OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament: Inter-Varsity Program
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
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Course Dates: June 16—20, 2014
Course Times: Monday—Friday, 9:00am--12:00pm 1:00—4:00pm

Provisional Course Outline

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:

CASKET EMPTY: Old Testament Study Guide: You are required to have read the CASKET Study Guide by the first day of class, June 16. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Study Guide you had read by June 16. Failure to complete the Study Guide will result in points being deducted from your final grade.

Old Testament Bible Reading: You are required to read the entire Old Testament. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Old Testament you have read (audio is acceptable as well). Since this is required reading, failure to complete the Old Testament reading will result in points being deducted from your final grade. You are required to have completed your Bible reading by the final exam.

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: You are required to teach on the Old Testament, or give a talk on the Old Testament in the context of your local student ministry. You may teach on any section of the Old Testament, or you may choose to give an overview of the Old
Testament using CASKET. This assignment needs to be completed by the final exam. 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.

**Final Exam:** The final exam for this course (worth 100%) 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. Lastly, you will be required to prepare a few short answers to difficult questions about the Old Testament that have emerged in the context of campus ministry (more information about these questions will be provided in-class). You will be tested on these questions as part of the final exam. The date for the final exam will be announced on the first day of class, but it will be scheduled a few weeks after the course.

Turn your cell phone to silent mode at the beginning of each class. Internet usage (on computer, ipad/phone) is prohibited during class but 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 [e-book as well], 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**

Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth* (Zondervan, 1982).
Lecture Outline

Monday June 16 CREATION & ABRAHAM
- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- Course expectations and requirements
- Overview of Genesis 1—11 and its major themes.
- Introduction to the patriarchs (Gen. 12—50).
- God’s promises to Abraham; the Abrahamic covenant.
- God’s plan to bless the nations through Abraham’s seed.
- The Israelites are enslaved in Egypt.

📖 Bible Readings:
Genesis

📖 Casket Study Guide reading:
Introduction
Chapter 1: Creation
Chapter 2: Abraham

Tuesday June 17 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; Ruth.
- The prophet Samuel and the rise of King Saul.

📖 Bible Readings:
Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel.

📖 Casket Study Guide reading:
Chapter 3: Sinai
Chapter 4: Kings: United Monarchy.
Wednesday June 18 KINGS

- **Kings, United Monarchy continued**: David and Solomon; the Davidic Covenant; Psalms and wisdom literature; the building of the temple; the division of the kingdom.
- **Kings, Northern Kingdom**: the northern kingdom and the northern prophets, Elijah and Elisha, Hosea, Amos and Jonah; the Assyrians and the end of the northern kingdom.

📖 **Bible Readings:**
2 Samuel; 1 Kings—2 Kings; Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, Hosea, Amos, Jonah.

📖 **Casket Study Guide reading:**
Chapter 5: The Northern Kingdom

Thursday June 19 KINGS

- **Kings, Southern Kingdom**: the southern kingdom from Rehoboam to Hezekiah; the prophets Isaiah and Micah.
- **Kings, Southern Kingdom**: the southern kingdom from Manasseh to Zedekiah; the prophets Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum and introduction to Jeremiah.

📖 **Bible Readings:**
1—2 Chronicles; Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, Jeremiah.

📖 **Casket Study Guide reading:**
Chapter 6: The Southern Kingdom Part 1
Chapter 7: The Southern Kingdom Part 2

Friday June 20 EXILE & TEMPLE

- **Kings**: The end of the southern kingdom; the prophet Jeremiah; the Babylonian Empire; introduction to Ezekiel.
- **Exile**: the demise of the southern kingdom; Lamentations; the seventy-year exile in Babylon; the hope for restoration; the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel.
- **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:

📖 **Bible Readings:**
Ezekiel, Daniel, Obadiah, Lamentations, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

📖 **Casket Study Guide reading:**
Chapter 8: The Exile
Chapter 9: The Temple
Final Exam Study Guide

The final exam will comprise of a series of multiple choice questions, along with short answer questions (not requiring more than one to five words) covering the entire Old Testament. In preparation for this exam, you will want to ensure that you are prepared to answer questions on the following:

1. You will not be required to know the structure of Old Testament books.
2. You will not be required to know the dates for the kings of Israel (except any dates that are on the mid-term study guide).
3. You will not be required to name the entire list of kings.
4. You will not be required to know something about every king (but you will be required to know something about a few main kings; see below).
5. You should be able to answer questions related to the content, main themes, historical context, key people and events for every Old Testament book (you are responsible for books that were covered on the mid-term). Questions will be multiple choice; you will be required to identify either the correct answer or the one false answer, depending on how the question is phrased (see books below).
6. You will also be required to identify key quotations from a particular book (only well know quotes will be cited which relate to the main themes of the book).
7. You are required to know all the information listed on the “Guide to Key Dates and Events” (see below).
8. You will be required to answer questions related to key biblical-theological themes/topics, including the following:
   1. The order of the 10 commandments.
   2. Basic information about the major covenants in the Bible: Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, New Covenant.
   3. More detailed information about the promises God makes to Abraham and David, and the promises under the new covenant.
   4. Basic information about the priesthood and sacrificial system.
   5. Basic overview of the divine presence at key stages in the history of redemption: the garden of Eden, the tabernacle, the temple, the departure of God’s presence, the rebuilding of the temple.
   8. The theological reasons for the exile; the role of the blessings and curses in the history of redemption.
   9. Be able to identify key Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian kings:
Assyrian kings: Tiglath Pileser III, Shalmaneser V, Sargon II.
Babylonian kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Nabonidus.
Persian kings: Cyrus, Darius I, Xerxes I, and Artaxerxes.

**Book Summaries:**

You are required to know the following OT books *in-depth*, which should including knowing a) the historical context, b) the century, c) key events and people, d) major themes, e) how the message of the book contributes to the redemptive-historical narrative:

- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1—2 Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Malachi

You are required to know the *basic* content of the following OT books, which should include: the historical-redemptive context, the basic content of the book, and any key events or people if they are given:

- Ruth, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles (including knowing the differences between Kings and Chronicles), Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai and Zechariah.

**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).
GUIDE TO KEY DATES and EVENTS

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
  - The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)
  - 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