OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament
Provisional Course Outline Fall 2012
Carol M. Kaminski

Course Dates:  Mondays Sept 10—December 10
Course Times:  1:15pm—4:15pm
Final Exam:  Dec. 10

Email: kaminski@gordonconwell.edu.
Office Hours: TBA

1.  **Course Objectives**
   In this course students will become familiar with the content of the entire Old Testament, with specific attention being given to the flow of the biblical story and its major themes (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement: Priority # 1). Students will discover how each book fits into the larger redemptive-historical narrative of the Old Testament. It is expected that at the completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the Old Testament, by being able to recall and identify key people, events and dates in the Old Testament, and by being able to identify the main message and historical context of individual books. Resources beneficial for the study and application of the Old Testament for preaching and Bible study will be noted throughout the course.

2.  **Course Requirements**

   **Exams:**  The course grade will be determined on the basis of a mid-term exam (worth 30%) and a final exam (worth 70%). The mid-term exam is scheduled for Monday Oct. 22, 1:15—2:15pm. Both exams will consist of a series of multiple choice and short-answer questions, which will demonstrate knowledge of key dates, events and people of the Old Testament. These questions will also test a student’s knowledge of the individual books, with focus being given to the main message and historical context of each book. Multiple choice questions related to the theology of the Old Testament will be included in the final exam.

   **Old Testament Bible Reading:**  You are required to read the entire Old Testament for this course. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Old Testament you have read. Since the Old Testament is required reading, this means that failure to complete the Old Testament reading will result in points being deducted, which may result in a 1/3 grade penalty (A grade would become A-) up to a full grade penalty.

   **CASKET EMPTY Old Testament Reader:**  As a supplement to the biblical material, you are required to read the textbook, CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. Old Testament Study Guide. You will be asked on the
final exam to indicate what percentage of the Study Guide you have completed. Failure to complete the Study Guide will result in points being deducted, and may result in a 1/3 grade penalty (A grade would become A-).

Teach the Old Testament in a local church context: You are required to teach one study on the Old Testament in a local church context during this semester. You may teach on any section of the Old Testament, or you may choose to give an overview of the Old Testament using the CASKET Timeline. I would recommend that you speak to your pastor from your local church at the beginning of the semester (and pray about it!) to ask if this kind of opportunity might be made available to you. Alternately, you could teach the Old Testament at your church back home if you are travelling home during the semester. If you are unable to find a context for teaching, you will be assigned a group comprising of students from class. This will become your “group” for your study on the Old Testament. You will be asked on the final exam to state whether you have completed this requirement. Failure to complete this will result in 5 points being deducted from your final score for the course.

Please turn your cell phone to silent mode at the beginning of each class. Internet usage is strictly prohibited during class (whether on your computer, ipad or phone), but is permissible during breaks.

3. Required Texts
1) Kaminski, C. CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. CASKET Study Guide (available in the bookstore, at Amazon or at casketempty.com).
2) Kaminski, C., CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. Old Testament Timeline (available in the bookstore or at casketempty.com)

4. Highly Recommended Books
Arnold, B. and B. Beyer, Encountering the Old Testament (Baker, 1999)
Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., How to Read the Bible for all its Worth (Zondervan, 1982).
Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., How to Read the Bible Book by Book (Zondervan).
Kaiser, W. C. Jr., A History of Israel From the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998).
Lecture Outline at a Glance:

**Week 1: Monday Sept 10**
- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- Course expectations and requirements
- Introduction to Genesis

**Week 2: Monday Sept 17**
- Creation
- Abraham

**Week 3: Monday Sept 24**
- Sinai

**Week 4: Monday Oct 1**
- Kings, United Monarchy, and Wisdom Literature

**Week 5: Reading Week (Oct 8—12). You are expected to spend additional time on your readings during Reading Week.**

**Week 6: Monday Oct 15**
- Kings: northern kingdom; Hosea, Amos and Jonah

**Week 7: Monday Oct 22**
- Mid-term exam
- Kings, southern kingdom, part 1; Isaiah and Micah

**Week 8: Monday Oct 29**
- Kings: southern kingdom, part 2; Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, and introduction to Jeremiah.

**Week 9: Monday Nov 5**
- Kings: southern kingdom, Jeremiah; the end of the south

**Week 10: Reading Week November 12—16. (You will need this time to study for your final exam.)**

**Week 11: Monday Nov 19**
- Exile: Lamentations, Obadiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.

**Week 12: Monday Nov 26**
- Temple: the return from exile; Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi; Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

**Week 13: Monday December 3**
- Understanding the Old Testament theologically

**Week 14: Monday December 10 Final Exam**
Provisional Course Outline

Week 1: Monday Sept 10
- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- Course expectations and requirements
- Introduction to Genesis 1—11

Week 2: Monday Sept 17
- 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.

Week 3: Monday Sept 24
- Sinai: 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, Ruth.

Week 4: Monday Oct 1
- Kings, United Monarchy: the prophet Samuel; the united monarchy, Saul, David and Solomon; the Davidic Covenant; Psalms and wisdom literature; the building of the temple; the division of the kingdom.
  OT books surveyed: 1 Sam. 1—2 Sam. 24; 1 Kings—2 Kings (portions); Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Week 5: Reading Week (October 8—12). This provides an opportunity for you to work on your readings for this course.

Week 6: Monday Oct 15
- 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.
Week 7: Monday Oct 22
• **Mid-term exam:** 2:00—2:45pm (class continues 2:45—4:15 pm)
• **Kings, Southern Kingdom:** the southern kingdom from Rehoboam to Hezekiah; the prophets Isaiah and Micah. OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Isaiah and Micah.

Week 8: Monday Oct 29
• **Kings, Southern Kingdom:** the 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.

Week 9: Monday Nov 5
• **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.

Week 10: *Reading Week (November 12—16).* You will need this time to prepare for your final exam.

Week 11: Monday Nov 19
• **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; Obadiah; Ezekiel, Daniel.

Week 12: Monday Nov 26
• **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.

Week 13: Monday Dec 3
• **Understanding the Old Testament theologically; exam review.**

Week 14: Monday Dec 10 Final Exam
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

- **OT Book Summary**: You will need to be able to identify the basic content and historical context of the following Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1—2 Samuel, 1—2 Kings, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Proverbs and Job.

- **Prophets**: You will 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).