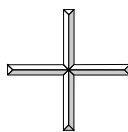


BETHEL SEMINARY



GENESIS – RUTH OT 101§DE

SYLLABUS

FALL 2006

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"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"
"That's depends a good deal on where you want to get to."... (*Alice in Wonderland*)

The passion of Bethel Seminary is to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ among all people in culturally sensitive ways. As a Spirit-empowered, biblically grounded community of learning, Bethel strives to develop and equip whole and holy persons to serve and lead so that churches and ministry agencies can become all they are called to be and do in the world for the glory of God.

The objectives and assignments of OT101 are designed in light of this statement of mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the books of Genesis through Ruth, including the contents, major themes, and theological messages of each. Special emphasis is placed on the nature and significance of God's promises and covenants with His people. Special attention also is given to legitimate ways of reading the Bible. This involves understanding the particular qualities of narrative literature and Old Testament law, and developing a valid hermeneutic for interpreting them. Attention is given to the application of these biblical texts to current issues in society and your personal life.

Prerequisite or concurrent enrollment: BT101/BI101.

COURSE CONTENT

When I started seminary I was most familiar with the New Testament. So no surprise...that's where I was most comfortable both in my own personal devotions and in preaching and teaching. It dawned on me that what I was almost purposely ignorant of was the only Bible Jesus and Paul ever read (Matt. 4; 2 Tim 3:15-16; Rom. 15:4, etc). It was the Bible Phillip and Peter used in evangelism and Paul used in church planting. It was a text that has profoundly influenced Western civilization.

So, I am eager to help you get a "bird's eye view" of the Torah and the first few "historical books" of the Hebrew Bible so that you can better understand the details "on the ground" you will be studying later, both in elective courses and in your ongoing ministry as you prepare to communicate "the whole counsel of God."

COURSE BENEFITS

Upon completion of this course you should be able to

- ✓ state the basic facts with respect to each book's setting, theme, and content and recount the "story line" of this portion of the Hebrew Bible. As you prepare for vocational ministry, this is essential to teaching and preaching the "whole counsel of God." As St. Jerome (340?-420AD) claimed in the prologue to his commentary on Isaiah, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."
- ✓ trace and synthesize core theological themes. A good facility in biblical theology is essential to "doing" theology in contemporary settings.
- ✓ locate the historical/geographical/cultural setting of main events recorded in this portion of the Hebrew Bible. Whether in the pulpit, study group, or counsellor's office, clear exposition requires an understanding of the context of revelation.
- ✓ describe the key characteristics of the main literary genres and show how such understanding affects your understanding of the text
- ✓ demonstrate greater skill in interpreting the Scripture. This will benefit both you and all those to whom you minister.
- ✓ describe and assess modern critical theories regarding the Torah. These are issues that educated layfolk grapple with and, therefore, pastors and teachers must be familiar with.
- ✓ more effectively and faithfully apply the 77% of Scripture we call the Old Testament in life and ministry. This is critical because the whole Bible really is the Christ-follower's Bible.
- ✓ articulate personal objectives achieved.

COURSE LITERATURE

Primary literature: (required)

Bible. (Whichever translation you are comfortable with. International students may use a translation in their mother-tongue) An on-line concordance featuring several Bible translations can be found at [BibleGateway](#).

Secondary literature: (required)

Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Paradise to the Promised Land*. Grand Rapids: Baker 1995 (Abbr. PPL in Agenda)

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. N.Y.: Basic Books, 1981. (Abbr. ABN in Agenda)

Dillard, Raymond and Tremper Longman. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. (Abbr. as IOT in Agenda)

Supplemental resources: (*assigned reading but not required to purchase)

Abrahams, Samuel. "A Black Theological Perspective on the Old Testament," *OT Essays: Journal of the OT Society of S. Africa* 7/4 (1994) 244-53.

Ackroyd, Peter. "the Place of the Old Testament in the Church's Teaching & Worship." *ET* 74 (1963): 164-7.

Anderson, Bernhard. "Introduction: The Old Testament as a Christian Problem." In *The O.T. & Christian Faith*. N.Y.: Harper & Row, 1963.

Alexander, David, Pat Alexander. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (This is especially helpful if one has never read a particular book of the Bible)

Averbeck, Richard E. "The Sumerian Historiographic Tradition and Its Implications for Genesis 1-11" In *Faith, Tradition, & History*, ed. A.R. Millard, J.K. Hoffmeier, and D.W. Baker, 79-102. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1994.

Barr, Stephen. *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith*. Notre Dame: Univ. of Notre Dame, 2003.

*Beecher, Willis. *The Prophets and the Promise*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2002 (Abbr. P&P in Agenda)

- Clines, David J.A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. JSOTS 10. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1978.
- Dalley, Stephanie. *Myths from Mesopotamia : creation, the flood, Gilgamesh, and others*. N.Y.: Oxford, 2000.
- Dembski, William A. *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999.
- Dorsey, David. "The Use of the O.T. Law in the Christian Life." *Ev J* 17 (1999) 1-18.
- Getui, Mary N , ed. *Interpreting the Old Testament in Africa : papers from the International Symposium on Africa and the Old Testament in Nairobi, October 1999*. N.Y.: Oxford 2001
- Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition*. NY: Oxford, 1997.
- Holter, Knut. *Tropical Africa & the O.T.: A selected & Annotated Bibliography*. Oslo: University of Oslo, 1996
- Kaiser,, Walter. *The Christian & the "Old" Testament*. Pasadena: Carey, 1998.
- _____. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Downers Grove: IVP, 2001
- _____. *Toward Rediscovering the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Academic, 1987.
- *Kitchen, Kenneth. "The Patriarchal Age : Myth or History?" *BAR* 21 (1995) 48-57, 88, 90-92, 94-95.
- Kline, Meredith. *The Treaty of the Great King :the Covenant Structure of Deuteronomy*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963.
- Livingston, G. H. *The Pentateuch in its Cultural Environment*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.
- Longman, Tremper. *How to Read Genesis*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2005
- Mafico, Temba. "The O.T. & Effective Evangelism in Africa." *Int. Rev. of Missions* 75 (1986):400-409.
- _____. "Contribution of the O.T. to Missionary Effectiveness in Africa." *Missiology* 7 (1979):110-111.
- Oduyoye, Modupe. *The Sons of God and the Daughters of Men: An Afro-Asiatic Interpretation of Genesis 1-11*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1984.
- Ogunrinu, T.B. "The Genesis Account of Creation and Its Relationship to Cosmogony," *UMTC - Journal of Theological Studies* (United Missionary Theological College, Nigeria) 1 (1995) 47-55.
- Pope-Levinson, Priscilla and John Levinson, eds. *Return to Babel : global perspectives on the Bible* . Louisville: John Knox, 1999.
- *Pritchard, J.B. *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts & Pictures*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1958. (Abbr. ANE1 in Agenda)
- *Pritchard, J.B. *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts & Pictures*, Vol. 2. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976. (Abbr. ANE2 in Agenda)
- Rasmussen, Carl. *NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989. (Abbreviated NAB in assignments)
- *Robinson, Haddon. "The Heresy of Application." *Leadership Journal* 18 (1997) 20-27.
- Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch as Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- *Schreiner, Thomas. "[Preaching and Biblical Theology](#)," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 10,2 (sum. 2006): 20-29.
- Thompson, J.A. *Handbook of Life in Biblical Times*. Leicester: InterVarsity, 1986.
- Walton, John H. *Ancient Israelite Literature in its Cultural Context*. (2nd ed.) Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.
- West, Gerald and Musa Dube, eds. *The Bible in Africa*. Boston: Brill, 2001.

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

In any field of study, new concepts and new vocabulary may make the work seem a bit heavier at the beginning, but it will lighten up as we go (assignments will become somewhat lighter and, as you get used to them, they will become easier).

Since we take matters of personal growth and preparation for ministry seriously, regular and intentional participation in class sessions and group work is expected.

And remember Joshua 1:5-9! That would be a good passage to commit to memory if you haven't already.

Assignment Checklist:

- ✓ READINGS (10%) : Due as assigned on Agenda You get to dig into primary sources. Be looking for how an ancient Israeli believer saw the world. This will be supplemented with readings in selected secondary literature. To facilitate "getting the big picture" you will read each Bible book at one sitting. You are responsible to keep a record of completing your reading assignments on-time. You will be asked to report your reading record on the exam. See Agenda for due dates.

- ▶ The entire text of each Bible book (any version) is to read at one sitting.
- ▶ The associated chapters in Dillard & Longman are to be studied along with your Bible reading.

- ▶ Alexander's *From Paradise to the Promised Land* as assigned
- ▶ Robinson's "Heresy of Application"
- ▶ Schreiner's "Preaching and Biblical Theology"
- ▶ Kitchen's "The Patriarchal Age"
- ▶ Pritchard's *ANET* selections
- ▶ Beecher's *Prophets and the Promise* chs 8-9
- ▶ Alter's *Art of Biblical Narrative*

- ✓ INVESTIGATION (25%): You get to engage in a more detailed research in engaging in investigation of Deuteronomy 6 and writing a 2500 word **exegetical paper** (excl. bibliography & appendix) of the results of your investigation.

The paper will be accompanied by an appendix containing a syntactical layout (map) with exegetical outline and a one page homiletical outline. (For an approach refer to W.C. Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology* (esp. syntactical layout. See pp. 99-103, 165-181) and H.W. Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*.) See [guidelines on web site](#).

- ✓ ANALYSIS & REFLECTION (15%): You get to enhance your spiritual development under the discipline of the Word of God through Personal Application Portfolio. In addition to being mini-exegetical exercises, these are intended to *facilitate personal reflection on the texts* we are working with. Be sure they are *personal, specific and practical*. See [guidelines on website](#).

Assigned passages are: Deuteronomy 11:1-18; Genesis 22:1-19; Exodus 18:13-23; Leviticus 16:1-22; Numbers 14:1-19; Joshua 24:1-15; Judges 2:6-23; Ruth 4:13-22.

- ✓ INTERACTION (15%): One of the opportunities you have to develop life-long learning skills is your involvement interacting with others' perspectives on issues. You get to interact with others (scholars, ministers, and others) on issues related to the material you are studying by means of readings and [Interactive Reviews](#). As you interact with these persons, analyze the perspective they bring to the issue, their philosophical and theological presuppositions, evaluate their handling of the evidence, and respond to the conclusions they offer. The fruit of this interaction will be evident in your discussions on the discussion board and in class and in the assigned interactive reviews.

Interactive reviews:

- R. Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chs 3-5 (limit 750 words)
- W.J. Beecher, *The Prophets & the Promise*, chs 8-9 (limit 750 words)
- K. Kitchen, "Patriarchal Age" (limit 500 words)
- H. Robinson, "Heresy" (limit 500 words)
- T. Schreiner, "Preaching" (limit 500 words)

You also get to engage with peers in a case study in formation & leadership. (Worksheet 5 & choice of 6,7 or 8)

- ✓ PARTICIPATION (10%): Consistent, constructive participation in our common enterprise is expected. This involves interaction both in the classroom and via Blackboard.
- ✓ ASSESSMENT (25%): Based on the learning approaches mentioned above, assessment of your progress in the course is multi-faceted. It includes successful completion of the assigned written and group and an exam.

N.b.: [Guides and resources](#) for these assignments are available on the OT101 website.

Submitting Assignments:

All written assignments are to be submitted in either MSWord or WordPerfect format. The filename given each assignment **must** follow a prescribed protocol. The filename will include *course number, section, term, your last name, and assignment name*. For example **ot101DE-f06-jones-PAPortfolio**. Documents submitted without this filenaming protocol may not be registered and graded.

All written assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard Discussion Board or Assignments Page by midnight Saturday of the week assigned. Discussions can continue through the following Wednesday.

Miscellany:

- Policies: Refer to the seminary catalogue and student handbook for policies that apply to all courses.
- Attendance: Unexcused absence and multiple tardiness will result in reduction of grade.
- Auditing: Since auditors, by definition, are not expected to complete assignments and assessments, it is expected that they will not normally participate in class discussions.
- Late work: It is expected that all assignments will be completed on time. Normally late work will not be accepted. (Circumstances that a congregation would accept for postponing a Sunday sermon may be considered with grade reduction.) An Incomplete Contract may be approved for extenuating circumstances and may involve a reduction of the final grade.
- Etiquette: Phones and beepers to be turned off during class. Tape recording is not permitted inasmuch as it can inhibit class participation. Men: hats off, please.
- Accessibility: Accommodations for student with documented disabilities are arranged through the Office of Disability Services. Contact Kathy McGillivray at 651-635-8759 (on campus ext. 8759).
- The professor may modify or otherwise supplement this syllabus and/or class instructions via Blackboard or e-mail. Other course material is available on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to avail herself or himself to such resources and check Blackboard and/or their email for such notices.

COURSE ASSESSMENT _____

The course grade will be earned on the basis of the following factors:

Class preparation & participation	
Reading assignment completed on time.	10%
Discussion & Participation	10%
Written assignments	
Personal Application Portfolio	15%
Interactive Reviews	15%
Research Paper	25%
Exam.	25%

COURSE AGENDA _____ §OT101 INMIN

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week of 10/2	Telecon: Course Introduction	Worksheet 1 (submit via Blackboard prior to teleconference); Read: IOT 17-36; Read Genesis (in one sitting-- about 3 hrs) & sketch impressions; + IOT; PPL 1-57; Read ** Akkadian Creation Epic, Enuma Elish, tablet 4-6a (blue text), ANE1 31-39 - sketch impressions Read Kitchen "Patriarchal Age" - post interactive review and interact with one other; Read Exodus (in one sitting--about 2:30) & sketch impressions; + IOT; Read PPL 63-94; Skim **Code of Hammurabi, ANE1 138-167 & sketch impressions.
Week of 10/9		Read Leviticus (in one sitting--about 1:45) sketch impressions; +IOT; Read PPL 98-142 Read Numbers (in one sitting--about 2:30) & sketch impressions; +IOT; Read PPL 143-158 Read Deuteronomy (in one sitting--about 2:10) & sketch impressions; +IOT ; Read PPL 162-189 Read** Hittite Treaty, ANET², 203-205 (ANET³ 548-550) ;

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week of 10/16	Deuteronomy: Living Under the Treaty of the Great King	Skim **“ Physical Settings ” chs 1-3; Learn modern and ancient states in Middle East. Read Joshua (in one sitting—about 1:25) & sketch impressions; +IOT; Read Judges (in one sitting—about 1:25) & sketch impressions; +IOT; Read Ruth (in one sitting—about :11) & sketch impressions; +IOT; Read Robinson, “Heresy” - post review & interact with one other; Read **Schreiner, “Biblical Theology” - post review & interact with one other; Read Alter - post Interactive review & interact with one other; Read: **W.J. Beecher, <i>The Prophets & the Promise</i> , chs 8-9; Post Interactive review & interact with one other.
Week of 10/23	<i>Monday:</i> Hebrew Bible: composition, setting, nature & purpose; Introduction issues Deuteronomy: How Covenant People Should Live <i>Tuesday:</i> Genesis: Prolegomena, Promise and Fulfilment <i>Wednesday:</i> Exodus: Redemption & Righteousness Leviticus: Living in the Presence of a Holy God <i>Thursday:</i> Numbers: Wages of Sin; Hope of New Beginning Joshua: Living with the God Who is There <i>Friday:</i> Judges: Law & Grace Ruth: Providence	
Week of 10/30	Intensive Week Two	
Week of 11/6	Issues in Leadership Forum Personal Applications	Case study (see Worksheet 5 and choice of 6, 7 or 8) -post your analysis & engage discussion group Work on PAs
Week of 11/13	Research	Work on Exegetical Paper
Week of 11/20	Research	Work on Exegetical Paper
Week of 11/27	Revising	Exegetical Paper Due Portfolio Due;
Week of 12/4	Review	Online Exam completed by 11 PM, 9 Dec. ** elink to text on website