OT 500 - Old Testament Survey
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte
Fall 2012

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

Instructor: Dr. Catherine McDowell
Contact Information: cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu, office (704) 940-5849.
The best way to reach me is via email. We can then set up a time to talk by phone.

Class Schedule: Fri 6:30 – 9:00 pm (this includes chapel from 6:30-7:00 pm, which is considered part of our class time) and Sat. 9 am – 4 pm on Sept 14-15, Oct 12-13, Nov 9-10, 2012.

Office Hours:
Friday afternoons Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9 from 4-6 pm and by appointment. I am regularly on campus on Monday afternoons, Tuesdays and most Wednesdays, as well. I prefer to meet with you in person if possible but we can also talk by phone, and/or via Facetime or Skype.

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.

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. OT 500 satisfies one of two OT requirements for all MA programs other than those with majors in Biblical Studies. Those majoring in Biblical Studies must pass the OT Bible competency exam within the first year of matriculation or take and pass OT 500.
Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course students will:

1. 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.
2. be able to identify the purpose and themes of each individual Old Testament book
3. gain an understanding of the theological message of individual books and of the Old Testament as a whole

Course Requirements
Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through the assignments described below. The successful completion of these activities will require each student to spend approximately 185 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and out of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments. Descriptions of the assignments are listed below and in Sakai.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment (hrs)</th>
<th>Student’s actual time on task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class time</td>
<td>28.5 hrs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading the textbook <em>Encountering the Old Testament</em>, the CASKET Old Testament Study Guide and the entire Old Testament in a standard English translation of the Bible according to the Reading Plans posted in Sakai</td>
<td>100 hrs?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 1 on the Pentateuch</td>
<td>Study time (10 hours) + test (1.5 hrs)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2 on Pre-exilic history and prophets, and Wisdom and Poetry</td>
<td>Study time (10 hours) + test (1.5 hrs)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3 on Exilic and Post-Exilic history and prophets</td>
<td>Study time (10 hours) + test (1.5 hrs)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20 hrs? (preparation + 3 hrs for written component and at least 1 hr for oral component)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Students will keep a record of time spent on each course-related task, and will submit a final report, as above, with their actual hours spent on each task listed in the last column of the table.

**Required Textbooks and Materials**

A standard English translation of the Bible. Recommended: NIV, ESV. *Do not* use a paraphrase, such as the Living Bible, the New Living Bible, nor The Message.


Carol Kaminski, *CASKET Old Testament Time Line*.

**Course Assignments**

1. Students must complete all assigned reading according to the Reading Plans posted in Sakai and turn in a reading report with their final exam. Failure to complete all assigned reading according to the reading plan will result in a grade penalty. (You will not be penalized for waiting for the updated edition of CASKET.)

2. Students will complete three tests, one on each of the following: a. The Pentateuch, b. Pre-exilic history and prophets, and Wisdom and Poetry, and c. Exilic and Post-Exilic history and prophets. These tests will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions designed to test your knowledge of key dates, key texts, events, people, and the content, theological message, and historical context of individual books of the Old Testament. Each test will count for 20% of the student’s grade. The tests will be emailed to your proctor within 3 days of the conclusion of class (i.e. Test 1 will be emailed to your proctor on or before Sept 18) and will be due the following Monday Sept 24 by 9 pm. **The expectation is that about 75% of the work (reading, note taking, studying) for the test is done prior to class.** For example, you need to do all of the assigned reading, note taking, studying, etc. for the Pentateuch prior to Sept 14. You will get additional information in class on Sept 14-15, which you can then assimilate into the work you have already done on the Pentateuch. You may turn in the hard copy to the registration office or have someone at the reception desk put it in my box. **If you prefer to mail the test to me it must be postmarked on the due date.** Please send it to:

Dr. Catherine McDowell  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
14542 Choate Circle
Charlotte, NC 28273

You may fax the exam to me at (704) 527-8577. Use the highest possible resolution.

Whatever means you choose, please do not send multiple copies of your exam. Submit only one copy. I will notify you if I do not receive it, but I will not confirm receipt.

Always keep a copy of the exam for yourself until your graded exam has been returned.

For the final exam, please keep a copy and mail the original to me at:

Dr. Catherine McDowell
1121 Miller St
Winston-Salem NC 27103

**All tests and the final exam must be proctored according to the seminary’s proctoring guidelines.** I will post a copy of the proctor form for each test and for the final in Sakai. Please turn in the signed proctor form with your completed test and final exam.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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**Late Work**

All reading, tests, and the final exam must be completed by the date specified in this syllabus. Late work will not be accepted except in the case of an extreme, unforeseen situation, in which case the student must notify the professor immediately. For the seminary’s extension policy see the Syllabus Addendum.
**Attendance Policy**
Attendance is required. Absence will incur a grade penalty. You cannot miss an entire weekend or its equivalent and remain in the course for credit.

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

**Course Schedule**

**Weekend 1: The Pentateuch**

- Fri 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm chapel
- Fri 7:10 pm - 9:00 pm Introduction to the Old Testament, Genesis
- Sat 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Exodus, Leviticus
- Sat 12 pm – 1:00 pm lunch
- Sat 1:00 – 4:00 pm Numbers, Deuteronomy

Be sure to complete all the assigned reading (see OT 500 Reading Plan – Pentateuch, in Sakai) prior to the first class meeting on Sept. 14.

**Weekend 2: Pre-exilic Historical books and Pre-exilic Prophets through the Assyrian Period; Wisdom and Poetry**

Reading plan will be posted in Sakai on or before Monday Sept 17. Class details TBA in Sakai.

**Weekend 3: Babylonian Period, Exile and Return in Persian Period**
Reading plan will be posted in Sakai on or before Monday Oct 15. Class details TBA in Sakai.