OT 500 Old Testament Survey - Spring 2015

Jan 19 – May 2

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

Psa. 86:11

Course Instructor & Contact Information:
Dr. Catherine McDowell
e-mail: cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu
office: #213
📞 (704) 527-9909 x5838 (email is the best way to reach Dr. McDowell)

Class Meeting Times
Tuesdays from 1 – 4 pm on Feb 3, 10, 17; Mar 3, 10, 17, 24; April 14, 21

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to and an overview of the Old Testament, tracing its teaching both in individual books and as a whole with respect to historical background, literary character and the overall story of redemptive history.

This course employs the “flipped classroom” approach, as described in this one minute video (please watch): http://vimeo.com/70893101. Much of the core content is introduced through online videos while classroom time is spent on in-depth discussion and special topics.

Participation during class is required and is designed to allow for deeper discussion and reflection on key topics and/or issues. Lack of participation will result in a grade penalty. Class attendance is required. Please arrive on time and turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. Please do not use the internet during class unless instructed to do so by the professor. You may check voicemail, email, social media sites, etc. during the regularly scheduled break times.

Gordon-Conwell Mission
This course, which seeks to maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship (Article 2), helps students to become knowledgeable of God’s word and competent in its interpretation (GCTS missions statement, Article 1). This will contribute to the students’ ability to develop a vision for God’s redemptive work in the world and to formulate strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism, and discipleship (Article 6). It all starts with being rooted in God’s word.
Relation to Curriculum
Although introductory in nature, OT 500 is foundational to all further courses a student will take, whether in Bible, theology, or in ministry. There are no pre-requisites for this course.

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course students will:

be familiar with the chronological framework and the basic historical and geographical context of the Old Testament, able to identify key people, places, events, terms, and dates.

be able to identify the purpose and themes of each individual Old Testament book

gain an understanding of the theological message of individual books and of the Old Testament as a whole

Course Administration
Due Dates and Late work: All due dates are listed on the full syllabus in Sakai and in the course calendar in Sakai under “Schedule”. Please make yourself aware of them. **Late work is not accepted except in the case of illness or emergency. If you have been ill, or if someone in your care (ie spouse, child, parent) has been ill to the point that it has taken a serious toll on your study time, you’ve had a death in the family, or are facing an emergency, and you need an extension, then please ask for one.** I am very understanding when there are legitimate reasons for an extension. If you are unsure if your situation warrants an extension, by all means ask me. If, however, you are not experiencing one of the situations described above (or the equivalent) **please do not ask for an extension.** The following are not reasons for an extension: forgetting or confusing due dates, leaving your assignments at home, missions trips, attending a conference, vacation, weddings, etc. If you need an official course extension contact the registration office.

Please do not be bashful about asking for help. Contact me via email and we can set up a time to meet in person, on the phone, or via Skype or Lync.

Tips for Success
Clear your schedule as much as possible. Do not ignore the LORD, your family & friends, nor your job, **but this is not the time to volunteer for anything extra.** Guard your study time!

Be well organized. Read through the entire syllabus, making sure you are aware of all due dates.

Generally avoid “marathon studying” and instead work diligently throughout the semester at a steady pace. “Slow and steady wins the race.”

There is a lot of reading in this course. Plan accordingly! Note that for the required
Bible reading, you may read and/or listen to it. If you choose the latter, please be sure you are paying attention – it shouldn’t be “background noise” while you do something else.

Find a study and support partner in the class. If you don’t live near each other, use Skype, Facetime, Google hangout, Lync, etc. Ask a few friends or family members to pray for you weekly (at least) throughout the course.

Take a 24 hr break from OT 500 each week to be with the people you love and to do something fun together.

**Course Assignments**

Reading & Viewing (RV) log - 10% (at the end of each unit submit an honest and accurate percentage of the required reading and viewing you have completed)

Unit Test #1 – 20%
Unit Test #2 – 20%
Unit Test #3 – 20%
Final Exam: An oral presentation (minimum of 3 hours) in which you teach CASKET to an individual or group that is not familiar with the biblical story of redemption. – 30%.

Details in Sakai > Assignments.

Class Participation – grade penalty for those who do not make regular and significant contributions to class discussion.

*There is no extra-credit work. Please do not ask for it. Just do what has been assigned.*

**Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-99</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>below 60</td>
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**Syllabus Addendum**

For other seminary policies refer to the Syllabus Addendum in Sakai.

**Required Texts**


UNIT I
PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 19 – 25</td>
<td>EOT Chpts. 1-2, Goheen Chpt. 1, CASKET Introduction</td>
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<td>Submit RV log in Sakai for Unit I by Sunday @ 11 pm</td>
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UNIT II
THE FORMATION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD: FROM EDEN TO CANAAN (GENESIS – DEUTERONOMY)

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 26 – Feb 1</td>
<td>Genesis</td>
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<td>Read EOT Chpts. 3 – 5, Goheen p. 23 – 32, CASKET Chpts. 1 – 2</td>
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<td>Read and/or listen to Genesis</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 2 – 8</td>
<td>Exodus – Leviticus</td>
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<td>*class Feb 3 from 1 – 4 pm</td>
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<td>Read EOT Chpts. 6 – 7, Goheen p. 32 – 48, CASKET Chpt. 3</td>
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<td>Read and/or listen to Exodus &amp; Leviticus</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 9 – 15</td>
<td>Numbers &amp; Deuteronomy</td>
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<td>*class Feb 10 from 1 – 4 pm</td>
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<td>Read EOT Chpts. 8 – 9</td>
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<td>Read and/or listen to Numbers &amp; Deuteronomy</td>
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<td>Submit RV log in Sakai for Unit II by Sunday @ 11 pm</td>
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UNIT III
THE MISSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (PART I): COVENANT LIVING ATTEMPTED IN THE PROMISED LAND (JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH, 1 – 2 SAMUEL, 1 KINGS)

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 16 – 22</td>
<td>Joshua, Judges &amp; Ruth</td>
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<td>*class Feb 17 from 1 – 4 pm</td>
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<td>Read EOT Chpts. 10 – 12, Goheen p. 49 - 54</td>
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<td>Read and/or listen to Joshua, Judges &amp; Ruth</td>
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Week 6  Feb 23- Mar 1  1 – 2 Samuel, 1 Kings

Read EOT Chpts. 13 – 15, Goheen p. 54 – 60, CASKET Chpt. 4
Read and/or listen to 1 – 2 Samuel, 1 Kings
Submit RV log in Sakai for Unit III by Sunday @ 11 pm

*Unit Test #1 on (Weeks 1 – 6). Study Guide posted in Sakai > Resources > Study Guides.

UNIT IV
THE MISSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (PART 2): COVENANT LIVING
CELEBRATED….AND QUESTIONED - POETIC AND WISDOM BOOKS (JOB, PSALMS, PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SONGS)

Week 7  Mar 2-8  Job, Psalms

*class Mar 3 from 1 – 4 pm

Read EOT Chpt. 19 – 21
Read and/or listen to Job & 10 Psalms of your choice

Week 8  Mar 9-15  Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

*class Mar 10 from 1 – 4 pm

Read EOT Chpt. 22 – 23
Read and/or listen to Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
Submit RV log in Sakai for Unit IV by Sunday @ 11 pm

UNIT V
THE EXILE AND RETURN OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (PART 1): COVENANT BREAKDOWN
UNDER THE ASSYRIANS (2 KINGS 1-20, AMOS, HOSEA, MICAH, JONAH, NAHUM, ISAIAH)

Week 9  Mar 16-22  2 Kings 1 – 20, Amos, Hosea, Micah

*class Mar 17 from 1 – 4 pm

Read EOT Chpt. 16 (stop on p. 245 with the paragraph that starts “Josiah was the last godly king…”), Chpt. 32 (only the parts in Chpt. 32 on Amos & Hosea), Chpt. 33 (only the part in Chpt. 33 on Micah)
Read and/or listen to 2 Kings 1 – 20, Amos, Hosea, Micah, CASKET Chpt. 5
Week 10  Mar 23-29  Isaiah, Jonah, Nahum

*class Mar 24 from 1 – 4 pm

Read EOT Chpt. 24 – 26, 33 (only the parts in Chpt 33 on Jonah & Nahum)
Read and/or listen to Isaiah, Jonah, Nahum
Submit RV log in Sakai for Unit V by Sunday @ 11 pm

*Unit Test #2 on Weeks 7 – 10. Study Guide posted in Sakai > Resources > Study Guides.

UNIT VI
THE EXILE AND RETURN OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (PART 2): COVENANT BREAKDOWN
UNDER THE BABYLONIANS (2 KINGS 21-25, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH, JEREMIAH,
EZEKIEL, LAMENTATIONS, JOEL, OBABDIAH)

Week 11  Mar 30-Apr 5  2 Kings 21-25, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah,
Lamentations

Read EOT Chpt. 16 (start on p. 245 with the paragraph that starts “Josiah
was the last godly king…” to the end of the chpt.), Chpts. 33 (only the
sections on Habakkuk, Zephaniah), Chpts. 27 – 28.
Read and/or listen to 2 Kings 21-25, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah,
Lamentations; Goheen p. 60 – 68; CASKET Chpt. 6

Week 12  Apr 6-12  Ezekiel, Joel, Obadiah

Read EOT Chpts. 29 – 30, Chpt. 32 (the section on Joel only), Chpt. 33
(the section on Obadiah only); CASKET Chpt. 7
Read and/or listen to Ezekiel, Joel, Obadiah
Submit RV log in Sakai for Unit VI by Sunday @ 11 pm

UNIT VII
THE EXILE AND RETURN OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (PART 3): COVENANT LIVING
REENGAGED UNDER THE PERSIANS (DANIEL, ESTHER, HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI,
EZRA, NEHEMIAH, CHRONICLES)

Week 13  Apr 12-19  Daniel, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah

*class Apr 14 from 1 – 4 pm

Read EOT Chpts. 31, 18; CASKET Chpt. 8
Read and/or listen to Daniel, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah
Week 14  Apr 20-26  Haggai, Zechariah, Chronicles, Malachi

*class Apr 21 from 1 – 4 pm

EOT Chpts. 34, 17; Goheen p. 68 – 73, CASKET Chpt. 9
Read and/or listen to Haggai, Zechariah, Chronicles, Malachi
Submit RV log in Sakai for Unit VII by Sunday @ 11 pm


Week 15  Apr 27-May 2  CASKET presentation