I. Course Description:

This course highlights the big picture of the Old Testament through the lens of relationship; namely, God’s relationship with his people. Book by book it plots God’s relentless pursuit of a people (with whom he might relate), a place (for the relationship to unfold), and a presence (God’s presence that reveals his character). Through this tri-focal emphasis we will see how each book fits into the overarching story of the Old Testament and how they point forward to the N.T.

II. General Learning Goals:

- To understand the big picture of the Old Testament
- To observe the general themes and content of each of the Old Testament books from the primary source itself!
- To wrestle with the character of the God that unfolds in the Old Testament
- To apprehend the Old Testament's relevance and application to our lives today

III. Required Texts:

The Old Testament. Use a good modern translation

Kaminski, C. *CASKET Study Guide*, 2005


Dowley, T. *The Student Bible Atlas* Candle Books, 1994

IV. Recommended Items:

Kaminski, C. *God’s Story in the Old Testament through CASKET* (laminates)
These are helpful visuals.

V. Requirements and Evaluation:

1. READINGS:
   A. In the Bible
   The Bible will be the primary textbook and the student shall read (not skim!) the O.T. in order to discover each book's individual content for her/himself. Imagine that: reading a substantial portion of your Bible at seminary! Each O.T. book (with few exceptions TBA) must intelligently be read two times (this is not a typo)! Ideally, the readings should be done prior to the class dealing with those books. Please see the class schedule below for details. The readings should be uninterrupted (in one sitting) so that you can get a feel for the book's general content. If possible try to read out loud. More guidelines will be given in class. See below for the specific percentage of the course grade attached to this requirement.

   B. In CASKET
   The CASKET Study Guide serves as a supplement to the Bible readings. It must be read in full before the end of the semester. It is best, however, to read it in conjunction with the Bible books assigned each week as indicated in the syllabus. See below for the specific percentage of the course grade attached to this requirement.

   C. In Dumbrell
   The Faith of Israel is a theological survey of the Old Testament. You are required to skim this text at the very least.

   D. Evaluation and the Readings:
   Reading the O.T. two times and reading the CASKET Study Guide = (50% of course evaluation). The only way to receive full credit here is to do what is required. In other words, reading the O.T. just one time will not earn you 25% out of 50%. There are no other configurations possible. Thus, please understand that you will not be able to pass the course if you do not meet this requirement.

2. EXAMS:
   A. One mid-term exam scheduled for March 20: emphasis on biblical content that includes the Pentateuch through and including 8th century prophets (25%)
   B. One final exam in May (TBA): emphasis on remaining biblical content (25%)
   This commences with 7th century prophets through and including HB II, Wisdom, and Poetical books.
PLEASE NOTE: If you are seeking to fulfill MA/MDiv degree requirements by taking OT 500, you are required to have a passing grade. A passing grade is 60% or higher.

COURSE SCHEDULE: The first purpose of this schedule is to familiarize you with the general content of each class period at a glance. Although I intend to follow this as much as possible, please note that, out of necessity, I may add or subtract from the proposed content in any given week. The second purpose is to provide you with a reading schedule that aligns itself with lecture material. Please be sure to read this carefully and intentionally.

NOTE: I reserve the right to modify course or test content should it be deemed necessary to meet the goals of this course.

JANUARY 23: NO CLASS: PROFESSOR OUT OF TOWN

JANUARY 30

Course Introduction
Setting the Framework: The Relentless Pursuit of Yahweh!
Understanding a People, Place, and Presence (PPP)

Readings for next class: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

FEBRUARY 6

II. The Pentateuch
   2.1 The Big Picture
       2.1.1 The Historical Setting: dating and geography
       2.1.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes/structure

   2.2 Its Individual Parts
       2.2.1 Genesis "The Inviolable Relationship"
       2.2.2 Exodus "Rescued for Relationship"
       2.2.3 Leviticus "Living in Right Relationship"
       2.2.4 Numbers "The Rocky Relationship"
       2.2.5 Deuteronomy "The Renewed Relationship"

   2.3 The Pentateuch: People, Place, and Presence
   2.4 The Pentateuch: Overarching Concept of Covenant

Readings for next class: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel

FEBRUARY 13
III. Historical Books PART I:

3.1 The Big Picture: Establishment Phase: Pre-Exilic
   3.1.1 The Historical Setting: dating and geography
   3.1.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes/structure

3.2 Its Individual Parts
   3.2.1 Joshua "A Relationship with Residents of the Land"
   3.2.2 Judges "A Rebellious Relationship"
   3.2.3 Ruth "A Refreshing Relationship"
   3.2.4 I&II Samuel "A Relationship in Transition"
   3.2.5 I&II Kings "A Rivaled Relationship"

3.3 The Historical Books Part I: People, Place, and Presence
3.4 The HB I: Overarching Concept of Covenant

Readings for next class: I & II Samuel, I & II Kings

NOTE: Over Reading Week get a start on the prophets. I will give more instructions on how to manage this in class.

FEBRUARY 20 (READING WEEK)

FEBRUARY 27

Finish Historical Books PART I

Readings for next class: 9th and 8th Century prophets

MARCH 6

IV. Prophetic Books:
   4.1 Preliminary Points
      4.1.1 Their Focus: The overarching theme of covenant
      4.1.2 Their FANS (Foreigners, Anonymous, North, South)
      4.1.3 Their Fit (in Israelite history)
      4.1.4 Prophets: People, Place, and Presence

Readings for next class: finish 9th and 8th Century prophets

MARCH 13

Prophets & Preparation for mid-term
9th Century
4.2 The Big Picture
   4.2.1 The Historical Setting: the international political situation
   4.2.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes

4.3 Its Individual Parts
   4.3.1 Joel "The Devastated Relationship"
   4.3.2 Obadiah "A Strained Relationship"

8th Century
4.4 The Big Picture
   4.4.1 The Historical Setting: the international political situation
   4.4.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes

4.5 Its Individual Parts
   4.5.1 Amos "A Relationship of Injustice"
   4.5.2 Hosea "An Adulterous Relationship"
   4.5.3 Micah "A Loving and Humble Relationship"
   4.5.4 Jonah "A Merciful and Compassionate Relationship"
   4.5.5 Isaiah "A Holy Restored Relationship"

For next class: prepare for mid-term and TRY to read 7th and 6th Century prophets. At the very least please read CASKET on this section.

MARCH 20
Mid-term & Prophets
7th Century
4.6 The Big Picture
   4.6.1 The Historical Setting: the international political situation
   4.6.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes

4.7 Its Individual Parts
   4.7.1 Zephaniah "A Shameful Relationship"
   4.7.2 Nahum "Nasty Nineveh Knocked Out"
   4.7.3 Habakkuk "A Relationship of Questions"
   4.7.4 Jeremiah/Lamentations "A Relationship taken for Granted"/
   "Grieving over the Broken Relationship"

6th Century
4.8 The Big Picture: The Exile
   4.8.1 The Historical Setting: the international political situation
   4.8.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes

4.9 Its Individual Parts
4.9.1 Ezekiel "A Relationship in Retreat"
4.9.2 Daniel "An Exemplary Relationship"

*For next class: If necessary finish all readings in the prophets and start on Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, I & II Chronicles, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.*

**MARCH 27 (READING WEEK)**

**APRIL 3**

V. The Historical Books Parts II:

5.1 The Big Picture: Rebuilding/Restoration Phase: Post-Exilic
   5.1.1 The Historical Setting: dating and geography
   5.1.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes/structure

5.2 Its Individual Parts
   5.2.1 Ezra "A Reformed Relationship"
   5.2.2 Nehemiah "A Revived/Restored Relationship"
   5.2.3 Esther "A Protected Relationship"
   5.2.4 I & II Chronicles "A Relationship in Review"
   5.2.5 Haggai "Rebuilding and Reflecting on an Apathetic Relationship"
   5.2.6 Zechariah "Rebuilding and Visualizing a New Relationship"
   5.2.7 Malachi "A Robbed Relationship"

5.3 The Historical Books Part II: People, Place, and Presence
5.4 HBII: Overarching Theme of Covenant

*Readings for next class: finish HB II if necessary*  

**APRIL 10**

REVIEW  
SUMMARIZE  
PPP in N.T.

*Readings for next class: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes*

**APRIL 17**

VI. The Wisdom Books:
6.1 The Big Picture  
   6.1.1 The Historical Setting: dating and background  
   6.2.2 The Literary Setting: major events/themes/structure

6.2 Its Individual Parts  
   6.2.1 Job "A Tested Relationship"  
   6.2.2 Proverbs "The Contrast Between a Foolish and Wise Relationship"  
   6.2.3 Ecclesiastes "A Vain Relationship"

6.3 Wisdom Literature and the Overarching Theme of Covenant

Readings for next class: Song of Songs, Psalms

APRIL 24

VII. The Poetical Books:  
   7.1 The Big Picture  
      7.1.1 The Historical Setting: dating and background  
      7.1.2 The Literary Setting: major themes/structure

   7.2 Its Individual Parts  
      7.2.1 Song of Songs "The Relationship of Relationships"  
      7.2.2 Psalms "Praises for the Relationship"

   7.3 The Poetical Books and the Overarching Theme of Covenant

Final Exam: May (TBA)