Course Syllabus - <mark>DRAFT</mark>

KNB 3361HS - Ancient Israel: History, Culture, & Context

Knox College, Toronto School of Theology, Winter 2021

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number:	KNB3361HS
Course Format:	This course is offered remotely using Zoom
Course Name:	Ancient Israel: History, Culture, and Context
Course Location:	This course is offered remotely using Zoom
Class Times:	Tuesdays, 9:00–11:00am
Prerequisites:	*KNB1006 – Reading the Old Testament* or equivalent

A. Course Description and Student Learning Goals

This course is designed to help students understand the "backstory" to the Bible—the history, geography, culture, and practices that made up the normal, everyday world of the ancient Israelites and their neighbours, but which are utterly foreign to us. Through this course, students will develop a better understanding of the physical and conceptual context of the Old and New Testaments that will help offer a foundation for understanding and interpreting the Bible.

The Learning Goals listed below relate to the following areas:

- Understanding of Area Content (**UAC**)
- General Academic Skills (**GAS**)
- Ministerial and Public Leadership (**MPL**)
- Personal and Spiritual Formation (**PSF**)

Upon successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1) demonstrate an introductory knowledge of the history of Israel and its relationship with other ancient Near Eastern powers (**UAC**)

2) identify the major periods of Israelite history and the cultural and theological issues associated with them (**UAC**)

3) demonstrate a working knowledge of the geography of ancient Israel (**UAC**)

4) distinguish between contemporary approaches to the study of the history of ancient Israel (**UAC, GAS**)

5) demonstrate the research and writing skills necessary for graduate-level Old Testament study (**GAS**)

6) demonstrate ethical behaviour, taking responsibility for the expectations of course and showing respect and willingness to listen in the learning atmosphere including class discussions and small groups (**MPL, PSF**)

B. Course Resources

Required Texts

Required texts are available at Crux Theological Books located at Wycliffe College.

- A modern translation of the Bible (e.g., NRSV, RSV, NIV11, NIV, NJPS, NET, or NASB). The NET Bible offers extensive textual notes and is available for use online or as a free download from www.bible.org. The NJPS (Tanakh) is a translation of the Hebrew Bible by the best in Jewish Biblical scholarship. As such, it provides a helpful complement to any of the standard Christian translations. For some readings, students will need to have access to a Bible containing the Apocrypha.

- Arnold, Bill T., and Brent A. Strawn. *The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016. [*WAOT*]

- Monson, James M. *Regions on the Run: Introductory Map Studies in the Land of the Bible*. Rockford, IL: Biblical Backgrounds, 1998 + package of seven maps. Available for purchase from www.bibback.com [*ROTR*]

- Lancaster, Steven P., and James M. Monson. *Regional Study Guide: Introductory Map Studies in the Land of the Bible.* 3rd ed. Rockford, IL: Biblical Backgrounds, 2007. Marking guide available as a free download from www.bibback.com. [*RSG*]

- Rainey, Anson F., and R. Steven Notley. *Carta's New Century Handbook and Atlas of the Bible*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2007. [*NCHAB*]

- Some course material may be distributed online in PDF format. Students should, therefore, download Adobe Acrobat Reader, a utility that enables PCs to read PDF files. Adobe Acrobat Reader is available as a free download from the Adobe web-site (www.adobe.com).

Recommended Texts

- For resources directly related to the study of ancient Israel, see the bibliography at the end of this syllabus.
- Collins, Billie Jean, Bob Buller, and John F. Kutsko, eds. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines*. 2nd ed. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2014.

  An academic style guide based generally on Turabian and used by the *Journal of Biblical Literature*. Includes extensive lists of abbreviations related to biblical studies. A recommended purchase for those who plan to continue to do advanced work in biblical studies.

- Long, V. Philips, ed. *Israel's Past in Present Research: Essays on Ancient Israelite Historiography*. Sources for Biblical and Theological Studies. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1999. [*IPPR*]

- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.* Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing, ed. John Grossman and Alice Bennett. 6th ed. Chicago, IL; London: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

  The academic style used by most North American colleges. It has much in common with the larger *Chicago Manual of Style* which may be consulted for items that Turabian omits. See also the online guide at: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/documentation.

- Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Course Website

Blackboard https://weblogin.utoronto.ca

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. For information on how to access this course on Blackboard, and how to perform basic Blackboard tasks do the following:

  a) Go to http://portal.utoronto.ca/ and click on the Log-in to the Portal button.
  b) Enter your UTORid and password
  c) On the page that opens, look for the My Courses module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses.

(Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students. Students who experience trouble accessing Blackboard should visit http://help.ic.utoronto.ca/category/5/blackboard-_-portal.html for further help.

C. Evaluation

The class consists of a single two-hour session each week. On some occasions, a portion of class may be devoted to work in small groups. Small group discussions will be based on assigned readings or an exercise given by the Instructor. Other assignments are outlined below. Grading follows the TST grade scale found below in**, "**G. Toronto School of Theology Grading Scale and Standards."

The final grade for this course will be based on evaluation in five areas:

1) **Mapping Assignments (30%).** Due session 12. Details to follow in class.

2) **Research Paper Proposal (5%).** Students will submit a 2–3 page statement about a topic of interest that they would like to examine in their final Research Paper (see below). The assignment should include a clear statement of the research question, followed by a statement of why it is of interest and a preliminary statement if what the student thinks they might find or learn. The student should include five sources that they think they might consult. This assignment does not commit the student to the topic, but is intended as a first step to stimulate early thinking. Due session 5.

3) **Israel in the Ancient Near East History Chart (15%).** Drawing on material found in the course readings and other texts, students shall produce a chart giving an overview of ancient Near Eastern history from 1200–333 BCE. Emphasis should be Israel and the surrounding cultures and where relevant should include reference to important primary sources.

4) **Research Paper (40%).** A 12–15 page paper on a topic drawn from a list to be provided by the instructor. Students are advised to select and begin work on their paper *as early as possible* in the semester. Students are required to meet with the professor by session five to discuss their topic and available resources. Evaluation will be based on written clarity and organisation, ability to follow assignment instructions, argumentation, degree of insight, and judicious use of primary and secondary sources. A completed Assignment Checklist (see Supplement) must accompany your final paper. *Your paper must be submitted both in paper and electronic form*. Due: Session 12.

5) **Participation & Required Readings (10%).** This element of the course grade will take into account factors such as readings completed, attendance, participation in class etc. Students shall submit by email or hard copy a statement of the percentage of required readings that they completed. Due session 12.

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. The penalty for late work is 4% deducted per week late (2% off per half week). This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty advisor or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the last day of exam week. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.

Use of Turnitin.com. Where specified in the syllabus, students will be required to submit their course essays or other major written assignments to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. Students who have *principled objections* to the use of this service should see the course instructor during the *first two weeks of the course* to arrange an alternative. Typically, this will involve submitting drafts of the assignment at regular intervals throughout the semester. If one is using the Turnitin service, then during the first week of the course, students should look at the "Set Up" and "Originality Check" instructions found at the following link: www.turnitin.com/en_us/training/student-training, and follow the instructions to create a user profile. The course ID and password will be distributed to students via Blackboard during the first week of the course.

D. Course Policies & Information

Policies for courses are contained in the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* and the *Knox Student Handbook*. See further, the *Syllabus Supplement* available from the class Blackboard page. In particular, please note the following:

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism Policy: Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to the Knox Director of Academic Programmes. For details, see the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (http://www.adfg.utoronto.ca/Assets/ADFG+Digital+Assets/Code+of+Behaviour+on+Academic+Matters+$!5bAugust+18$!2c+1995$!5d+Updated+July+1$!2c+2016.pdf). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. For help with your UTORid and password or other technological issues the following options are available: email help.desk@utoronto.ca; phone 416-978-HELP; or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons at Robarts Library.

Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that

emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. All email communications from students in conjoint programs should be sent from a utoronto email address. Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Use of Technology. Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class. Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

Attendance: 80% attendance at a lecture course is required for credit.

Style Guidelines for Papers: see Knox "Style Manual" booklet and *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.

E. Weekly Schedule of Classes, Readings & Assignments

Session 1   Jan. 12   COURSE INTRODUCTION ◈ OVERVIEW OF ISRAELITE HISTORY ◈ HISTORY WRITING IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Required Reading:
Syllabus Supplement
Citing Sources handout
"How Not to Plagiarize" (http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize)

Session 2   Jan. 19   HISTORICAL CRITICISM, ARCHAEOLOGY, & HISTORIOGRAPHY

Required Reading:
NCHAB, pp. 7–24
Klement, Herbert H. "Modern Literary-Critical Methods and the Historicity of the OT". *IPPR*, pp. 439–459.
Halpern, Baruch. "Erasing History: The Minimalist Assault on Ancient Israel". *IPPR*, pp. 415–426.
Lemche, Neils Peter. "Is it Still Possible to Write a History of Ancient Israel?" *IPPR*, pp. 391–414.

Session 3   Jan. 26   SOURCES FOR HISTORICAL RECONSTRUCTION ◈ ARCHAEOLOGY

Required Reading:
Archaeological Reports (details in class)

WAOT, pp. 31–105 (Assyria)

Session 4   Feb. 2   GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT ISRAEL ❖ INTRODUCTION TO MAP WORK

Required Reading:
RSG, pp. 3–11
WAOT, pp. 353–77 (Philistines)

Session 5   Feb. 9   EGYPTIAN HISTORY & RELIGION

Due: Research Paper Proposal (5%)

Required Reading:
Genesis 12–50
NCHAB, pp. 25–30
WAOT, pp. 169–96 (Egypt)
"Egyptian Religion" *Anchor Bible Dictionary* II: 408–412

Feb. 16   **Reading Week – no class meeting**

Session 6   Feb. 23   MID-TERM TEST ❖ MESOPOTAMIAN HISTORY & RELIGION

Due: History Chart (15%)

Required Reading:
Joshua
NCHAB, pp. 31–48
RSG, pp. 12–19
WAOT, pp. 107–37 (Babylonia)
"Mesopotamia, History of (Assyria)" *Anchor Bible Dictionary* IV: 753–54
"Mesopotamia, History of (Babylon)" *Anchor Bible Dictionary* IV: 773–76

Session 7   Mar. 2   CANAANITE RELIGION ❖ UGARIT

Required Reading:
Judges
NCHAB, pp. 49–92
RSG, pp. 20–26
WAOT, pp. 153–66 (Ugarit)
Pardee, Dennis. "The Baʿlu Myth (1.86)." In *The Context of Scripture*, eds. William W.
      Hallo et al., 1: Canonical Compositions from the Ancient World. Leiden: E. J. Brill,
      1997.
"Canaan, Religion of" *Anchor Bible Dictionary* I: 831–37

Session 8   Mar. 9   LAW & ORDER IN ANCIENT ISRAEL

Required Reading:
1–2 Samuel

NCHAB, pp. 93–115

RSG, pp. 27–35

WAOT, pp. 229–65 (Aram)

✽ **Additional Resources:**

Baker, David L. *Tight Fists or Open Hands?: Wealth and Poverty in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2009.

Copan, Paul. *Is God a Moral Monster?: Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011.

Session 9   Mar. 16   CALENDAR ◈ ECONOMY

📖 **Required Reading:**

1–2 Kings

NCHAB, pp. 116–135

RSG, pp. 36–49

WAOT, pp. 309–52 (Transjordan)

"Calendars" *Anchor Bible Dictionary* I: 814–820

"Agriculture" *Anchor Bible Dictionary* I: 95–98

Borowski, Oded. *Daily Life in Bible Times.* Society of Biblical Literature Archaeology and Biblical Studies, ed. Andrew G. Vaughn. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2003, pp. 109–126.

✽ **Additional Resources:**

MacDonald, Nathan. *What Did the Ancient Israelites Eat?: Diet in Biblical Times*. Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2008.

Session 10   Mar. 23   POSTEXILIC ERA

📖 **Required Reading:**

1–2 Chronicles

NCHAB, pp. 136–156

RSG, pp. 50–61

WAOT, pp. 379–416 (Persia)

Session 11   Mar. 30   SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD HISTORY ◈ SECOND TEMPLE SOURCES

📖 **Required Reading:**

Ezra-Nehemiah

1 & 2 Maccabees

NCHAB, pp. 157–223

RSG, pp. 62–76

WAOT, pp. 467–500 (Greece)

Session 12   Apr. 6   SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD HISTORY (CONT'D)

Due: Mapping Assignment (30%); Research Paper (40%); Statement of Required Readings Completed (part of Participation grade totalling 10%)

📖 **Required Reading:**

NCHAB, pp. 224–268

RSG, pp. 77–98

F. Select Bibliography

Albright, William Foxwell. *From Stone Age to Christianity: Monotheism and the Historical Process.* 2nd ed. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 1946.

Amit, Yaira. *History and Ideology: An Introduction to Historiography in the Hebrew Bible*. Biblical Seminar, ed. Yael Lotan, 60. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

Avi-Yonah, Michael, ed. *A History of the Holy Land.* London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1969.

Bimson, John J. *Redating the Exodus and Conquest.* Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series, 5. 2nd ed. Sheffield: Almond, 1981.

Borowski, Oded. *Daily Life in Bible Times*. Society of Biblical Literature Archaeology and Biblical Studies, 5. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2003.

Bright, John. *Early Israel in Recent History Writing.* Studies in Biblical Theology, 19. London: SCM, 1956.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel.* 3rd ed. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster, 1981.

Bruce, F. F. "Tacitus on Jewish History." *Journal of Semitic Studies* 29 (1984): 33–44.

Bruce, F. F. *Israel and the Nations: The History of Israel from the Exodus to the Fall of the Second Temple.* Revised ed. Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster, 1997.

Chavalas, Mark W., and K. Lawson Younger Jr., eds. *Mesopotamia and the Bible: Comparative Explorations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.

Cogan, Mordechai. *The Raging Torrent: Historical Inscriptions from Assyrian and Babylon Relating to the Old Testament*, A Carta Handbook. Jerusalem: Carta, 2008.

Davies, Philip R. "Method and Madness: Some Remarks on Doing History with the Bible." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 114, no. 4 (1995): 699–705.

de Vaux, Roland. *Ancient Israel*. 2 vols. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1965.

de Vaux, Roland. *The Early History of Israel.* Philadelphia, PA: Westminster, 1978.

Grabbe, Lester L., ed. *Can a 'History of Israel' Be Written?* Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series, 245. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

Hallo, William W. et al., eds. *Scripture in Context II: More Essays on the Comparative Method.* Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1983.

Halpern, Baruch. *The Emergence of Israel in Canaan.* Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series, 29. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1983.

Halpern, Baruch. "Erasing History—The Minimalist Assault on Ancient Israel." *Bible Review* 11, no. 6 (1995): 26–35, 47.

Handy, Lowell K. "The Reconstruction of Biblical History and Jewish-Christian Relations." *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament*, no. 1 (1991): 1–22.

Hoffner, Harry A., Jr. "Histories and Historians of the Ancient Near East: The Hittites." *Orientalia* n.s. 49, no. 4 (1980): 283–338.

Kapelrud, Arvid S. *Israel From the Earliest Times to the Birth of Christ.* Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1966.

Lemche, Niels Peter. "Is it Still Possible to Write a History of Ancient Israel?" *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament* 8 (1994): 163–188.

Lichtheim, Miriam. *Ancient Egyptian Literature. Vol. II: The New Kingdom*. Berkeley, CA; Los Angeles, CA; London: University of California Press, 1976.

Lods, Adolphe. *Israel, from its Beginnings to the Middle of the Eighth Century.* The History of Civilization, ed. S. H. Hooke. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., 1932.

Long, V. Philips, ed. *Israel's Past in Present Research: Essays on Ancient Israelite Historiography*. Sources for Biblical and Theological Studies, 7. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1999.

Matthews, Victor H. *A Brief History of Ancient Israel*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster/John Knox, 2002.

McConville, J. Gordon. "The Old Testament Historical Books in Modern Scholarship." *Themelios* 22, no. 3 (1997): 3–13.

McDermott, John J. *What are they saying about the Formation of Israel?* What are they Saying About? New York, NY; Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1998.

Miller, J. Maxwell, and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah.* Philadelphia, PA: Westminster, 1986.

Monson, James M. *Regions on the Run: Introductory Map Studies in the Land of the Bible*. Rockford, IL: Biblical Backgrounds, 1998.

Nemet-Nejat, Karen Rhea. *Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.

Noth, Martin. *The History of Israel.* Second ed. London: SCM, 1960.

Orlinsky, Harry M. *Israel Exploration Journal Reader.* Library of Biblical Studies. 2 vols. New York, NY: Ktav, 1981.

Provan, Iain W. "Ideologies, Literary and Critical: Reflections on Recent Writing on the History of Israel." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 114, no. 4 (1995): 585–606.

Provan, Iain W. et al. *A Biblical History of Israel.* Louisville, KY; London: Westminster/John Knox, 2003.

Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992.

Schniedewind, William M. "History or Homily: Toward Understanding the Chronicler's Purpose." In *Proceedings of the Eleventh World Congress of Jewish Studies. Jerusalem, June 22–29, 1993. Division A. The Bible and Its World*, 91–97. Jerusalem: World Union of Jewish Studies, 1994.

Schürer, Emil. *A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus.* Abridged ed. New York, NY: Schocken, 1961.

Schulte, Hannelis. "The End of the Omride Dynasty: Social-Ethical Observations on the Subject of Power and Violence." *Semeia* 66 (1994): 133–148.

Talmon, Shemaryahu. "The emergence of Jewish sectarianism in the early Second Temple period." In *Ancient Israelite Religion: Essays in Honor of Frank Moore Cross.*, edited by Paul D. Hanson et al., 587-616. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1987.

Tcherikover, Victor. *Hellenistic Civilization and the Jews.* Reprint ed. New York, NY: Atheneum, 1982. Original edition, Jewish Publication Society of America, 1959.

Thiele, Edwin R. *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1983.

Thompson, Thomas L. "A Neo-Albrightian School in History and Biblical Scholarship?" *Journal of Biblical Literature* 114, no. 4 (1995): 683–698.

van Seters, John. *Prologue to History: The Yahwist as Historian in Genesis*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.

van Seters, John. "Histories and Historians of the Ancient Near East: The Israelites." *Orientalia* n.s. 50, no. 2 (1981): 137–195.

Yamauchi, Edwin. "The Current State of Old Testament Historiography." In *Faith, Tradition, and History: Old Testament Historiography in Its Near Eastern Context*, edited by Alan R. Millard et al., 1–36. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1994.

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Whitelam, Keith W. "'Israel is Laid Waste His Seed is No More': What if Merneptah's Scribes were telling the Truth?" *Biblical Interpretation* 8, no. 1–2 (2000): 8–22.

Whitley, C. F. "The Deuteronomic Presentation of the House of Omri." *Vetus Testamentum* 2 (1952): 137–152.

G. Toronto School of Theology Grading Scale and Standards

The following chart presents the standard used for assessment in this course. It is included in the interests of transparency and to assist students in self-appraisal. If you wish to discuss an assignment to be submitted or a grade that has been received, please feel free to make an appointment with the instructor.

Letter Grade	Numerical Value	GPA	Grasp of Subject Matter	Explanation
"A" range: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.				
A+	90-100	4.0	Profound and creative	Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base.
A	85-89	4.0	Outstanding	
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base.
"B" range: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.				
B+	77-79	3.3	Very Good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature.
B	73-76	3.0	Good	
B-	70-72	2.7	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature.
FZ	0-69	0	Failure	Failure to meet the above criteria.