OT/NT 795 Biblical Theology
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Jacksonville
Spring 2016

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January 29-30
February 26-27
April 1-2

Biblical theology engages the Old and New Testaments as a unified whole to understand their theological content as the unfolding revelation of God and his purposes in history. Despite the diversity of the corpus across multiple authors, literary genres, historical contexts, and three different languages, the discipline proceeds from the view that the 66 books of the canon form a coherent whole, at the center of which stands the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh (John 5:39). The task of biblical theology is to articulate biblical revelation from the beginning of the creation in Genesis to the consummation of all human history in Revelation.

In this course, we will follow redemptive history through the integrating theme of *Yahweh’s Priestly Kingdom*. From Eden to the New Jerusalem, we will explore God’s voluntary binding of himself to humanity in covenant relationship and his offering of the ultimate atoning sacrifice, his Beloved Son, to redeem a people made holy and priests to their God (Revelation 20:6).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Articulate the theological unity of the Old and New Testaments in the unfolding revelation of salvation history by following an integrating theological theme from creation to consummation.

2. Formulate one’s own biblical theological framework in the language of Scripture through the writing of a research paper which integrates and synthesizes historical and exegetical research.

3. Grow in confidence in preaching and teaching within a biblical-theological framework.
**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**


ISBN 978-1581349764


Recommended:

ISBN 978-0830823598

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class participation is essential for the seminar format of this course. We will work closely out of the biblical text to build a grand view of all Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, covering sweeping theological themes through large portions of the text in English and focusing in on key passages in the original Hebrew and Greek. Students should come to class ready to discuss the biblical passages they have prepared and their reflections on the course readings. The preparation for each of our three weekends together is as follows:

**Weekend 1 – January 29-30**

English Bible Reading:
Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus.

Translate:
Genesis 1:26-28
Genesis 2:7-17
Genesis 22:1-2; 12-18
Exodus 19:5-6
Exodus 34:6-7
Numbers 6:24-27

Read: *Strongly encouraged to have read before class. Do as much as possible*
T. Desmond Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem* in its entirety.
Weekend 2 – February 26-27

English Bible Reading:
   Ruth; 1 & 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 8; Psalms 22, 110, 118; Ezekiel 1-12, 36-48; Ezra.

Translate:
   2 Samuel 7:8-16
   Psalm 40:7-8 [MT]
   Isaiah 53:4-12
   Zechariah 3:1-9

Read:

* Student Presentations

Weekend 3 – April 1-2

English Bible Reading:
   Gospel of John; Romans; Hebrews; Revelation.

Translate:
   John 1:14-18, 29
   Romans 8:16-17, 32; 12:1-2
   Philippians 2:5-14
   1 Peter 2:4-10
   Revelation 22:1-4

Read:
   Richard Middleton, A New Heaven and a New Earth.

* Student Presentations

* Book Report Due
COURSE ASSESSMENT

1. Reading Report (10%)
   A report on the percentage of readings completed, inclusive of books and assigned Bible passages.
   Due: May 2, 2016.

2. Translations (20%)
   Translate the above listed Bible passages for each class meeting. Thoughtfully interact with the passages you translate. Note important words and concepts as well as your own questions or observations.
   Due: Friday evening, at the beginning of class. Hard copy, please.

3. Book Report (20%)
   Submit a book review of Richard Middleton’s *A New Heaven and a New Earth*. Summarize his main thesis and critique his position, noting strengths and weaknesses of his argument. Interact with Middleton, noting places of your own agreement or disagreement using scriptural support. 5-7 pages, 1.5 spaced.
   Due: April 2, 2016.

4. Biblical Theology Paper (50%)
   The paper requires students to trace a biblical theological theme of their choice as it develops throughout the Old and New Testaments. The paper is to be developed with exegetical depth using key scriptural passages in both Hebrew and Greek. Students are expected to critically interact with secondary literature, scholarly articles, and academic monographs on the specific topic. Papers should demonstrate clear thought, organization, and writing style. All sources are to be properly cited using SBL citation style according to the SBL student manual. The concluding paragraph should reflect on what the chosen biblical theological theme contributes to our understanding of the church’s mission.

   Students will give a 10 minute presentation based on their research paper on the 2nd and 3rd weekends. As the seminar format of this course places value on learning in community, the class will interact with each presentation to offer helpful feedback and constructive comments.

   Biblical theology papers should be 20-25 pages, 1.5 spaced, 1” margins, 12 pt. font.
Sample paper topics:

- The Kingdom of God
- Covenant People of God
- The Mission of God
- True versus False Worship
- Divine Presence and Absence
- Promise and Fulfillment
- Creation and Re-Creation

Due: May 2, 2016. *Late papers will be assessed a grade penalty.*

**CLASS ETIQUETTE AND POLICIES**

**Attendance.** Class participation is essential for the seminar format of this course. Attendance and active participation are required for all class sessions. According to seminary policy, a letter grade penalty will be assessed for an absence of more than 3 hours.

**Internet Usage.** Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet during class sessions. Checking email, surfing the web, etc., prohibits full participation and is distracting to other students. Please limit internet usage to class breaks.

**Cell Phones.** Please refrain from cell phone use (including texting) during class. Please limit phone usage to class breaks.
Reading Report for OT/NT 795 Biblical Theology

English Bible Readings:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Ruth
1 & 2 Samuel
1 Kings 8
Psalms 22, 110 & 118
Ezekiel 1-12 & 36-48
Ezra
Gospel of John
Romans
Hebrews
Revelation

Required Course Texts:

T. Desmond Alexander, From Eden to the New Jerusalem (Kregel Academic, 2009).

I, ________________________, have read ___% of the above assigned readings.

__________________________
Signature