OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament
Provisional Course Outline Fall 2014
Carol M. Kaminski

Course Dates: Sept. 12-13, Oct 10-11, Nov 7-8
Course Times: Fridays 6:00—9:30pm, Saturdays, 8:30am—4:00pm.
Final Exam: Saturday, Nov. 22nd, 9:00am—12:00pm

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 20%) and a final exam (worth 80%). The midterm exam is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 10 at 6:30pm. The final exam is scheduled for Saturday November 22, 9:00am—12:00pm. 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 up to a full grade penalty.
Essential Atlas of the Bible: You are required to read the first 100 pages of this book. You will also be asked to make use of the maps and charts, which will be referenced throughout the course. This reading is to be completed by the final exam. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Essential Atlas you have read (100 pages only). Failure to complete this reading will result in points being deducted from your final grade.

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 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).
Provisional Course Outline

Weekend I: September 12—13

- **CREATION:**
  - Overview of Genesis 1—11 and its major themes.

- **ABRAHAM:**
  - Introduction to the Patriarchs.
  - God's promises to Abraham; the Abrahamic Covenant.
  - God's plan to bless the nations through Abraham's seed.

- **SINAI:**
  - Sanctuary: The Exodus; the priesthood; the sacrificial system; clean/unclean laws.
  - Stipulations: The Mosaic Covenant and its legal obligations; the role of the law; blessings and curses.
  - Subjugation of the land: The wilderness wanderings; entrance into the land through Joshua; period of the judges: God's unexpected leaders.

📖 **Bible Readings for Weekend I:**
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth.

📖 **Casket Study Guide reading:**
Read the Introduction, and chapters 1—3.

Weekend II: October 10—11

- **Mid-term Exam:** Friday, October 10th, 6:30—7:15pm.

- **KINGS: THE UNITED MONARCHY**
  - The prophet Samuel and the rise of King Saul.
  - The reign of King David and the Davidic Covenant.
  - Psalms and wisdom literature.
  - The reign of King Solomon and the building of the temple.
  - The division of the kingdom.
• KINGS: THE NORTHERN KINGDOM
  • The northern kings from Jeroboam I to Hoshea.
  • The prophets Hosea, Amos and Jonah.
  • The end of the northern kingdom and the rise of the Assyrian Empire.

• KINGS: THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM (Part 1)
  • The southern kings from Rehoboam to Hezekiah.
  • The prophets Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah.

📖 Bible reading:
  1—2 Samuel, 1—2 Kings, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah.

📖 Casket Study Guide reading: Chapters 4—6

Weekend III: Nov 7—8

• KINGS: THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM (Part 2)
  • The southern kings from Manasseh to Zedekiah.
  • The prophets Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Joel, Nahum, Obadiah and Ezekiel.
  • The demise of the southern kingdom.
  • The rise of the Babylonian Empire.

• EXILE:
  • The prophets Ezekiel and Daniel, and the book of Lamentations.
  • The seventy year exile in Babylon, and hope beyond the judgment.

• TEMPLE:
  • The return from exile and rebuilding of the temple.
  • The prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.
  • The historical books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

📖 Bible Readings:
  1—2 Chronicles; Ezekiel, Daniel, Lamentations; Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Malachi.

📖 Casket Study Guide reading: Chapters 7—9
MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE

You will need to know the following dates, events and Bible references:

- **Abraham**: 2100-1450 BC
  - Abraham 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
  - Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7)
  - 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).