

**Western Seminary - Sacramento**

**OTS 561VM Old Testament Theology: Exegesis**

2 credits

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**Syllabus: Summer 2010**

***Course Schedule***

Friday, Saturday, May 7-8 and June 4-5, 2010  
Each day from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

***Course Description***

The field of Old Testament theology has undergone many changes thanks to the significant contributions of certain key individuals in the history of the discipline. In order to be a good practitioner of Old Testament theology, the student must become familiar with the various significant issues and people of this field of study. The theology of the Pentateuch will serve as the stepping stone to develop a theology for the whole Tanakh. The first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures form the foundation for the progressive unfolding of the remainder of the Bible. You will learn the origins, development and principles of biblical theology and will apply the practice of biblical theology to difficult and celebrated texts in these books. The various themes of the Tanakh will be discussed and we will seek to determine how those themes unite to form a unified theological framework: promise, covenant, offspring, remnant, holiness, Rock theology, the Spirit in the Old Testament, Messiah, OT Ethics and the Kingdom of God. The unified theological framework suggested is the idea of 'Restoration'. In this class you will learn how the people of Israel were the first endowment of God's restoration plan, and how God is working to put together a kingdom that includes the peoples of all nations. It will show how God is planning the restoration of God's reign through Messiah here on earth. Further how the kingdom of Israel is a foretaste of the kingdom of God under the Messiah and how the principle of the OT ethics is the same principle under which the ethics of the Kingdom operate.

Prerequisites for taking it as an OTS class: OTS 501-502 or OTS 508-509

***Class Goals:***

1. This class will help students to understand ancient Israel's religious ideas and beliefs as explained in the Tanakh.
2. This class will provide students with guidelines for the interpretation of the biblical material in its theological context.
3. To enable the student to understand and utilize the principles of Biblical Theology.
4. This class will help students to develop an appreciation for the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Scriptures.
5. To enhance the student's appreciation of the relevance of the Old Testament for Christian faith, practice and doctrine.

- To help the student become a more competent practitioner of Old Testament theology.

## Text Books

*Please support your seminary by using the following link for all your Amazon purchases – a minimum of 4% comes to Western Seminary.* Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

- Bruce K. Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007) 978-0-310-21897-5
- Eugene H. Merrill, *Everlasting Dominion: A Theology of the Old Testament*, (Nashville: B&H, 2006) 978-0805440263
- John Sailhamer, *The Meaning of the Pentateuch*, (Downers Grove: IVP, 2009) 978-0-8308-3867-7

## Class Requirements:

- Students are expected to attend all meetings of this class unless hindered by circumstances beyond control. (26 hours) We will take a one hour lunch break between 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm.
- One research project will be required of the student.

**OTS Students** should write a new exegetical research paper that should be a minimum of 15 pages in length (double spacing). The paper will be due June 30, 2010, and must be e-mailed to the professor. (40 hours). One of the following passages should be chosen:

- Jer. 31:23-40
- Ezek. 36:16-38
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Joel 3:1-4:8 (MT verse numbering; English verse numbering: 2:28-3:8)

The Teacher will provide further instruction in class on what is supposed to be included in an exegetical paper.

- Students will prepare for each class meeting by reading the pages assigned in the textbooks. The readings due need to be finished before class time. Readings will be on two levels: Mastery and Familiarity. Mastery level (**ML**) assumes careful interaction with the ideas, note taking and be able to discuss these ideas in class or on an exam. Familiarity Level (**FL**) assumes highlighting and general acquaintance with the ideas in the text but not specific points or details. (24 hours)

## Course Schedule (approximation)

	Topic	hour
5-7	Content	Syllabus discussion
		1-3

		Introduction The Methodology of Old Testament Theology (part 1)	
	<b>Reading</b>	Waltke (pp.27-92, <b>ML</b> , 3 ¼ hours)	
<b>5-7</b>	<b>Content</b>	The Methodology of Old Testament Theology (part 2) Major Theological Themes The Promise	<b>3-6 ½</b>
	<b>Reading</b>	Merrill (pp. 1-33, <b>ML</b> , 1 ½ hours)	
<b>5-8</b>	<b>Content</b>	The Promise (part 2) The Covenants (Part 1)	<b>6 ½ -9 ½</b>
	<b>Reading</b>	Merrill, (God: His Person and His Work pp.37-162, <b>FL</b> , 3 ¼ hours) Sailhamer, The Meaning of the Pentateuch (pp. 11-56, <b>ML</b> 2 ¼ hours)	
<b>5-8</b>	<b>Content</b>	The Covenants Part 2	<b>9 ½ -13</b>
	<b>Reading</b>	Merrill, Kingdom of God (pp. 277-323, <b>FL</b> , 1 ½ hours)	
<b>6-4</b>	<b>Content</b>	Sailhamer's approach The Remnant in Biblical Theology	<b>13-16</b>
	<b>Reading</b>	Waltke (pp. 93-142, <b>FL</b> , 1 ½ hours)	
<b>6-4</b>	<b>Content</b>	Rock Theology Messiah The Kingdom of God	<b>16-19 ½</b>
	<b>Reading</b>	Merrill, (The theology of the Prophets, part1, 491-565, <b>FL</b> , 2 ½ hour)	
<b>6-5</b>	<b>Content</b>	The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament Holiness and God	<b>19 ½ -22 ½</b>
	<b>Reading</b>	Waltke, (pp.143-345, <b>FL</b> , 5 hours)	
<b>6-5</b>	<b>Content</b>	Ethics Death and the Afterlife in the OT	<b>22 ½ - 26</b>
	<b>Reading</b>	Merrill, (chapter 7 &19, pp. 199-225; 603-639, <b>FL</b> , 2 hour)	

## **Workload Standards (approved by APC 10/8/01)**

Mastery <sup>1</sup> Reading	
Technical	20 pages / hour
Other	30 pages / hour
Familiarity <sup>2</sup> Reading	45 pages / hour
Writing Research Papers	1/2 page / hour
Writing Reflection Papers	2 pages / hour
"Lexicon Only" Translation	
Beginning	2 - 3 lines / hour
Advanced	5 - 7 lines / hour
Vocabulary Memory	15 words / hour (plus time to review previous vocab.)
Major exam preparation	7 hours

### **Disability Statement**

“Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary’s Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator’s office.”

### **Point Distribution and Grading Scale**

Reading	30 %
Research Paper	50 %
class participation	20 %

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
99-100	95-98%	94-93%	92-91%	90-88%	87-86%	85-84%	83-81%	80-79%	78-77%	76-74%	73-70%

### **STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN WORK (MLA)**

Papers must be written to a near-thesis standard. That is, minimum format standards must be met, as defined below. English grammar, idiom, and spelling must be up to graduate level. Always include a strong introduction paragraph (declare what you intend to show the reader) and conclusion paragraph. Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

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<sup>1</sup> Mastery assumes careful interaction with the ideas, note taking and will lead to accountability in class, papers and tests.

<sup>2</sup> Familiarity assumes highlighting and general acquaintance with the ideas in the text but not specific points or details.

This course employs the MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide. The basic elements are:

- Double-spacing, except for block quotes
- Single space block quotes
- Page numbers appear at the upper right on every text page
- Use footnotes or parenthetical citations.
- Footnotes and parenthetical references follow standard format.

Helpful web sites on MLA style include:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/>

[These websites are expanded and pasted into Western Seminary's "How to Write a Research Paper" located at <http://www.westernseminary.edu/papers/Faculty/WGuideNu.doc> ]

A good website with footnote/bibliography entries is:

<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

For assignments that require the use of non-course texts and include a bibliography, of the resources mentioned in the bibliography for your project/paper, two must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each book as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

All work must reflect master's level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of assignment.

## **LIBRARY AND INTERNET RESEARCH – SACRAMENTO**

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit [www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento](http://www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento)
- Click the link "Library Services" in the right navigation pane.

### **Reserve Collection**

The library carries all required readings for this course.

### **Print Resources**

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link "Search the Library Collection Online".

## Periodical & Research Databases

As you complete your assignments for this course, don't forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link "Research Databases" from the bottom menu.
- Click the link "Ebsco Host Research Databases".
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link "EBSCOhost Web".
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*.

To cite your information, consider the following MLA composers:

<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Western-Arcade Library the ministry related software *BibleWorks* for student use.

## Course Packs (if applicable)

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link 'Course Packs'.

## Reference and Research Contact Information

David Holifield, M.A., M.L.S. / (916) 488-3720, ext. 7 / [dholfield@westernseminary.edu](mailto:dholfield@westernseminary.edu)

## OTHER CLASS POLICIES

**Cover page:** To safeguard confidentiality, provide a title page as a cover for all assignments. Include your student mailbox number in the upper right corner of the cover page.

**Attendance and Late Assignments:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss class are responsible for missed work. Unexcused absences and tardiness will impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should discuss it in advance with the instructor. Students who miss two or more classes will not pass the course, without a request for and the completion of additional assignments. Assignments submitted after the due date and time constitutes a drop in the student's letter grade for that assignment.

**Enrichment Students:** Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

**Incompletes:** Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the Sacramento class schedule. In the case of

serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the instructor may, **if it is initiated by the student**, grant an extension. A 1-3 week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and in all cases the standard decrease of a full letter grade for late work applies. Extensions desired by the student beyond 3 weeks, with prof support, must be approved by the Sacramento Academic Coordinator, with 5 weeks after the end of the course being the longest possible extension for work being due to the prof; for this semester that date is **Saturday, 9/18/10**. (This allows a 6<sup>th</sup> week for the grading of work and a grade change request to be filed.) A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. Under no circumstances may the six-week period (allots 1 week to the prof for grading and grade change petition) be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee in Portland.