves and within the world. Disorder, fragmentation, and decay are the natural tendency of things and death is an inevitable event. Without giving careful attention to God's wisdom and purposing to submit to it, we ourselves can hasten toward or embrace confusion, fear, foolishness, regret, and sometimes even destruction. It is only when we pursue health and life according to God's wisdom, that we can experience the joy of thriving (reconciliation, renewal, and wholeness) that God desires us to know (Genesis 4:7, John 10:10, Proverbs 14:27).
- Wisdom is the set of creation principles by which the Trinity created the world and which, when followed, nurtures life (Proverbs 8:24-25, Proverbs 3:19).

- Through the study and enjoyment of literature, we are able to consider the assumptions, thought-patterns, motivations, and choices of various literary characters and gain insight into the consequences of belief, choice, and life experiences (Proverbs 13:20).
- We reflect God’s image when we exercise and refine our God-given capacities to consider and discern the consequences of belief, choice, and life experiences. We further reflect God’s image and become agents of renewal when we are able to communicate our observations and related insights with skill, creativity, and integrity, and with perspective that affirms God’s wisdom.

### III. Required Texts & Materials

Please reference Required Text Book List and Course Supplies List for the appropriate academic year to identify the textbooks and supplies students will need for this course. Both the Required Text Book List and Course Supplies List are accessible online.

### IV. Course Guidelines/Student Requirements

#### A. Attendance

Attendance is imperative as concepts cannot be learned if a student is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the classroom environment. Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time and prepared. All absences and tardies are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardies generate one absence. As communicated in Heritage Academy’s Family Manual, a passing grade awarded at the end of the semester generally requires that a secondary student has attended at least forty-two class periods during the semester. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement may result in an F being awarded and recorded on the student’s transcript.

#### B. Absences and Late Work

In the case of planned absence(s), homework that is due during the student’s absence must be completed and submitted to the instructor in advance.

When a student is unexpectedly and unavoidably absent due to ill health, past-due assignments must be submitted within two course periods after the student’s return to school. **When an unexpected absence must occur, please be sure to notify the school office and the instructor of the students’ absence as quickly as possible, preferably before the involved class occurs. This contact may occur by phone or by email.**

Late work that is submitted simply “late” will be graded and penalized with a ten percent grade reduction for each course period that it is late; homework will not be accepted more than three course periods (1 week) past its due date, unless previous arrangements between the teacher and the student’s parent have been agreed to in light of peculiar circumstances that are occurring beyond the family’s control.

### **C. Student Conduct and Preparation for Learning**

For the sake of promoting a safe and focused learning environment, the student is expected to do the following throughout the course of the semester:

- 1) Arrive on time to each class period with the appropriate class materials available for access (e.g., organized notebook with dividers and filed materials, paper, writing tools, texts, and other tools as directed)
- 2) Arrive prepared to submit completed at-home assignments at start of each class period.
- 3) Arrive ready to listen, learn, take notes, and participate in teacher-directed classroom discussions and activities.
- 4) Ask for clarification or further explanation when a concept or direction remains unclear.
- 5) Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation, kindness, and respect toward the teacher and fellow classmates, in keeping with Heritage Academy's Code of Conduct.
- 6) Help keep the classroom area clean and orderly.
- 7) Cooperate with the parent-educator and the Heritage Academy teacher to complete homework in a timely fashion
- 8) Communicate concerns regarding schoolwork to both the Heritage Academy teacher and the parent-educator, so that these concerns can be addressed quickly.
- 9) On the whole, conduct himself or herself in a manner that is worthy of Christ and reflects the life of the Holy Spirit in him/her: ". . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light" (Colossians 1:12).

### **D. At-Home (Satellite Classroom) Investment**

Daily home-assignments will be outlined on the weekly Home-Communication Sheet the student will receive each Monday. The student can expect to invest approximately 1.75 to 2.5 hours each week completing coursework at home in preparation for class periods. Course assignments may include any of the following:

- **Reading and responsive analysis or reflection** (written or oral)
- **Self- reflection and critique**

- **Completing Research / Writing / Special Projects**

Students may be directed to research various characters, attitudes, or themes and prepare special projects throughout the semester for the purpose of presenting information or providing dramatic interpretation. **Such projects may include** web work or interviews. Plagiarism is never acceptable.

- **Memorization Work**

- **Dialogue**

Student may be instructed to discuss and/or explore certain topics or concepts with a parent. These assignments will be given purposefully and should not be dismissed.

- **Preparation for Tests and Quizzes**

Students may be instructed to review notes, various texts, previously completed tests, scripture verses and/or to complete review questions or study guides etc., in preparation for tests.

- **Other Assignments**

Additional types of assignments may be given throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

## E. Assessments

Students will take *at least* two tests throughout the course of the semester and may experiences a number of quizzes. One larger paper will also be written; students will be provided with a rubric beforehand so they may clearly know what expectations for the paper are and how they will be graded.

## F. Grades

### Grade Apportionment

Assignments and Quizzes	30%
Paper(s)	30%
Tests	40%

### Grading Scale

100-95...A	76-73...C
90...A-	72-70...C-
89-87...B+	59 or below... F
86-83...B	
82-80...B-	

## V. Parent Responsibilities

### A. Embrace the University Model

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles:

- ◆ to preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships
- ◆ to offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Heritage Academy operates as a University-Model School<sup>®</sup>, designed for families who want their students to flourish from a life anchored in the home yet still gain from the best aspects of traditional, classroom education. Courses offered at Heritage Academy occur every-other-day so that students may realize the benefits of qualified teachers and a focused learning community, yet continue to experience home as the primary, consistent base where parents remain their foremost guides for spiritual, social, academic, and character formation.

Parents, please consider ways you may maximize the benefits University-Model Schooling offers to your family. How can you as parents utilize the at-homestudy time this model provides to nurture deeper relationship and model and impart the faith, values, and life-patterns you desire your student to embrace?

### **B. Fulfill the Parent Role**

Within the University-Model School<sup>®</sup>, parents commit to fulfill a specified role related to each course in which their student is enrolled, as prescribed by the course's description. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course, Heritage Academy has designated parents the role of "Guide for Dependent Study."

This role recognizes that many courses at this level will begin to cover subject matter that may be unfamiliar to many parents. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits and strategies for managing time must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student's growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for this class to be successful, I as a teacher am depending upon you as parents to ensure that your son or daughter keeps up with the course material and to communicate with me should any difficulties or concerns arise.

### **C. Monitor Engrade and View Seven-Week and Thirteen-Week Engrade Reports**

As your student earns grades for completed tests, quizzes, and various projects and homework assignments, these will be recorded on **Engrade.com** for you to view at your convenience. My general goal will be to post grades online within a week of their being awarded.

In Engrade, missing assignments will also be noted by an "M." Please take time to follow your student's progress on Engrade so that you can quickly recognize and explore/address areas of patterns of difficulty or concern that may appear and affirm positive accomplishments.

Directions to register for Engrade are accessible on Heritage Academy's website under "Resources" and "Engrade", or may also be received from the office. If you need aide setting up Engrade (it should only take about two minutes), please contact Heritage Academy's office.

Engrade Reports, which will include parent-directed comments related to your student's behavior and progress in class, will be ready for parents to view at the seven-week and thirteen-week point in the semester.

**D. Attend Parent/Teacher Fellowship**

I hope you will take time to come to Parent/Teacher Fellowship that is scheduled to occur the 7<sup>th</sup> week of each semester. This will give you and I brief opportunity to connect face-to-face and discuss your student's progress, making the most of the partnership that is so vital to students' success within the University Model®.

**VI. Contacting the Instructor**

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class; it may also be found in the school directory.