OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament
Provisional Course Outline Charlotte Fall 2016
Carol M. Kaminski

Course Dates: Sept. 16-17, Oct 14-15, Nov 11-12
Course Times: Fridays 6:30—9:30pm, Saturdays, 8:30am—4:30pm.
Final Exam: TBA

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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

✍ Exams: The course grade will be determined on the basis of a mid-term exam (worth 20%) and a final exam (worth 80%). The midterm exam is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 14 at 6:30pm (class follows). The final exam will be announced at the beginning of class. Both exams 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.

📖 Old Testament Bible Reading: You are required to read the entire Old Testament for this course. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Old Testament you have read. Since the Old Testament is required reading, this means that failure to complete the Old Testament reading will result in points being deducted, which may result in a 1/3 grade penalty (A grade would become A-) up to a full grade penalty.

📖 CASKET EMPTY: Old Testament Study Guide: As a supplement to the biblical material, you are required to read the OT CASKET Study Guide. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the study guide you have completed. Failure to complete the Study Guide will result in points being deducted, up to a 2/3 grade penalty (A would become B+).
Zondervan Essential Atlas of the Bible: This book is required for the course. You are required to read the OT portion of this for course. You will be asked on the final exam what percentage of this book you have read; points will be deducted for incomplete reading.

Teach the Old Testament in a local church context: You are required to teach one study on the Old Testament in a local church context during this semester. You may teach on any section of the Old Testament, or you may choose to give an overview of the Old Testament using the CASKET Timeline. I would recommend that you speak to your pastor from your local church at the beginning of the semester to ask if this kind of opportunity might be made available to you. If you are unable to find a context for teaching, you will be assigned a group comprising of students from class. This will become your “group” for your study on the Old Testament. 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 for the course.

3. In-class Internet Etiquette
☞ Please turn your cell phone to silent mode at the beginning of each class. Internet usage (on computer, ipad/phone) is strictly prohibited during class but permissible during breaks.

4. Required Texts
1) *Kaminski, C. CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. CASKET Study Guide (available in the bookstore, at Amazon 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) Old Testament CASKET PowerPoints are available at www.casketempty.com. (You will be provided an electronic pdf of the PowerPoints via cams for your personal use only.)

* Please note that the OT Study Guide (which includes the OT Timeline) has been translated into Korean (JOY Press, 2016). It is available at the seminary bookstore.

5. Highly recommended
The NIV Archaeology Study Bible (Zondervan, 2005).

6. Grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96.7—100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.5—89.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76.3—79.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66.1—69.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.2 and below</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.9—93.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.7—83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5—72.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59.3—62.6</td>
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Provisional Course Outline

Weekend I: September 16-17

- **CREATION:**
  - Overview of Genesis 1—11 and its major themes.

- **ABRAHAM:**
  - Introduction to the Patriarchs.
  - God’s promises to Abraham; the Abrahamic Covenant.
  - God’s plan to bless the nations through Abraham’s seed.

- **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: God’s unexpected leaders.

📖 Bible Readings for Weekend I:
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth.

📖 Casket Study Guide reading:
Read the Introduction, and chapters 1—3.

Weekend II: October 14-15

- **Mid-term Exam:** Friday, October 10th, 6:30—7:15 pm.

- **KINGS: THE UNITED MONARCHY**
  - The prophet Samuel and the rise of King Saul.
  - The reign of King David and the Davidic Covenant.
  - Psalms and wisdom literature.
  - The reign of King Solomon and the building of the temple.
  - The division of the kingdom.
• **KINGS: THE NORTHERN KINGDOM**
  - The northern kings from Jeroboam I to Hoshea.
  - The prophets Hosea, Amos and Jonah.
  - The end of the northern kingdom and the rise of the Assyrian Empire.

• **KINGS: THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM (Part 1)**
  - The southern kings from Rehoboam to Hezekiah.
  - The prophets Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah.

📖 **Bible reading:**
  1—2 Samuel, 1—2 Kings, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah.

📖 **Casket Study Guide reading:** Chapters 4—6

**Weekend III: Nov 11—12**

• **KINGS: THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM (Part 2)**
  - The southern kings from Manasseh to Zedekiah.
  - The prophets Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Joel, Nahum, Obadiah and Ezekiel.
  - The demise of the southern kingdom.
  - The rise of the Babylonian Empire.

• **EXILE:**
  - The seventy year exile in Babylon, and hope beyond the judgment.

• **TEMPLE:**
  - The return from exile and rebuilding of the temple.
  - The prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.
  - The historical books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

📖 **Bible Readings:**
  1—2 Chronicles; Ezekiel, Daniel, Lamentations; Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Malachi.

📖 **Casket Study Guide reading:** Chapters 7—9
MID TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE

You will need to know the following dates, events and Bible references for the midterm (Even though we will not have covered all these periods, you need to know everything on this study guide for the midterm).

- **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
  - Davidic covenant: 2 Sam. 7, 1 Chronicles 17
  - 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 need to be able to identify the basic content and historical context of the following Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1—2 Samuel, 1—2 Kings, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Proverbs and Job.
- **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).

**Reviewing for the Midterm exam: Quizlet.com**
Flash cards have been posted on Quizlet.com. You will need to sign up for this website, and then search for the flashcards by typing in “CasketEmpty Old Testament.”
Old Testament Survey 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 known 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 mid-term study guide, including all the dates, biblical texts, key events associated with the dates, and the prophetic books.
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 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.
   6. The theological reasons for the exile.
   7. Be able to identify whether a king is Assyrian, Babylonian or Persian:
      Assyrian kings: Tiglath Pileser III, Shalmaneser V, Sargon II.
      Babylonian kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Nabonidus.
      Persian kings: Cyrus, Darius I, Xerxes I, and Artaxerxes.
   9. You will be required to know the significance of the following ANE inscriptions:
      The Gilgamesh Epic, the Black Obelisk, the Tel Dan Inscription, the Taylor Prism, the Cyrus Cylinder, the Nabonidus Chronicler.
10. You are required to know the canonical order of the Old Testament books (not reproduce but identify the correct answer, multiple choice question).
Book Summaries:
You are required to know the following OT books in-depth, which should including knowing
a) the historical context and period, b) key events and people, c) major themes, d) 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.

Selected Bibliography
Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer, Readings from the Ancient Near East (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002).
Childs, B.S. Old Testament Theology in Canonical Context.
Clines, D. J. A., The Theme of the Pentateuch (JSOTSup, 10; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1979).
Gentry, P. and J. Wellum, The Kingdom through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the
from the Biblical World (Leiden, Boston, Köln: E.J. Brill, 2002).


Horton, Michael, God of Promise: Introduction to Covenant Theology (Baker, 2006).


Kaminski, C.M, From Noah To Israel: Realization of the Primaeval Blessing After the Flood (JSOTSup 413; T&T Clark, 2004).

__________, Was Noah Good? Finding Favour in the Flood Narrative (LHBOTS; T&T Clark, 2014).


____, Ancient Orient and Old Testament (Downers Grove, IL and Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1966)


Kline, Meredith G., By Oath Consigned. A Reinterpretation of the Covenant Signs of Circumcision and Baptism (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1968).

____, Kingdom Prologue (South Hamilton, MA: M. G. Kline, 1993; revised edition by Two Age Press, 2000; reprinted by Wipf and Stock, 2006).

____, Tracing the Eschatological Movement of the Kingdom of God from Creation to Consummation (Two Age Press, 2002)


Moberly, R.W.L., At the Mountain of God: Story and Theology in Exodus 32—34 (JSOT Sup22; JSOT Press, 1983).


Niehaus, Jeffrey J., Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2008)


Wilson, R.R. *Genealogy and History in the Biblical World* (YNER 7; New Haven, Yale University, 1977).


Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the Academic Calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester as noted on the seminary’s Registration Calendar are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required in this case. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the stated date. Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those
individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

**Returned Work**
Submitted hard-copy course work will be returned to the students if they provide a self-addressed and postage-paid envelope with their final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed after the grade has been assessed and issued.

**Virtual Writing Center**

Free assistance in writing papers is available to students through the Virtual Writing Center at Gordon Conwell. The Virtual Writing Center is staffed by Gordon Conwell graduates, or writing tutors with specialized knowledge in writing and/or ESL. Generally, this service is available to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in one of the following three classes:

- CT500 (Introduction to Theological Research)
- CO501 (Introduction to Counseling Research)
- IS502 (Theological Research and Writing)

If you enrolled in GCTS before Fall 2008, you were not required to take one of the three prerequisites above, and you may request access to the Virtual Writing Center. Also, ESL writing tutors are available to ESL students even if they are not currently enrolled in a degree program. If you do not meet one of these qualifications, but feel you would benefit from using the Virtual Writing Center, contact us and we will evaluate your status.

Email writingcenter@gordonconwell.edu for more information.