OT500 Old Testament Survey, Gordon Conwell (Charlotte), Fall 2015
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Course Description

Introduces 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 studies.

Course Objective

To gain a basic knowledge of the history and theology of the Old Testament, with particular emphasis on how different sections of the Old Testament fit together both on its own terms and relationship to the New Testament. At the end of the course, the student should be able give a thoughtful and simple answer to the question “what is the Old Testament about?”

Relation to Curriculum

OT 500 is foundational to all further studies in Bible, theology, or ministry. OT 500 satisfies one of two OT requirements for all MA programs. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Texts

- The Bible (ESV preferred, but please avoid dynamic paraphrases such as The Living Bible or The Message.)
- Recalling the Hope of Glory, Allen P. Ross (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2006). Ross’ book is not only a theology of worship, but also a solid theological overview of the Old Testament.
- Excerpt of Jesus and the Eyewitnesses, Richard Bauckham (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2006) will be posted on Sakai.

Course Evaluation

- Attendance/Participation (20%). Included in class participation will be a reading log in which you account for your reading through the semester, the log for each section being due at the exam for each section.
- 4 exams (20% each). Test 1/Pentateuch (due October 3), Test 2/Historical Books (due November 7), Test 3/Prophets and Writings (due December 5), Final exam (due December 19). The tests will consist of both multiple choice/short answer questions and short essays. The tests will be given through Sakai, and proctored according to seminary guidelines.
- Grading scale: 100-93.0 A, 92.9-90.0 A-, 89.9-87.0 B+, 86.9-83.0 B, 82.9-80.0 B-, 79.9-77.0 C+, 76.9-73.0 C, 72.9-70.0 C-, 69.9-67.0 D+, 66.9-63.0 D, 62.9-60.0 D-, 59.9-0 F.

Course Schedule

The course will meet over three weekends, Sep 18—19, Oct 16—17, Nov 13—14 (Fridays 6:30—9:30 p.m., Saturdays 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m., including lunch from 12:00—1:15).
Course Assignments

Because a general familiarity with the Old Testament will aid in understanding class lectures, students are encouraged (but not required) to read as much as possible for each unit before class weekends. I have not assigned Psalms or Proverbs in the order for reading below. If you read 2 psalms and a handful of proverbs per day you will easily have them read by the end of the semester. I would suggest keeping your reading consistent—your OT reading load is significant. You will submit a reading log for each section at the exam of that section.

Unit 1. The Pentateuch (September 18-19). Read Genesis—Deuteronomy; Ross, 35—218. I would suggest reading the following sections in the order given below:

1. Genesis 1—11  
2. Genesis 12:1—25:18  
3. Genesis 25:19—37:1  
4. Genesis 37:2—50:26  
5. Exodus 1—18  
6. Exodus 19—40  
7. Leviticus 1—16  
8. Leviticus 17—27  
9. Numbers 1:1—10:10  
11. Numbers 20—36  
12. Deuteronomy 1—11  
13. Deuteronomy 12—26  
14. Deuteronomy 27—34

Unit 2. The Historical Books (October 16-17). Read Joshua—Esther; Bauckham, chapter 18.

1. Joshua 1—12  
2. Joshua 13—24  
3. Judges 1—12  
4. Judges 13—21, Ruth  
5. 1 Sam 1—12  
6. 1 Sam 13—24  
7. 1 Samuel 25—31  
8. 2 Samuel 1—12  
9. 2 Samuel 13—24  
10. 1 Kings 1—11  
11. 1 Kings 12—22  
12. 2 Kings 1—12  
13. 2 Kings 13—25  
14. Ezra  
15. Nehemiah  
16. Esther

Unit 3. The Prophets and the Writings (November 13-14). Read Job—Malachi, Ross 221—344.

1. Job 1—11, 19, 29—42  
2. Ecclesiastes  
3. Song of Solomon  
4. Isaiah 1—12  
5. Isaiah 13—24  
6. Isaiah 25—39  
7. Isaiah 40—51  
8. Isaiah 51—66  
9. Jeremiah 1—12  
10. Jeremiah 13—25  
11. Jeremiah 26—38  
12. Jeremiah 38—52  
13. Lamentations  
14. Ezekiel 1—11  
15. Ezekiel 12—24  
16. Ezekiel 25—39  
17. Ezekiel 40—48  
18. Daniel  
19. Hosea  
20. Joel, Amos  
21. Obadiah, Jonah, Micah  
22. Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah  
23. Haggai, Zechariah  
24. Malachi

Other Matters

I do not have assigned office hours, but can be available by phone and/or email.

I assume academic integrity. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be handled according to seminary policy (see Violations of Academic Integrity in Handbook).

Unless worked out with me ahead of time, late work will not be accepted, except in the case of emergencies. Due to the intensive nature of these weekend sessions, attendance in class is mandatory (and important).