Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – Boston Campus  
January Session 2015 – (January 2 – Feb 2)

OT500 Old Testament Panorama

Initial Course Outline Every other Saturday January 3, 17 & 31, 2015

Brocton Cohort, GCTS Boston Campus Diploma Program

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Course Requirements

I. Course Description: OT 500 Old Testament Panorama; Introduces the history, literature and thought of the Old Testament as reflected in its major divisions and individual books. Designed and recommended for those who have not had a systematic survey of the Old Testament, enabling them to proceed with seminary-level study.

II. Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to help diploma students gain an understanding of the content of the entire Old Testament, giving attention to the flow of the biblical story and its major themes (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement: Priority #1). While the basic content of each individual book will be given, emphasis will also be placed on how each book fits into the larger redemptive-historical narrative of the Old Testament. Resources beneficial for the study and application of the Old Testament for preaching and Bible study will be noted throughout the course. The readings will count 40% of your grade and the exams will comprise 60%. You are required to read through the Old Testament before completing the final.

The Mid-Term exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions (including questions on dates, key events and people in the Old Testament). The final exam will cover the entire Old Testament. You must demonstrate your knowledge of the basic content and historical context of each Old Testament book (you will only be tested on a few of them). Additionally you will give summaries of several Old Testament books, highlighting dates, historical context, key people and themes of the book. The date for the final exam will follow the final weekend session but must be completed before 2 May 2015.

Selected readings: The required readings have been taken primarily from the biblical text. All Bible readings that are noted in the syllabus are required. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the readings you have completed. Failure to complete all readings may result in a substantial grade penalty.

III. Required resources:

1) Kaminski, C. CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. CASKET Study Guide (Amazon or casketempty.com), 147528957X, ~$16.


IV. Recommended Books:


Provisional Course Outline

Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET; Course expectations and requirements; Introduction to Genesis 1—11

**Creation:** Overview of major themes in Genesis 1—11.

**Abraham:** God’s plan of redemption through Abraham; God’s promises to the patriarchs; the Abrahamic Covenant; faith and works; God’s plan to bless the nations. OT books surveyed: Genesis.

**Sinai:** Introduction to the Mosaic Covenant. Overview of the priesthood, the sacrificial system, clean/unclean laws; the role of the law; the wilderness wanderings; conquest of the land through Joshua; the period of the Judges; the story of Ruth. OT books surveyed: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, and Ruth.

**Kings:** United Monarchy: the prophet Samuel; the united monarchy, Saul, David and Solomon; the Davidic Covenant; building of the temple; division of the kingdom. OT books surveyed: 1—2 Sam; 1—2 Kings (portions).
Kings, Northern Kingdom: the northern kingdom and the northern prophets, Hosea, Amos and Jonah; the Assyrians and the end of the northern kingdom. OT books surveyed: 1—2 Kings; 1—2 Chronicles; Hosea, Amos and Jonah.

Kings, Southern Kingdom: Rehoboam to Hezekiah; the prophets Isaiah and Micah. OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Isaiah and Micah.

Kings, Southern Kingdom: from Manasseh to Zedekiah; the prophets Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum and introduction to Jeremiah. OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, and parts of Jeremiah.

Kings: The end of the southern kingdom; the prophet Jeremiah; the Babylonian Empire; introduction to Ezekiel. OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Jeremiah.

**Exile:** the demise of the southern kingdom; Lamentations; the seventy-year exile in Babylon; the hope for restoration; the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel. OT books surveyed: Lamentations; Daniel; Ezekiel, and Obadiah.

**Temple** (the post-exilic period): the return from exile; building of the second temple; the prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi; Ezra and Nehemiah, and Esther. OT books surveyed: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

Each student must complete reading the Old Testament in their native language (any published version) between November 2014-May 2015. This is an absolute requirement for the course. Additionally, every student should read Kaminski and Dowley (or other atlas at their choice). Readings from the recommended list will count as bonus points (up to 10% each on the Mid-Term and Final exams).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, 3 Jan 2015</th>
<th>Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus; Numbers; Deuteronomy Casket timeline, Chart, Bible Atlas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-Noon</td>
<td>Overview of the OT Casket, Expectations &amp; requirements Creation &amp; Abraham Sinai</td>
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<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>Kings, Southern &amp; Northern; Prophets, Priests and Kings</td>
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<td>15:30-16:30</td>
<td>Exile &amp; Temple Poetic &amp; Wisdom literature</td>
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<td>Lamentations; Hag/Zech Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song, Ecclesiastes</td>
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<td>Saturday, 31 Jan 2015</td>
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<td>Saturday, 2 May 2015</td>
<td>Final Exam taken on line</td>
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MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE: to get you started!

You will need to know the following dates, events and Bible references:

**Abraham:** 2100-1450 BC
   - Abrahamic promises (Gen. 12:1-3), Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 15)
   - Covenant of circumcision: Gen. 17

**Sinai:** 1450-1050 BC
   - Exodus from Egypt c. 1450 BC
   - Ten Commandments: Exod. 20; Deut. 5
   - Mosaic Covenant: Exod. 24

**Kings:** 1050-586 BC
   - United monarchy: 1050-930 BC
   - Division of the kingdom: 930 BC
   - Northern kingdom: 930-722 BC
   - End of the North by Assyrians, 722 BC
   - Southern kingdom 930-586 BC
   - 1st deportation by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar: 605 BC
   - Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egypt: 605 BC
   - Daniel goes to Babylon: 605 BC
   - 2nd deportation by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar: 597 BC
   - Ezekiel goes to Babylon: 597 BC
   - Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and temple: 586 BC
   - End of southern kingdom and exile to Babylon: 586 BC

**Exile:** 586-539 BC

**Temple:** 539-430 BC
   - Cyrus defeats Babylon: 539 BC
   - Decree of Cyrus allowing Jews to return to Jerusalem: 538 BC
   - 1st return: 538 BC under Zerubbabel and Joshua
   - Haggai and Zechariah: 520 BC
   - Temple completed 516 BC
   - 2nd return from exile under Ezra: 458 BC
   - Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to rebuild walls: 445 BC

FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE (all the above +): to help you finish well!

**OT Book Summary:** You will need to be able to identify the key themes of each Old Testament book and its historical context.

**Prophets:** You will also need to know whether a prophet is northern, southern or post-exilic (all 16 prophets); and be able to provide the century for the following prophets only: Hosea (8th), Amos (8th), Isaiah (8th), Micah (8th), Jeremiah (7th), Ezekiel (6th), and Daniel (6th).

Additional instructions and study preparation will be provided during the course.