OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament
Provisional Course Outline Fall 2010
Carol M. Kaminski

Course Dates: Monday Sept 4—Nov 29
Course Times: 1:15pm—4:15pm
Final Exam: TBA

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1. Course Objectives
The primary objective of this course is to help 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.

2. Course Requirements
   ☛ Exams: The course grade will be determined on the basis of a mid-term exam
   (worth 40%) and a final exam (worth 60%). The mid-term exam will consist of
   multiple choice questions (including questions on dates, key events and people in
   the Old Testament), and brief summaries of Old Testament books. Information
   about the mid-term exam will be given the first day of class. (A one-page study guide
   is provided on page 5.) The mid-term exam is scheduled for Monday October 25th,
   1:15—2:15pm. The final exam will comprise of two parts. First of all, you will be
   required to produce your own Old Testament CASKET timeline, highlighting key
dates, events, people, and biblical passages for the entire Old Testament. Second,
you will be required to know the basic content and historical context of every Old
Testament book (although you will only be tested on a few of them). On your final
exam you will be required to give summaries of several Old Testament books,
highlighting dates, historical context, key people and themes of the book.

   ☪ 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
benefit greatly if you are able to read the required Bible readings prior to the lecture
on the particular book. As a supplement to the biblical material, you are required to
read the textbook, CASKET Study Guide, in its entirety. You will be asked on the final
exam to indicate what percentage of the assigned Bible readings and Study Guide
readings you have completed. Failure to have completed all the readings may result in a grade penalty.

⚠️ Please turn off your cell phone at the beginning of each class.
⚠️ Surfing on the web during class is strictly prohibited.

3. **Required Texts**

4. **Highly Recommended Books**
   Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982).
   Lawrence, M., *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church* (Crossway, 2010).
Lecture Outline at a Glance:

Week 1: Monday Sept 13
- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- Course expectations and requirements
- Introduction to Genesis

Week 2: Monday Sept 20
- Creation
- Abraham

Week 3: Monday Sept 27
- Sinai

Week 4: Monday Oct 4
- Kings, United Monarchy; poetic literature

Reading Week

Week 5: Monday Oct 18
- Kings: northern kingdom; Hosea, Amos and Jonah

Week 6: Monday Oct 25
- Mid-term exam: 1:15-2:15pm
- Kings, southern kingdom part 1; Isaiah and Micah

Week 7: Monday Nov 1
- Kings, southern kingdom part 2; Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, introduction to Jeremiah.

Reading Week

Week 8: Monday Nov 15
- Kings: Jeremiah; the final years of the southern kingdom

Week 9: Monday Nov 22
- Exile: Lamentations; Ezekiel and Daniel.

Week 10: Monday Nov 29
- Temple: the return from exile and rebuilding of the temple; Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi; Ezra and Nehemiah.

Final Exam: TBA
Old Testament Survey Syllabus: Fall 2010
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Provisional Course Outline

Week 1: Monday Sept 13
- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- Course expectations and requirements
- Introduction to Genesis 1: the Creator God

📖 Readings to be completed prior to next class:
- CASKET Study Guide: read the chapters on Creation and Abraham.
- Bible Readings: Read Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus.

Week 2: Monday Sept 20
- Creation: Introduction to Gen. 1-11 and its major themes; creation, fall; flood; the genealogies; God’s plan of redemption through Noah.
- 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.

📖 Readings to be completed prior to next class:
- CASKET Study Guide: read the chapter on Sinai.
- Bible Readings: Read Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua and Judges.

Week 3: Monday Sept 27
- Sinai: 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; a king is coming (Ruth). OT books surveyed: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth.

📖 Readings to be completed prior to next class:
- CASKET Study Guide: read the chapter on the United Monarchy.
- Bible Readings: Read Ruth, 1—2 Samuel; 1 Kings.

Week 4: Monday Oct 4
- 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); Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Proverbs.

📖 Readings to be completed prior to next class:
- CASKET Study Guide: read the chapter on the Northern Kingdom.
- Bible Readings: Read 2 Kings; Hosea, Amos, Jonah; Prov. 1-7.

Reading Week
Week 5: Monday Oct 18

- **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.

📖 **Readings to be completed prior to next class:**
- **CASKET Study Guide**: read the chapter on the Southern Kingdom.
- **Bible Readings**: Read 1 Chron. 1—4, 14—20, Isaiah and Micah.

Week 6: Monday Oct 25

- **Mid-term exam**: 1:15-2:15pm
- **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.

📖 **Readings to be completed prior to next class:**
- **CASKET Study Guide**: read the chapter on the Southern Prophets.
- **Bible Readings**: Read Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, and Jeremiah.

Week 7: Monday Nov 1

- **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.

📖 **Readings to be completed prior to next class:**
- **CASKET Study Guide**: read the chapter on the Exile.
- **Bible Readings**: Read 2 Chron. 33—36; Ezekiel.

*Reading Week*

Week 8: Monday Nov 15

- **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.

📖 **Readings to be completed prior to next class:**
- **Bible Readings**: Read Lamentations, Obadiah, Daniel, and Ezra.

Week 9: Monday Nov 22

- **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.
Readings to be completed prior to next class:
• CASKET Study Guide: read the chapter on the Temple.
• Bible Readings: Read Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Nehemiah.

Week 10: Monday Nov 29
• Temple (the post-exilic period): the return from exile; building of the second temple; the prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi; Ezra and Nehemiah. OT books surveyed: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah.

Mid-Term Exam Study Guide:
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
• 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).
• OT Book Summary: short OT book summaries will be required; specific books TBA.