Dr. John Walton  
Professor of Old Testament

It was in my college years that I encountered a book by Joseph Free, a former Wheaton professor, called Archaeology and Bible History. It was apologetic in focus but brought to my attention the tremendous impact that archaeology and cultural background studies could have on our understanding of the Old Testament. It was in the very year that I read that book that I made the decision to pursue Old Testament studies as a vocational discipline. Instead of training to be an archaeologist, I determined to focus my attention on studies comparing the culture and literature of the Bible and the ancient Near East. I have never lost my fascination with this subject. But comparative studies only provide one of the means by which I try to get people excited about the Old Testament. I am saddened by how little exposure to and understanding of the Old Testament many Christians have, but I am passionate in doing whatever I can do to remedy this spiritual and theological loss.

Publications
Lost World of Scripture (IVP: 2013) with Brent Sandy
Job, NIV Application Commentary (Zondervan: 2012)
Genesis 1 as Ancient Cosmology (Eisenbrauns: 2011)
Bible Story Handbook (Crossway: 2010) with Kim Walton
The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Old Testament (General Editor, Zondervan, 2009)
The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate (IVP, 2009)
Jonah (Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Zondervan: 2008)
Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament (Baker: 2006)
Essential Bible Companion (Zondervan: 2006)
Genesis, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001)
The Tiny Tots Jesus Story Book, Chariot Books, David C. Cook, 1996
Covenant: God’s Purpose, God’s Plan (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).
Learning Outcomes
At the end of the unit, candidates should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of major issues and ideas in hermeneutics, with particular reference to the exegesis of Genesis 1-11 and its use as Christian Scripture;
2. Articulate a coherent approach to the interpretation of Scripture and its use in Christian ministry, with particular reference to Genesis 1-11;
3. Engage exegetically and theologically with the text of Genesis 1-11;

Pre-Reading
Students are to complete the pre-reading requirements of 500 pages. These are to be taken from the asterisked Key Texts in the bibliography below. You should read one work by John Walton, but no more. One or two of the books you read will serve as the basis for your book review.

Please see Reading Report below before you begin for instructions on how you are required to account for your reading.

Assessment
The assessment has been designed with three principles in mind:

1. To meet the academic requires of the ACT for a 700 level unit.
2. To spread the workload across the year as much as possible.
3. To make the assessment as useful as possible for you in your ministry context.

N.B. — Assessments 1 & 2 must be prepared BEFORE the intensive begins.

1. Reading Report
Using the attached worksheet, write a one sentence ‘thesis statement’ for each chapter that you read. This 25-50 word statement should state succinctly the key proposition of the chapter or article. The purpose is to help you process the material you read, develop useful summary for your own reference and to provide accountability for your reading.

Due at 10.30am on the first day of the intensive (June 15).

No extension is available for this assessment.

2. Book Review
1,500 words (20%)

Write a detailed review of one of books that you have read.

A book review is a description, critical analysis, and an evaluation on the quality, meaning, and significance of a book, not a retelling. It should focus on the book's purpose, content, and authority. A critical book review is not a book report or a summary. It is a reaction paper in which strengths and weaknesses of the material are analyzed. It should include a statement of what the author has tried to do, evaluate how well (in the opinion of the reviewer) the author has succeeded, and present evidence to support this evaluation.

This will NOT be marked by Professor Walton should you choose to review one of his works!

See http://www.lavc.edu/Library/bookreview.htm for more help on writing a book review.
3. Major Assignment: Sermon with Detailed Exegesis and Rationale
Approx. 6,000 words (80%)

Select a passage from Genesis 1-11 and submit a paper that provides:
- Detailed exegesis (3000 words)
- Explanation and rationale for homiletical approach (1,000 words)
- Sermon – full text (no word limit)

Marking Criteria for Sermon with Detailed Exegesis and Rationale
1. Detailed Exegesis (50%)
   - Clarity and focus on key exegetical issues
   - Critical interaction with relevant scholarship
   - Understanding of the interpretive issues, especially ancient cosmology, genre etc.
   - Rigor, support and logical validity of argument

2. Homiletical Rationale (20%)
   - Audience clearly defined and pastoral needs understood with empathy and insight
   - Process of sermon development is clearly described and develops logically
   - Big idea, key points and structure arise from the exegesis and relate strongly to the audience

3. Sermon (30%)
   - Approach arises logically from the rationale provided
   - Engages audience and commands attentions
   - Selection of appropriate quantity of material
   - Clear and concise explanation of passage that reflects findings of exegesis
   - Application that is clear, arises appropriately form the exegesis and is relevant to pastoral context

4. Mechanics of essay
   - Formatting is in accordance with guidelines
   - Spelling and grammar are largely correct

Format Requirements
Please see the spate document that details the correct style and formatting of Ridley assignments.

Submission Process
Assessment items 1 & 2 are due at registration on the first day of the intensive.

The major assessment is to be submitted online by midnight on Friday 31 October 2015. Details of how to access the online system may be found below. Assignments are to be provided in PDF format.

Assignments may be emailed to registrar@ridley.edu.au ONLY if there is a problem with the online system.

Extensions
Extensions are not available for the pre-reading.

Extensions of time for assessment are granted only for significant unforeseeable events. Where the grounds are medical, a medical certificate is required. Applications for extensions must be submitted at least one week prior to the due date for the assessment. Requests for extensions will not normally be received after the due date of the assessment. Applications are to be made on a form that may be downloaded from our website. These should be emailed to the Registrar’s Office. Please note that your circumstances will be kept strictly confidential.
**NEW Late Penalties**

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late. E.g. For an assignment worth 50%, a student receives a mark of 40/50. However the student has handed in their assignment 10 days late, such that they receive a 30% penalty, reducing their mark by 15/50 to 25/50.

If an assessment is submitted after 14 days late, a mark of zero will be awarded for the assessment upon submission of the completed assessment. Students must complete all assessments in order to pass a unit. If a student has not submitted an assessment by the final date of the examination period of the semester in which the unit has been delivered for semester-length units and has not applied for an extension, the assessment will be deemed as a non-attempt, and consequently the student will receive a failing grade for the unit.

**Online Support**

There is an online platform for this course supported by Ridley Online. This provides all documents in electronic form and will be the means by which the major assignment is submitted. The URL will be provided in due course. Access details are:

Password: Last five digits of your library barcode.
Username: Student number.

**Bibliography**

**Key Works**


* _________. *Genesis 1 as Ancient Cosmology* Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2011.


**Other Works**


Miller, Johnny V. and John M. Soden. *In the Beginning . . . We Misunderstood*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012.


