Northern Seminary  
OT 458 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY (ONLINE)  
Fall 2014  
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Students are expected to log in to Moodle before the first day of class. To access the online forum, go to www.seminary.edu and click on Moodle (under Current Students). All registered students will be enrolled in Moodle by the instructor during the week before the term begins.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

OT 458 is a study of the major theological ideas and themes of the Old Testament. The course will focus on Israel’s faith and its continuing significance for the church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student should leave the course able to:

1. describe the varied approaches to Old Testament Theology as a field of study.

2. discuss the nature of God as presented in the Old Testament.

3. articulate the major themes of the Old Testament and their theological significance.

4. grasp more fully the story of Israel as the background of the New Testament, in particular the purpose of Israel’s election and the role of its messiah.

5. appreciate the place of the Old Testament as Scripture in the life and faith of the Christian church.

REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Readings**: Students are expected to prepare for each week by reading the assigned pages on time as indicated in the course schedule, including the biblical texts in translation (prior reading does not substitute) and the required secondary readings.

2. **Online Discussion**: Students are required to participate regularly in the online forums.

   The online forums are not “live.” The professor posts starter questions online. Each student makes posts to the discussion forums, responding to questions by interacting with the readings, classmates, and any other materials provided by the instructor. The course expectation is **at least three substantial posts per student per week plus three follow-up response posts**. The discussion posts constitute 35% of the grade and are judged by quality, not quantity of words, and engagement with the readings. (See below for more guidelines.)

3. **Quizzes**: Students will take seven quizzes consisting of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Quizzes are timed and you may not use course materials.


5. **Research Paper**: Students will write a 10-12 page research paper on the topic of their choice in consultation with the professor. Further instructions will be distributed in class. Due Saturday, week 10.

   Papers should be double-spaced with one-inch margins, using 12-point Times New Roman font. Students must follow the style guidelines found in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (8th ed.; University of Chicago Press, 2013). Please contact me early in the course if you have questions about what is expected.

ONLINE FORUMS

Students are required to make **three substantial posts each week and three follow-up response posts** each week.

The **substantial posts**—amounting to somewhere between 400 and 500 words—should be directed towards the starter questions provided by the instructor. These posts should draw from the assigned readings, which are the primary material for the course. Students are expected to demonstrate engagement with the readings by citing and evaluating them. Each substantial post should include a **follow-up discussion question** for further discussion.

The follow-up **response posts** should be directed toward the follow-up discussion questions provided by your classmates. They will be shorter than the substantial posts and need not cite the readings.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The course will follow a set schedule during the week.

- The discussion forum will be open Monday through Thursday.
- Students must submit their first substantial post by Tuesday, second by Wednesday, and third by Thursday.
- The weekly quiz must be taken between Friday 10:00AM and Saturday 10:00PM.

STUDENT EVALUATION

35% Class Participation (quality of online posts)
25% Weekly Quizzes
10% Book Review
30% Paper

GRADING SCALE

A = 100-95  A- = 94-90
B+ = 89-87  B = 86-83
B- = 82-80  C+ = 79-77
C = 76-73  C- = 72-70
D+ = 69-67  D = 66-63
D- = 62-60  F = 59 and below

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be completed on time. Assignments completed late will be accepted only on permission of the instructor and are subject to a 3% penalty per day. No assignments can be completed after the last day of the quarter without prior permission from the professor for an Incomplete. Such permission will not be granted unless the student can show good reason why he or she was prevented, beyond his or her control, from (unforeseeably) completing the assignment on time. Examples are serious illness or a death in the family. Difficulties such as being too busy, computer problems, and not anticipating the time required to manage job, family, and school responsibilities are not grounds for an Incomplete.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Week 1. Approaches to OT Theology
   Routledge, ch. 1, “Approaches to OT Theology,” 17-80 [64]
   Recommended: Bandstra, “Survey of OT History”
   Goldingay, “Diversity and Unity in Old Testament Theology,” [16]
   Von Rad, Old Testament Theology, 115-128 [14]
   Childs, Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context, 10-17 [8]
   = 102 pp
Week 2. **God and Creation**
   =78 pp

Week 3. **The God of the Old Testament**
   Lamb, *God Behaving Badly*, 9-152, 176-171 [150]
   = 174 pp

Week 4. **Election & Covenant**
   *Election*
   Routledge, ch. 4, “Election & Covenant,” 159-174 [16]
   Wright, *Mission of God*, 222-64 [43]

   *Covenant*
   Beckwith, “The Unity and Diversity of God’s Covenants” [26]
   =108 pp

Week 5. **Torah & Worship**
   *Torah*
   Block, “The Grace of Torah” [20]
   Wright, “Preaching from the Law” [17]
   See Routledge, pp. 173-174

   *Worship & Sacrifice*
   Routledge, ch. 5, “Worship & Sacrifice,” 175-208 [34]
   Block, “The Joy of Worship” [19]
   =103 pp


Week 6. **Judgment & Restoration**
   Bartholomew & Goheen, *Drama of Scripture*, 85-112 [28]
   = 61 pp

Week 7. **Kingship**
   *Kingship in Israel*
   Fitzmyer, *The One Who Is to Come*, 33-55 [23]

   *The Messiah*
   Block, “My Servant David,” 17-56 [40]
Wright, “Knowing Jesus,” 1-8, 27-28 [10]
= 86 pp

Week 8. Israel and the Nations
Routledge, ch. 9, “God and the Future,” 272-310 [50]
Wright, Mission of God, 454-500 [47]
= 121 pp

Week 9. Jesus as Israel’s Messiah
Jesus, the Messiah
Wright, Challenge of Jesus, 34-95 [62 pp]

Jesus & God
Wright, Challenge of Jesus, 96-149 [55 pp]
= 117 pp

THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS NOV. 24–29

Week 10. Prophecy & Wisdom / Ethics
Routledge, ch. 6, “Receiving Instruction,” 209-224 [16]
Routledge, ch. 8, “Ethics and Ethical Questions,” 238-260 [23]
= 39 pp

Final paper due Saturday.

COURSE READINGS (Listed in order of course schedule)


PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgment or documentation. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Submitting as one’s own material copied, borrowed, or purchased from some other source. This includes, but is not limited to, downloading term papers from the internet,
purchasing a paper from a “term paper mill,” reproducing parts or all of an article or book section, copying another student’s paper, and so on.

Copying verbatim or taking ideas from a source without providing documentation (i.e., footnote or quotation marks).

Copying verbatim or taking ideas from a source and providing fraudulent or misleading documentation.

Copying verbatim from a source without using quotation marks or a block quotation. When copied material is not properly identified with quotation marks, readers are led to believe that the material is the writer’s own words, when in fact it is someone else’s, which is the essence of plagiarism. Providing a footnote after copied material without using quotation marks is not adequate documentation and constitutes plagiarism.

Paraphrasing material that is too close to the original, whether documented properly or not. A paraphrase is unacceptable if it merely changes a few words or transposes phrases or sentences in the original source, but retains the bulk of the text as it originally appeared.

Since plagiarism is a form of claiming for ourselves what belongs to another, it constitutes an infringement on someone else’s intellectual property and is a form of stealing. It is a very serious violation of Christian ethics and raises profound questions about fitness for Christian ministry. The seminary takes these matters extremely seriously and will take disciplinary action against those who engage in plagiarism.

It is sometimes difficult to know whether or how to acknowledge and document certain kinds of material. When in doubt, consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013, especially those sections dealing with using quotations and footnotes. Students are expected to know and follow the guidelines in Turabian. Ignorance of them is no excuse.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.seminary.edu](http://moodle.seminary.edu) in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week starting the last day of the term. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.