**Bible 9 – Old Testament Survey – Syllabus**

**Pioneer Valley Christian Academy**

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**I. ACADEMIC INFORMATION:**

Department: Bible

Text: *Holy Bible,* ESV; *Journeying with God,* ACSI, 2008.

Supplemental Materials:

* *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Time Lines,* Rose Publishing Co., 2005*.*
* *Talk Thru the Old Testament,* Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2008.
* *The Gospel Project* and Teacher-prepared materials, videos, articles, and on-line websites.

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVE: The primary purpose of this course is to strengthen the student’s relationship with God through Christ by studying the Word of God and providing the student with an overview Survey of the Old Testament.**

This class focuses on challenging students with the eternal plan and purpose of God for the earth, His people, and their role in fulfilling His mission as reflected in the 39 books of the Old Testament. Students will build a solid theological foundation for the biblical history of the cultural interaction and response to the plan of God; examine key concepts provided in the five major sections of the Old Testament: Pentateuch, History Books, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets, and Poetic Books reflected through historical, Biblical events; and examine key historical witnesses and events pointing to the time of Christ which helps to prepare students for the modern day challenges faced by this generation and the next course of Biblical study, the New Testament.

**III. DESCRIPTION AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS** Bible 9 is the high school freshman survey course centered on the **ACSI Curriculum Standards for ninth grade Bible.** At PVCA we utilize *Journeying with God*, a workbook curriculum published by Purposeful Design, the publishing division of Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). *Journeying with God* is a God-centered learning environment where students are provided a broad understanding of the first thirty-nine books of the Bible known as the Old Testamanet. Students are able to read the Bible, analyze and memorize text, cite evidence and respond personally through individual and collaborative learning opportunities. Each unit of study includes a snapshot lesson of the bigger picture through a variety of learning genres, including multimedia which allow the student to see that all the facts and people and events and stories in the Old Testament are part of one big story: mankind’s fall from grace and God’s plan to redeem and restore mankind. The primary emphasis of Bible 9 is the Old Testament where we see the beginning and middle of that story. Students will understand the end of the story in the Bible’s New Testament better after they’ve learned what came before it.

**IV. COURSE OUTLINE:**

Note: Each of the Learning Units utilizes Whole-Class Learning, Small Group Learning, Independent Learning, and Project-based and Performance Based Assessment Experiences and Evaluation. There are two major projects, including a written paper and a class presentation for each, due each semester. These projects may include electronic media, digital media, and a variety of multimedia sources.

The text, *Journeying with God*, is divided into 14 “Peaks” and “Valleys” representing the “journey” story of the Old Testament and concludes with the promise of Christ’s coming. The narrative is about how God and His people journey together toward an ultimate destination. When the relationship between God and his people goes well, they are on a mountaintop (peak) together. When the people rebel and their relationship with God grows distant – the people are in a valley, having separated themselves from God through sin. This sequence occurs over and over and, in fact, the history of the Old Testament can be viewed as a series of peaks and valleys, or ups and downs in the relationship between God and His people.

**Semester 1 - Introduction to the Pentateuch and the Story of the Old Testament**

**Unit 1 - Theme: The Pentateuch (The Law of Moses): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.**

**Unit Goal:** Understanding Creation, failure by God’s chosen nation of people, and God’s Promise. The Pentateuch provides an historical record of the teachings and laws that guide the lives of God’s people.

**Unit 2A – Theme: The Books of History I (Theocratic Books)**

**Unit Goal:** Understanding the twelve historical books of the Old Testament as they trace the story of Israel as the people of God occupy and settle in the Promised Land. The historical books are divided into three categories: Theocratic Books (conquest and settlement of Canaan); Monarchial Books (Israel’s monarchy from 1043 B.C. to 586 B.C); and Restoration Books (describing the return of a remnant of Jews to the homeland after seventy years in captivity).

**Unit 2B – Theme: The Books of History II (Monarchial and Restoration Books)**

**Unit Goal:** Understanding the relational progression of God with His people as they move from following His leadership to being led by priests, judges, kings, and finally to prophets as the nation goes back and forth between obedience and rebellion. Observing the pattern of peaks and valleys allows the learner to comprehend the need for a Redeemer and Savior; the Old Testament historical narrative reveals God’s love, patience, and continuing desire for relationship with His people.

**Unit 3 – Theme: The Poetic Books**

**Unit Goals:** Understanding that a relationship with God is made more personal through the vicarious experiences of others and that God’s love for His people is unconditional is cemented through the wisdom and poetic writings of people who experience relationship with Him. Poetry expresses the emotions that exist in a relationship – and one-third of the Hebrew Bible was written in poetic form. These poetic books serve as a “hinge which links the past of the historical books to the future of the prophetical books” (*Talk Thru the Old Testament*, p. 139).

**Semester 2 – Poetic Books and the Books of Prophecy**

**Poetic Books –** **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs**

**The Books of Prophecy – Major Prophets**

**Unit 4 – Theme: The (5) Major Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.**

**Unit Goal:** God called prophets to be His voice to the people when the kings could no longer be trusted to speak for Him faithfully. Prophets were appointed by God to proclaim His message to the people. As Kenneth Boa explains, “Although the prophets had a ministry of foretelling future events, their primary role was that of *forthtelling* because they proclaimed the consequences of . . . attitudes and practices. As God’s messengers, the prophets reminded people of the character of God and urged them to trust Him with all of their hearts – a lesson we may yet learn today” (*Talk Thru the Old Testament*, p. 186).

All of the prophet messengers preached four primary messages:

1) Exposing the sinful practices of the people;

2) Calling the people back to the moral, civil, and ceremonial laws of God;

3) Warning the people of coming judgment;

4) Anticipating the coming of the Messiah.

**Unit 5A – Theme: 9 of the Minor (12) Prophets – Hosea, Amos, Joel, Micah, Obadiah, Jonah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Nahum**

**Unit Goals:** Understanding that the word *minor* only means *shorter*, **not** less important is key to grasping the full message of the Minor Prophets. God continues to speak through His prophet messengers, and they share several essential elements: before the time of Christ these twelve books were joined together in one scroll known collectively as “The Twelve.” Their combined length (67 chapters) is about the same as the book of Isaiah. These prophets preached over 400 years during the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Empires. Three were prophets to the northern kingdom of Israel (Jonah, Amos, and Hosea), six were prophets to the southern kingdom of Judah (Obadiah, Joel, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk), and three preached following the return (post-exilic prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi).

**Unit 5B – Theme: 3 of the Minor (12) Prophets – Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.**

**Unit Goal: See Above**

**Unit 6 – Review for Final Exam, Papers, and Major Projects.**

**Unit Goal:** Demonstrate knowledge and application of learning through a written paper, a final examination and a major project to be presented to the class. These are culminating activities that provide a thorough evaluation of the survey course and the materials studied throughout the year.

**Final Exams.**

**V.** **Methodology and Pedagogy**: Based on Bloom’s Taxonomy, the teacher will employ a variety of academic, instructional methodologies, including PBL (Project-Based Learning): text and supplemental materials, lecture, group discussion, memorization, digital curriculum, student presentations, individual coaching, guest speakers, presentations, videos, etc. Papers should be written using either MLA or APA style.

**VI. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING POLICY**

**Grade Weights and Measures: Grade Weights Grading Measures**

**Participation/Projects 90 ­ 100 = A**

**Homework 40% 80 ­ 89 = B**

**Written:**   **70 ­ 79 = C**

**Quizzes 40% 65 - 69 = D**

**Exams**  **0 ­ 64 = F**

**Scripture Memorization 20%**

**100%**

**VII. Homework, Attendance, Behavior, and Discipline:**

1. **Homework –** All homework is due on the date assigned. Late work is homework not turned in on time. Any work that is missing will receive an automatic zero in the grade book.  The work can be made up, but will receive a percentage off according to the day of the class it was due: one class period late = 5% off, two class periods late = 20% off.  After the third class period late, no credit will be granted. Excused absences, such as illnesses, family emergencies, death of a relative, etc. are treated on an individual basis.

**B. Attendance –** Attendance is vital to keeping up with the class. Participation grades require your presence; it’s difficult to catch up once you fall behind. Please respond accordingly. See Handbook.

**C. Behavior –** Behavioral expectations are provided in the PVCA Student & Parent Handbook. See D.

**D. Discipline –** My philosophy: **Respect God, Respect People, and Respect Property**. Though unexpected, if these guidelines are not met, the PVCA Handbook Discipline Plan (RCD) will be followed.

**VIII. Miscellaneous:**

You are in charge of your own behavior: speech, actions, looks, tone, and attitude – these are within your power to control. Each of you determines how our class will go. My primary objective is for you to be successful and enjoy Bible, perhaps for the very first time in your life. It is my belief that if you fail, I have failed – both you and myself. I want to be successful. I do not like to fail. If we work hard as a team together (Colossians 3:23 – 24) and put forth our best effort, we will both be successful.

**IX. Additional Instructional Materials:**

A. Bible translations: ESV (English Standard Version) is PVCA’s preferred version, however, other translations, such as the NIV (New International Version), KJV (King James Version), NLT (New Living Translation), and ASV (American Standard Version), are acceptable.

B. Bible Commentaries, such as those written by Matthew Henry, John Stott, J. Vernon McGee, etc.

C. Videos and Electronic Media produced by ACSI, The Hope Project, Hillsong Ministries, Gateway Ministries, etc.

**X. Office Hours:**

**By appointment or use the following weekly schedule\*:**

Monday – Friday: 7:45 am to 8:05 am

Monday – Friday: Teacher’s Plan Periods (4th and 6th Periods)

Monday and Wednesday: 2:35 pm to 3 pm

* In the event the teacher has a personal or professional appointment off campus, a note will be posted on the classroom door.