

Western Seminary - Sacramento

THS 548M Old Testament Theology

2 credits

Jan Verbruggen, Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature
(503-517-1871; e-mail: jverbruggen@westernseminary.edu)

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.

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

Text Books

- 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:

1. 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.
2. One research projects will be required of the student.

THS students should write a research paper that should be a minimum of 15 pages in length (double spacing). The research project will be due June 30, 2010, and must be e-mailed to the professor. (40 hours)

Research Project Topics:

1. Yhwh, the Name of God
 2. The Exodus Theology in the Old Testament
 3. Yhwh as the Creator
 4. The Kingship of God
 5. Election in the Tanakh
 6. Yahweh as a Man of War
 7. The Presence of God with His People
 8. The Concept of Revelation in the Old Testament
 9. The Glory of Yhwh
 10. The Imageless Worship of Yhwh in the Tanakh
 11. Monotheism and Polytheism in the Tanakh
 12. The Concept of Righteousness in the Tanakh
 13. Prayer in the Tanakh
 14. The Wrath of God in the Tanakh
 15. Divine Judgment in the P Tanakh
 16. The Concept of the Remnant in the Tanakh
 17. The Spirit of God and its working in the believer in the Tanakh
 18. Creation in the Tanakh
 19. Israelite Cosmology
 20. The Individual and His Life in Community
 21. The Concept of Good and Evil in the Tanakh
3. 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	<p>Content Syllabus discussion Introduction The Methodology of Old Testament Theology (part 1)</p> <p>Reading Waltke (pp.27-92, ML, 3 ¼ hours)</p>	1-3
5-7	<p>Content The Methodology of Old Testament Theology (part 2) Major Theological Themes The Promise</p> <p>Reading Merrill (pp. 1-33, ML, 1 ½ hours)</p>	3-6 ½
5-8	<p>Content The Promise (part 2) The Covenants (Part 1)</p> <p>Reading Merrill, (God: His Person and His Work pp.37-162, FL, 3 ¼ hours) Sailhamer, The Meaning of the Pentateuch (pp. 11-56, ML 2 ¼ hours)</p>	6 ½ -9 ½
5-8	<p>Content The Covenants Part 2</p> <p>Reading Merrill, Kingdom of God (pp. 277-323, FL, 1 ½ hours)</p>	9 ½ -13
6-4	<p>Content Sailhamer's approach The Remnant in Biblical Theology</p> <p>Reading Waltke (pp. 93-142, FL, 1 ½ hours)</p>	13-16
6-4	<p>Content Rock Theology Messiah The Kingdom of God</p> <p>Reading Merrill, (The theology of the Prophets, part1, 491-565, FL, 2 ½ hour)</p>	16-19 ½
6-5	<p>Content The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament Holiness and God</p>	19 ½ -22 ½

	Reading	Waltke, (pp.143-345, FL , 5 hours)	
6-5	Content	Ethics Death and the Afterlife in the OT	22 ½ - 26
	Reading	Merrill, (chapter 7 &19, pp. 199-225; 603-639, FL , 2 hour)	

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

Mastery¹ Reading

Technical 20 pages / hour

Other 30 pages / hour

Familiarity² 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%

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

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

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.

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
- 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 offers a variety of ministry related software for student use including BibleWorks.

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 / dholifield@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 6th 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.