Module Vision Statement:
This module serves as a foundational module for further biblical studies. It constitutes an introduction to the Old Testament. Consequently, no other modules are necessarily prerequisite for this module. This module, however, should be considered as a prerequisite to other modules which focus on further studies in any portion of the Old Testament.

This module addresses ministerial competencies as outlined in the ability statements listed below. The importance of studying this module’s topic is grounded in one’s view of Scripture. The Nazarene Articles of Faith describe the Holy Scriptures as inspired and as “inerrantly revealing the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation” (Manual, Church of the Nazarene, 2005). Accordingly, an understanding of the history and literature of the Old Testament is critical to the faith and practice of ministers in the church. This survey will equip the student for more detailed study in any section of the Old Testament, through introductory acquaintance with the overall events, characters, themes, and historical context of the Old Testament.

In addition, this module will serve to introduce the student to important background information for the study of the New Testament. The knowledge and skills gained from this module should inform and contribute to the teaching, preaching, and counseling practices of the ministry. This contribution is especially concerned with informing such ministerial practices with sound biblical understanding.

Outcome Statements
This module contributes to the development of the following abilities as defined in the U.S. Sourcebook for Ministerial Development.

OUTCOME STATEMENTS
- Ability to identify the main story line of the OT with the events and characters involved.
- Ability to identify the books of the OT by genre.
- Ability to identify the basic thrust of each major section of the OT in its historical context.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES
CN1 Ability to identify the literary structure and the main story line of the Old Testament.
- List four major themes that run through the Pentateuch.
- Describe the significance of the literary patterns and thematic emphases that appear in Genesis 1 and 2.
- Identify the unique features that distinguish Genesis 1 and 2.
• Trace the theme of the “promise of land and descendants” through the patriarchal narrative.
• Appreciate the significance of God’s “re-introduction” of Himself to the people of Israel in the wilderness.
• Describe the difference between a “king like the nations” and God’s desire regarding the character of kingship for Israel.
• Recognize the way in which the books of Samuel and Kings reflect the themes of Deuteronomy.
• Understand the unique ways in which the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel word their messages of hope in response to the exilic conditions.

CN2 Ability to identify the books of the Old Testament by genre
• Recognize the different content and divisions between the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant canons of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament.
• Identify the main characteristic of biblical Hebrew poetry and its various forms.
• Recognize the various forms of Wisdom Literature.

CN3 Ability to identify the basic thrust of each major section of the Old Testament.
• Outline the major contents of the Pentateuch.
• Comprehend the purpose and style of the Book of Deuteronomy.
• Distinguish the unique features of the Books of Joshua and Judges.
• Understand the pattern of judgment for and against the various kings of the divided monarchy, within 1 and 2 Kings.
• Describe the major themes reflected in the eighth-century prophets.
• List and describe various types of psalms.
• Understand the historical context and purpose of Wisdom Literature.

CN4 Ability to identify the main characters of the Old Testament and their role in the story.
• Identify the factors that led to the “tragic” downfall of Saul’s kingship in God’s eyes.
• Recognize the difference between Saul’s response to his sin and David’s response to sin in his life.
• List the accomplishments described in the Bible that portray the grandeur of Solomon’s kingdom.
• Identify the characteristic marks of a prophet of God.
• Recognize how the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah contribute to the new focus of the postexilic community (re: law and purity).

CN5 Ability to describe the historical context of the major sections of the Old Testament.
• Comprehend an introductory exposure to historical criticism as it has been applied to the Old Testament.
• Understand the geographical divisions of Palestine.
• Recognize the background of the Ancient Near East (peoples and places).
• Appreciate significant archaeological discoveries pertaining to the Ancient Near East.
• Identify the contribution of Ancient Near Eastern archaeological finds to the understanding of the Old Testament.
• Discuss the similarities and differences between the “primeval history” in the Pentateuch and comparative texts from the Ancient Near East.
• Recognize the connection between the biblical narrative in the Pentateuch and the history of the Ancient Near East.
• Describe the dramatic impact of the Babylonian exile (living conditions in exile and back in Palestine, the resultant “Jewish Diaspora,” etc.).
• Explain Judah’s shift in focus from political concerns to more individual religious concerns in the wake of the exile, and under Persian dominance.

CN6 Ability to chronologically order the main events and persons of the Old Testament.
• Identify traditional dates attached to major periods of Old Testament history and significant events.
• List major themes that are reflected throughout the Old Testament. CN7 Ability to describe the major theological concepts of the Old Testament.
• Identify various ways in which God communicates to humanity.
• Recognize the unique importance of God’s revelation through Scripture.
• Express the significance of “inspiration” as it is applied to the Bible.
• Understand how the first two covenants in the Pentateuch reflect God’s desire to reach and bless all humanity.
• Identify the purpose and intended messages derived from the account of the plagues in Egypt.
• Explain how the laws of God (including the organization of the Ten Commandments) can be summed up in the directive to love God and love neighbor.
• Recognize the ongoing theme of blessing all humanity, within the third covenant in the Pentateuch (Sinai).
• Identify the lessons portrayed in the “Ebenezer” account, early in 1 Samuel, in regard to Israel’s relationship with God.
• Understand the significance of the Davidic Covenant and its messianic implications.
• Describe the implications for messianic expectations, of the images of the “Son of Man” in Daniel, and the “Suffering Servant” in Isaiah.
• Appreciate how God embraces humanity in all its frailty while empowering humans to right living.
• Describe ways in which Old Testament themes are brought to fulfillment in the New Testament.

CN16 Ability to identify the steps of historical, literary, and theological analysis used in exegesis

Required Texts
Course Requirements

1. **Video Lectures**: Each week a video lecture will be made available to you through Dropbox. (If you do not have this, please download it to the device you will use). Watch the lecture in its entirety and take notes as you do. NOTE: Because of the condensed time frame these will probably be at least 60 minutes long each week.

   - Week of Sept 18: Introduction & Literary/Historical Divisions of the OT
   - Week of Sept 25: Geography, People, & Archeological Discoveries of the OT
   - Week of Oct 2: Creation to Abraham
   - Week of Oct 9: The Patriarchs to the Covenant at Mt. Sinai
   - Week of Oct 16: The Monarchy (Pt. 1)
   - Week of Oct 23: The Monarchy (Pt. 2)
   - Week of Oct 30: 8th Century Prophets & Exile
   - Week of Nov 6: Postexilic Literature
   - Week of Nov 13: Poetic/Wisdom Literature & Synthesis of OT Themes

2. **Discussion Boards**: Each week there will be a question posted on the class website. This question will require you to be familiar with the lecture and any reading due by that week. These will be found at our online classroom [http://TellingOTStory.blogspot.com/](http://TellingOTStory.blogspot.com/)

   Initial Post due by WEDNESDAY at 11:59PM
   Respond to fellow student by FRIDAY at 11:59PM
   Respond to any posts on your initial post by SUNDAY at 11:59PM

3. **Reading**: Reading from the required text will be due each week. The reading schedule will be posted on the blog the first week of class. Email the professor with the percentage of the required reading you completed each week.

4. **Covenants Essay**: Read the following texts describing three important covenants in the Pentateuch: Gen 9:8-17, Gen 12:1-3 with 17:1-21, and Ex 19:1-8. For each covenant, list the following: a. with whom is the covenant made, b. how long is the covenant intended to last, c. what are the promises of the covenant, d. does the covenant benefit anyone beyond those immediately involved in the making of the covenant, i.e. what is the sign of the covenant? Then, share what these answers reveal to you about how covenant language should be understood and used today.

   Paper should be a minimum of 3 pages (12 font, double spaced) in Word or PDF format. Email this to the professor by Oct. 22 at 11:59PM

5. **Haggai Summary**: Read the short book of Haggai. Identify the four oracles in the book (give the scripture references for each oracle). Describe how the beginning of each oracle is marked. Summarize the message of each oracle, followed by a summary of the overall book.
Paper should be a minimum of 2 pages (12 font, double spaced) in Word or PDF format. Email the professor this assignment by November 12 at 11:59PM

6. Final Paper: Describe the character of God in the Old Testament. Use the written story, the historical/archeological context, and the arrangement of the books in the canon to support your answer. How does the God you see in the Old Testament work to fulfill the theme of “blessing all humanity?”

Paper should be a minimum of 5 pages (12 font, double spaced) in Word or PDF format. Email the professor this assignment by November 20 at 11:59PM

Course Evaluation:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Posts</td>
<td>200 points/wk (75 initial post, 100 responses, 25 grammar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Reading</td>
<td>400 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covenant Essay</td>
<td>300 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haggai Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>500 points</td>
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<td>3200 total possible points</td>
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Late work may only be accepted if communication with the professor is made. This does not guarantee acceptance, but opens the possibility.

To pass the course, each assignment must be completed.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- Pass With Distinction: 2880 or above
- Pass: 2240-2879
- Fail: 2239 or below

Resources
Additional resources and information for this course can be found at nazarenepastor.org. Click on the 24 modules and you can download both the faculty and student guides for *Telling the Old Testament Story of God*.

Additional Information
A reasonable effort to assist every student will be made. Any student who has handicaps, learning disabilities, or other conditions that make the achievement of class requirements exceedingly difficult should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to see what special arrangements can be made. Any student who is having trouble understanding the assignments, lectures, or other learning activities should talk to the instructor to see what can be done to help.

Instructor’s Availability
Good faith efforts to serve the students both in and beyond the classroom will be made.