GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – CHARLOTTE

OT 500: Old Testament Survey Syllabus

Course Instructor: Dr. Cristian Rata Email: crata@gordonconwell.edu
Phone: 704-756-0978
Office Hours: TBA

Class Meeting Times: Fridays (6:30-9:30 p.m.); Saturdays (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
Feb. 5-6; Mar. 5-6; Apr. 9-10

Class Location: Charlotte Classroom
Syllabus Date: January, 2010

I. Course Description
OT 500 is a survey of the primary content of Old Testament books and themes.
Note: A significant amount of reading is due before the first weekend.

II. Course Objective
To provide an appreciation for and cohesive understanding of the major figures,
events, and themes of the Old Testament and its foundational relationship to the
New Testament. The objective follows directly from the first priority in the
GCTS Mission Statement: “to become knowledgeable of God’s inerrant Word.”

III. Course Resources
Required:
A study Bible (Note: The ESV Study Bible is preferred. Please bring your Bible to
class each weekend!)
Knowing Jesus through the Old Testament, C. J. H. Wright (IVP, 1995).
How to Read the Bible Book by Book, G. D. Fee & D. Stuart (Zondervan, 2002)

Recommended:
How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, G. D. Fee & D. Stuart (Zondervan, 2003)

IV. Course Requirements and Grading (graduating seniors see campus deadlines)
Student attendance is required. Unexcused absences will result in a 5 point
reduction on the final grade.
-45% of the final grade is for three quizzes (multiple choice), each comprised of
30-40 questions, and each worth 15% of the final grade. Due dates: 2/20; 3/20; 4/24.
-45% is for the final exam (essay), due (signed by the proctor) on May 7 by 5
pm.
Please note: You may not use a Bible or any notes during the quizzes or final
exam.
-5% reflects **timely reading** of assigned readings. Reading log due with the final exam (5/7).

-5% is based on a **power point presentation** introducing the content of a biblical book (or portion) to an audience of your choice (details discussed in class), **due in Blackboard digital dropbox by 5 p.m. on 4/2.** Label file in the following format: BOOK NAME (in caps) – Student Name (no space) – Sp10 (Example: ESTHER-ChrisRata-Sp10.ppt).

The first slide should have student name, Biblical book, intended audience, and Bible translation used. If you turn in a CD (rather than posting through Blackboard) please put your name on it!

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Memorization of selected passages from the OT. Passages have to be approved by the professor in advance. Maximum extra credit = 5 points of the final grade.

**GRADES**

Letter grades for this course are based on the following scale:

- A  94-100
- A-  90-93
- B+  87-89
- B   86-86
- B-  80-83
- C+  77-79
- C   74-76
- C-  70-73
- D+  67-69
- D   64-66
- D-  60-63
- F   Failure

**V. COURSE ADMINISTRATION**

Quizzes and exams must be taken under the supervision of an approved proctor.

**PROCTORS** are responsible non-GCTS students, non-family members, affiliated with an institution, who must sign the quiz or exam, verifying that it was opened and taken in their presence.

**PROCTORS** must place finished quizzes and exams inside envelopes, seal them, and sign over the flap. Student will mail or hand-deliver them to the seminary.

**You may NOT use a word-processor for the quizzes or final exam.**

**You may NOT use a Bible or any notes for the quizzes or final exam.**
**LATE WORK**
Due dates are the dates a quiz or exam is to be proctored (not postmarked). Any quiz/exam taken late will receive one full letter grade per week penalty.

**FINAL NOTE**
This syllabus represents a learning covenant between us. I would like to suggest that we agree to the following statements of intention together at the beginning of this session and ask God to bless the time we set aside for becoming better acquainted with His Word.

**Professor:** It is my intention to prepare well for class presentations and to make them informative and edifying. I will seek to bring the kind of order and structure to the material which the Bible invites. I also intend to show proper respect for God’s holy Word which it deserves.

**Student:** It is my intention to engage in this learning process actively, to seek understanding and mastery of the content of Scripture as a spiritual responsibility. I will read all of the assigned readings with a prayerful attitude, asking God to enrich me with this concentrated exposure of His truth.
COURSE SCHEDULE – OT 500 Spring 2010

Weekend I (Feb. 5-6): The TORAH

**Part 1** Introductory reflections
Genesis 1-11 as Prologue; Genesis 12-50: The Patriarchs and the Promise
Readings: *Genesis* (1-11, 12, 15, 17, 22, 25, 27, 37, 50);
*Fee/Stuart: Genesis; Youngblood* (chps. 1-3)

**Part 2** The Exodus and Wilderness Sojourn
Readings: *Exodus* (1-4; 12-17; 19-24, 40)
*Numbers* (9-17; 20-25)
*Fee/Stuart: Exodus & Numbers; Youngblood* (chps. 4, 9)

**Part 3** The Sinai Covenant, The Tabernacle, Holidays and Ritual System
Readings: *Leviticus* (1-9; skim 11-15), *Deuteronomy* (1-12; 19; 27-34)
*Fee & Stuart: Leviticus & Deuteronomy; Youngblood* (chps. 5, 7, 8)

2/20  **Proctored Quiz on Torah Due**

Weekend II (Mar. 5-6): The TORAH

**Part 1** The Conquest and Settlement
Readings: *Joshua-Ruth*
*Fee/Stuart: Joshua-Ruth; Youngblood* (chps.6, 10)

**Part 2** The Histories of the Kings of Israel
Readings: *1 Samuel* (1-11, 15-16), *2 Samuel* 1-8 [skim 11-19], *24*, 1 *Kings* (1-3; 8-11), *2 Kings* (18-25);
*Fee/Stuart: 1&2 Samuel, 1& 2 Kings; 1&2 Chronicles*

**Part 3** Hebrew Poetry and Wisdom Literature
Readings: *Job* (1-7; 28-42), *Psalms* (1-3, 8, 22, 41—42, 48, 51, 72-73, 89-91, 93-100, 127-134, 145-150), *Proverbs* (1-10, 30-31); One of the following (skim the other 2) *Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs; Lamentations*.
*Fee & Stuart: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Lamentations*

3/20  **Proctored Quiz on Historical and Poetic Books Due**

Power Point presentation CD due on 4/2
Weekend III (Apr. 9-10): The Prophets & the Restoration Period

Part 1 Pre-Exilic Prophets and Prophecies
Readings: Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah (1-11; 36-39; 40-66), Micah, Nahum
Fee/Stuart: Isaiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, Nahum

Part 2 Exilic Prophets and Prophecies
Readings: Jeremiah (1-4; 18-25; 28-39; 52), Ezekiel (1-7, 10, 16, 34, 40-43), Daniel, Obadiah, Habbakuk, Zephaniah
Fee/Stuart: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Obadiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

Part 3 The Post-exilic Prophets, The “Restoration” and Second Temple Period
Readings: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
Fee/Stuart: Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Part 4 Pulling the pieces together
The Old “Testament” and the New Testament
Readings: Wright (complete)

4/24 Proctored Quiz on Prophetic books due

5/10 FINAL Essay Exam and Reading Log Due

FINAL EXAM ESSAYS: (no notes, no Bibles, no word processors)
You will write comprehensive essays on three of the following topics. Provide detailed examples from as many parts of the OT as possible.

*Covenant/Election/Promise
*Sacrality/Ritual/Worship
**”Deuteronomic” History
*Nature of God
*The OT and the NT
*Torah
*Wisdom Literature
*Psalms
*Prophets
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Percentage Read</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The TORAH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>BIBLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fee/Stuart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youngblood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History &amp; Poetry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>BIBLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fee/Stuart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youngblood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prophets and Restoration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>BIBLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fee/Stuart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youngblood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wright</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[This syllabus is based on the syllabus of Dr. Tim Laniak for OT 500 - Spring 2007]