NT 577 Biblical Theology: New Testament Focus  
Spring 2014  
Instructor: Roy Ciampa (rciampa@gordonconwell.edu)

Thursdays, 2:00—5:00 p.m.  
Office hours (AC144) are posted online. See: http://www.viceregency.com/OfficeHours.htm  
(If these hours do not work for you please arrange an appointment by e-mail.)

Provisional Course Outline

1. Course Objectives:  
The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to biblical theology with a focus on the New Testament. This will be achieved by introducing various approaches to biblical theology (including book- and author-based and theme-oriented approaches, as well as canonical, salvation-historical, and others) and by seeking to discern the theological structures and key themes of individual books and authors and by tracing important biblical themes through the Bible, and by homework assignments that enable students to pursue reading and research on key issues in biblical theology. Emphasis will be placed on the central role of Christ, themes associated with inaugurated eschatology, and how each author situates their work within a larger redemptive narrative.

As a result of this course, a student should demonstrate knowledge of central themes in the biblical theology of the New Testament (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statements #1—2).

Course Requirements:

1. Required Reading:


In the final exam you will be asked to state what percentage of the required reading you have completed. Failure to complete the required reading will result in 3-5 points being deducted from your final grade, depending on the percentage of reading completed. In addition to this, it is expected that you will incorporate the work of the required textbooks into your final exam questions.

**2. The Greek Alphabet and reading Greek words:** worth 20% of your final grade.
This section is only for students who have not taken Greek (no prior knowledge of Greek is required for this 500-level course). In order to trace important biblical themes, it is extremely helpful to know how to do Greek word studies. To this end, you will be required to learn the Greek alphabet and be able to look up Greek words in lexicons and dictionaries. A brief test will be issued during the semester, at which time you will be required to write out the Greek alphabet and translate Greek terms or names that have been transliterated into English and arrange a series of Greek terms in alphabetical order. The test is worth 20% of your final grade.

If you already have Greek, you are required to complete the additional reading (information below) instead of the Greek alphabet requirement.

**2. Reading Report:** worth 20% of your final grade. [Not required if doing #2 above]
For those students who have had Greek, instead of requirement #2 noted above, you are required to read an additional 200 pages from unassigned thematic entries in *NDBT* and/or one of the books listed in the bibliography below (that you have not read for another course, is not required for this course, and that is not primarily focused on OT material), and submit a 4-5 page summary of the book or section that you have read. This is worth 20% of your final grade.

**3. Paper on a specific book or biblical-theological theme:** worth 30% of your final grade.
You are required to write a 14 page (double spaced) paper on either the theology of a one of the general epistles or the book of Revelation or on an important biblical-theological theme in the New Testament in light of its Old Testament backgrounds. A limited number of students will be free to present on each letter (distribution to be determined in class). This is not an exegesis paper, but you are required to incorporate three Greek word studies into your essay. At the conclusion of your paper, you are required to provide a two-page outline of a four-week Bible study on your chosen book or theme, summarizing briefly the topic for each week, citing key...
texts and topics that will be discussed, and any resources that you might use for this study. This is to be two pages in length only. Your paper will conclude with a bibliography, which is in addition to the 14 page essay and 2 page outline of a bible study. The paper must not be overly dependent upon the NDBT and must reflect study of both the biblical texts themselves and the use of significant bibliography on the topic.

4. Presentation on your chosen book or biblical-theological theme: worth 15% of your final grade. Students writing on the same book or theme will work together to provide the class with a coordinated presentation on that book or theme in the final weeks of the semester. Like the papers, these presentations must not be overly dependent upon the NDBT and must reflect study of both the biblical texts themselves and the use of significant bibliography on the topic. Group presentations will last 30 minutes. Time allotted for individual presentations (for optional themes/topics) will be determined in light of the numbers choosing that option.

5. Final Exam: worth 35% of your final grade. The final exam will comprise of a combination of “objective” and essay questions related to the class lectures and readings.

**Provisional Course Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading and Assignments</th>
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</table>
|        | **Introduction to course and syllabus; Introduction to biblical theology.** | Klink and Lockett, *Understanding Biblical Theology.*  
*NDBT* entries: Biblical Theology; History of Biblical Theology; Challenges to Biblical Theology; The Canon of Scripture; Scripture; Biblical History; Exegesis and Hermeneutics; |
<p>| Week 2 | <strong>History of Biblical Theology; Selected Approaches to Biblical Theology</strong> | <em>NDBT</em> entries: The Unity and Diversity of Scripture; New Testament Use of the Old Testament; Relationship of Old Testament and New Testament; Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology; Preaching and Biblical Theology |
| Week 3 | <strong>Old Testament Precedents for New Testament Theology</strong> | <em>NDBT</em> entries: Genesis to Kings; Wisdom Books; Prophetic Books; David; Exile; Eschatology. Ciampa, “The History of Redemption” |
| Week 4 | <strong>Biblical Theology of the Synoptic Gospels</strong> | <em>NDBT</em> entries: Synoptic Gospels; Mark; Matthew; Luke; Luke-Acts; Acts; Gospel; Kingdom of God; Death and Resurrection; Poor/Poverty |
| Week 5 | <strong>Biblical Theology of the Gospel of John</strong> | <em>NDBT</em> entries: The Johannine Writings; Gospel of John; Salvation |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>NDBT entries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Pauline Theology, part 1</td>
<td>Paul; (1-2) Thessalonians; Romans; Galatians; Law; Righteousness, Justice and Justification; Adoption; Freedom. Ciampa, “Paul’s Theology of the Gospel”; Ciampa, “Genesis 1-3 and Paul’s Theology of Adam’s Dominion in Romans 5-6.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Pauline Theology, part 2</td>
<td>1 Corinthians; 2 Corinthians; Philippians; Colossians; Ephesians; Philemon; Pastoral Epistles</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Discussion of the Role of Works at the Final Judgment</td>
<td>Stanley, ed. <em>Four Views on the Role of Works at the Final Judgment.</em></td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Biblical Theology of the General Epistles: Student Presentations and Discussion</td>
<td>Hebrews; James; 1 Peter; 2 Peter; Jude; Worship</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Biblical Theology of the General Epistles: Student Presentations and Discussion</td>
<td>The Johannine Letters; Revelation; Creation, Humanity, Covenant.</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Unifying themes of biblical theology: Student Presentations and Discussion</td>
<td>Eschatology, Exile, Exodus (the theme, not the book), Idolatry, Jesus Christ, Kingdom of God, Land, Salvation, Sin.</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Final Exam Week: Final Exam</td>
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### Paper and Presentation Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book or Theme</th>
<th>Students</th>
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| Hebrews       | 1.  
|               | 2.  
|               | 3.  
|               | 4.  |
| James         | 1.  
|               | 2.  
|               | 3.  
|               | 4.  |
| 1 Peter       | 1.  
|               | 2.  
|               | 3.  
|               | 4.  |
| 2 Peter       | 1.  
|               | 2.  
|               | 3.  
|               | 4.  |
| Jude          | 1.  
|               | 2.  |
| 1-3 John      | 1.  
|               | 2.  
|               | 3.  |
| Revelation    | 1.  
|               | 2.  
|               | 3.  
|               | 4.  |
| Theme 1: Creation | 1.  
|                | 2.  
|                | 3.  
| Theme 2: Humanity | 1.  
|                  | 2.  
|                  | 3.  
| Theme 3: Covenant | 1.  
|                  | 2.  
|                  | 3.  
| Optional Theme: |  
| Optional Theme: |  
| Optional Theme: |  
| Optional Theme: |  
| Optional Theme: |  
| Optional Theme: |  
| Optional Theme: |  
| Optional Theme: | 
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Select Bibliography: New Testament Theologies


Select Bibliography: Pauline Theologies


Select Bibliography: Other


See also:


The *Overtures to Biblical Theology* series published by Fortress Press.

The *Denver Journal* Annotated Bibliography on Old Testament Theology.

The bibliographies to the various entries in the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* are a great resource for further research.