Northern Seminary  
OT 458-OL OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY (ONLINE)  
Fall 2013  
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Students are expected to log in to Moodle before the first day of classes. 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 the week before the term begins. If help is needed with Moodle go to ithelpdesk@seminary.edu.

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 abiding 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 its presentation of Jesus of Nazareth as Israel’s messiah.

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

REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Masters Students

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. The posts constitute 40% of the grade and are judged by quality, not quantity of words. Write enough to make a contribution but do not overwhelm your classmates with paragraph after paragraph in a single post. (See below for more guidelines.)

3. Quizzes: Students will take seven quizzes consisting of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. 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 (December 7, 2013).

   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.

Certificate/Diploma Students

1. Readings: Certificate/diploma students will read approximately one third of the course readings, to be determined on a weekly basis.

2. Online Discussions: Write two discussion posts per week.

3. Quizzes: Certificate/diploma students will take a weekly quiz based on the material from your readings and discussions.
4. **Book Review:** Students will write a 3-page book review of David Lamb’s *God Behaving Badly: Is the God of the Old Testament Angry, Sexist and Racist? Due Saturday, week 5 (October 26, 2013).*

5. **Research Paper:** Write a 6-8 page paper on the topic of your choice in consultation with the professor. Further instructions will be distributed in class. **Due Saturday, week 10 (December 7, 2013).**

**ONLINE FORUMS**

1. The Starter Questions provided by the instructor orient the discussion. You should make posts directed to them.

2. Your 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.

3. As the conversation gets going, you are expected to read everyone’s posts and you should include in at least some of your posts interaction with and/or reference to earlier posts by your classmates and professor.

4. You are expected to make **at least three substantial posts each week.** A substantial post is a paragraph or two amounting to somewhere between 300 and 500 words. But, quality is the key, not word count.

5. You are encouraged to post more often than three times a week and your **additional** posts may be short, such as a single sentence asking someone to clarify a point or a sentence or two making a very short comment.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

The course will follow a set schedule during the week.

- The discussion forum will be open Monday 10:00AM through Thursday 10:00PM.

- Students must submit their first weekly post by Tuesday, second post by Wednesday, and third post by Thursday.

- The weekly quiz must be taken between Friday 10:00AM and Saturday 10:00PM.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Class Participation (quality of online posts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Paper</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GRADING SCALE

A  =  100-94       A-  =  93-90
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 penalty in grade. 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

   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]
Eichrodt, Theology of the Old Testament, 36-45 [10]
=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

Review of Lamb, God Behaving Badly due Saturday.

Week 6. Topics

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

Judgment & Restoration
Bartholomew & Goheen, Drama of Scripture, 85-112 [28]
DOTHB, 284-86, 493-97, 1016-19 [12]
Waltke, Old Testament Theology, 795-804 [10]
= 100 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. Beyond Israel

The Future
Routledge, ch. 9, “God and the Future,” 272-310 [50]

Israel and the Nations
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

Week 10. Wrap Up

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.

POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact ithelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

**Class Attendance Policy**
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

**Class Tardiness Policy**
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.
**Late Work Policy**
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

**Turabian Format**
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Electronic Format**
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**
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 ithelpdesk@seminary.edu.