OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament
Provisional Course Outline J-Term 2010
Carol M. Kaminski

Course Dates: January 4—7, 11—14 (snow date Jan 15)
Course Times: 9:00am—12:45pm
Final Exam: Thursday January 21, 9:00am—12:00pm

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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 short mid-term exam (worth 20%) and a final exam (worth 80%). 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 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 give summaries of Old Testament books, highlighting dates, historical context, key people and themes of the book. The mid-term exam is scheduled for Monday January 11, 9:00—9:30am, and the final exam is scheduled for Thursday January 21, 9:00am—12:00pm.

Exam Review: Please note that a final exam review session will be scheduled for Tuesday January 19 (time and location TBA). This review session will be led by my Byington, Daniel Wong.
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
   2) Kaminski, C., CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. Old Testament Timeline (available in the bookstore)

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 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982).
   Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., How to Read the Bible Book by Book (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).
   Kaiser, W. C. Jr., A History of Israel From the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998).
Lecture Outline for Week I:
January 4—7

📖 Readings for Week I:


📖 CASKET Study Guide: read the chapters on Creation, Abraham, Sinai, United Monarchy, Northern Kingdom and Northern Prophets.

Monday January 4
• Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
• Course expectations and requirements
• The Period of Creation: Introduction to Gen. 1-11 and its major themes; creation, fall; flood; the genealogies; God's redemptive plan begins!
  OT books surveyed: Genesis 1-11.

Tuesday January 5
• The Period of Abraham: setting the scene for God’s plan of redemption; God’s promises to the patriarchs; the Abrahamic Covenant; faith and works; God’s plan to bless the nations through Israel.
• The Period of Sinai: the Exodus; the Mosaic covenant.
  OT books surveyed: Genesis 12-50, Exodus.

Wednesday January 6
• The Period of 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.

Thursday January 7
• The Period of Kings: 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; the northern kingdom; the northern prophets.
  OT books surveyed: 1 Sam. 1—2 Sam. 24; 1 Kings-2 Kings; Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon; Hosea, Amos, Jonah.
Provisional Lecture Outline for Week II: January 11 – 14

📖 Readings for Week II:

📖 Bible Readings: 2 Kgs. 18-25; 2 Chron. 13-20, 28-29; 34:31-33; 36; Isaiah 1-11, 40-46; Jer. 1-11, 31-33; Dan. 9; Ezek. 8-10, 16, 20, 22-23, 37-37; Dan. 1-9; Lam. 4; Haggai; Zech. 2-3; Ezra 1, 3; 5:1-5; 9-10; Neh. 1, 8-10, 13; Esth. 1; Malachi.

📖 CASKET Study Guide: read the chapters on the Southern Kingdom, the Southern Prophets, the Exile and the Temple.

Monday January 11

- Period of Kings: the northern prophets continued; the Assyrians and the end of the northern kingdom; the southern kingdom; the eighth-century southern prophets.

OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Isaiah and Micah.

Tuesday January 12

- Period of Kings: The southern kingdom continued; the seventh/sixth century southern prophets; the Babylonian Empire.

OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Jeremiah; Zephaniah; Habakkuk; Joel.

Wednesday January 13

- 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.

Thursday January 14

- 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.

Exam Dates:
Midterm Exam: Monday January 11, 9:00am-9:30am
Final Exam: Thursday January 21, 9:00am-12:00pm
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

- **OT Book Summary**: You will also need to be able to give a brief description of all the Old Testament books covered in Weekends I and II, providing a few summary sentences on the content of the book and the general time period. (This is not an essay question; a short answer is required.)

- **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).