



**Leviticus: All of Life as Worship**  
**30 Hours**  
**Rev. Mandy Ralph, MA**

## **I. Course Description**

Have you ever had the goal of reading the Bible through from beginning to end only to get thwarted by the book of Leviticus? Leviticus is a book of the Bible often misunderstood or ignored by many Christians who don't see how this 'strange' book applies to our lives today. The book of Leviticus, when studied intentionally and with imagination, gives us insight into God's deep love for his people and how we function in relationship with him. As we step into this new awareness, we connect with the experiences and realities of our ancestors in faith and are more available to our Holy God for transformation to look more like Christ.

## **II. Learning Outcomes**

### **A. Primary Student Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, you will...

1. Be able to recognize within the book of Leviticus broad theological themes relating to God's nature, God's relationship with his people, and how we are called to live as a holy priesthood and part of God's covenant people.
2. Incorporate Leviticus into your devotional and study life, with an eye to how the concepts in this biblical book affect our ministries and the way we move through the world.

### **B. Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, you will...

*Cognitive (Head) – After completing this course you will...*

1. Recognize the deep theological truths about the holiness and love of God evidenced in the book of Leviticus.
2. Connect the cultural context in which Leviticus was practiced and written with our interpretation and implementation of the text.

3. Learn how to think deeply about our own worship practices and how they reflect our understanding of God and his holiness.

*Affective (Heart) – After completing this course you will...*

1. Recognize the deep devotional potential in Leviticus as you learn more about God's heart for his people and his creation.
2. Deeply value the importance of Leviticus as part of God's special revelation to us.
3. Appreciate the connection with the worship experiences of our ancestors in faith as they too sought relationship with God.

*Conative (Hands) – After completing this course you will...*

1. Share with others how Leviticus points us towards deeper relationship with God, now fully fulfilled and enabled in Jesus Christ.
2. Incorporate the underlying themes of the Israelites' worship experience to deepen our own personal and corporate worship practices.
3. Share your experiences and understanding of the concepts in Leviticus with your broader worship community.

### **III. Course Content**

#### Lesson 1: Another Look at Leviticus

- What is this course about?
- An Introduction to Leviticus
- Clash of Cultures
- The Law as Story
- What is the Goal of the Law?

#### Lesson 2: Does Leviticus Matter for Christians?

- We are all Covenant People
- Jesus and the Law
- Paul and the Law

### Lesson 3: A God Worth Worshipping

- Reconciliation, Restoration, Redemption
- Sacrifice and Offerings
- The Hows and Whys of Sacrifice
- The Law and the Lamb
- What are we willing to sacrifice?
- What is Important to God? Part 1
- What is Important to God? Part 2

### Lesson 4: A Nation of Priests

- Who are the Priests?
- Priesthood – Caring for Each Other
- Improper Worship and Leadership
- Proximity means Holiness
- Physical Purity

### Lesson 5: Loving Each Other Well as Covenant People

- Healthy Sexuality
- Caring for Family
- Spiritual Rhythms
- Blessings, Curses, and Consecrations
- Moving Forward as Covenant People

## **V. Course Evaluation**

A. To complete this course for credit with ACOP's credentialling, or for the sake of Eston College's future accreditation, complete the following assignments:

### **B. Assignments**

#### *1. Leviticus Outline Comparison – 10%*

With the understanding that how a biblical book is structured can point us to various themes within the book, you will write a 3–4-page paper comparing three different outlines of the book of Leviticus as presented in three different commentaries from the bibliography.

As you compare these outlines, focus on answering the following questions:

- a. What theme is the focus of each outline?
- b. What are the primary differences in structure of each outline?
- c. What are similarities in the structural divisions?
- d. Which outline do you believe best represents the overarching message of Leviticus and why?

This paper should be presented and properly referenced according to the Eston College format guide.

## 2. *Engaging with Difficult Passages Bible Study* – 20%

In our discussion of Leviticus, we have to make the choice to either engage with difficult passages or ignore them completely. God has given us this book, written in a certain time and place, to show us more of himself and his trajectory towards relationship and reconciliation.

To that end, it would be helpful for you to watch *Lesson 3.1 Reconciliation, Restoration, and Redemption* prior to completing this assignment.

Choose a passage from Leviticus that challenges you and write a small group Bible study that includes the following elements:

- a. An introduction to the passage outlying potential difficulties in interpretation as we read the passage in light of our own current cultural understanding of issues such as justice, equality, etc. Include any questions arising from your initial reading of the passage.
- b. An examination of the original cultural context around the book of Leviticus and that particular passage and how this knowledge aids in your deepening understanding and interpretation.
- c. Awareness and discussion around how we see the trajectory in this passage of God's intention towards reconciliation, restoration, and redemption.

## 3. *Leviticus as Worship* – 25%

Leviticus is a snap shot of the Israelites' worship structure, how they would come together and worship God. Just as their worship showed the people truths about God, our corporate worship experiences are intended to show us who God is and his desires for his people.

With that in mind, for this assignment, you will be asked to engage with Leviticus as a snapshot of the Israelites' corporate worship experience and integrate that understanding with your own corporate worship experience.

You will be creating a multi-sensory worship experience incorporating elements of

the Israelite worship structure found in Leviticus but in such a way that reflects corporate worship practices of your current context. For example, how could you portray a modern interpretation of the intention behind the sacrificial system, minus the bloody bits?

This assignment can include any elements of worship that you may see in a church worship service. However, think creatively and broadly. Be willing to incorporate different elements of worship; visually, audibly, tactile, and experiential.

To that end, the assignment will include the following elements:

- a. Interaction with elements of and themes portrayed in the sacrificial system, priestly ordination and requirements, and holiness code as articulated in Leviticus.
- b. The outline for the worship experience including:
  - The overarching theme of the experience
  - The different connecting points with the book of Leviticus
  - An explanation of how these elements reflect a modern iteration of the Levitical teachings about God and his people.
- c. The elements themselves, i.e., songs written, artistic representations, sermon outlines, etc.

4. *Reading* – 5%

The student is expected to read the book of Leviticus in its entirety, in a translation of their choosing.

B. Time Investment:

Online Instruction	4 hours of video and 5 hours of supplementary material
Outline Comparison	5 hours
Bible Study	7 hours
Leviticus as Worship	8 hours
Reading	<u>1 hours</u>

**Total: 30 Hours**

Assignment Name	Hours	Percentage
Complete Online Curriculum	9	40%
Outline Comparison	5	10%
Bible Study	7	20%
Leviticus as Worship	8	25%
Reading	1	5%

## IX. Bibliography

### Required Textbooks:

Your Bible

### Recommended Sources:

Balentine, Samuel E. *Leviticus: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2012.

Bellinger, Jr. W. H. *Leviticus and Numbers*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2017.

Douglas, Mary. *Leviticus as Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Gane, Roy. *Leviticus and Numbers. The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

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Harris, Maurice D. *Leviticus: You have No Idea*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2013.

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Imes, Carmen Joy. *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*. Downer's Grove: IVP Academic, 2019.

Ko, Ming Him. *Leviticus: A Pastoral and Contextual Commentary*. Carlisle: Langham Global Library, 2018.

Kroeger, Catherine Clark and Mary J. Evans. *The IVP Women's Bible Commentary*. Downer's Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 2002.

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- Walton, John H. *The Lost World of the Torah: Law as Covenant and Wisdom in Ancient Context*. Downer's Grove: IVP Academic, 2019.
- Wenham, Gordon. *The Book of Leviticus*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979.
- Wolf, Herbert. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Pentateuch*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.