

Providence Theological Seminary

Course Syllabus

Old Testament Theology

OT6301

Winter 2012

Thursdays, 8:30-11:05; January 12-April 12, 2012

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Office hours: Wednesday and Thursday afternoon

I. Course Description - the issues of Old Testament theology will be reviewed. The course will seek to develop a theology of the Old Testament that takes account of the themes of the individual sections of the Hebrew canon. This theology is one that is incomplete in itself, finding its fulfillment in the coming of Christ.

II. Course Objectives

- a. Students will understand the development of the discipline of Old Testament theology and thus have a greater awareness of the nature, necessity, and difficulties of developing their own Old Testament theology;
- b. Students will critically engage with the several issues found in the discipline of Old Testament theology, developing critical awareness and methodology;
- c. Students will develop an awareness of the outworking of God's salvation in the various books and sections of the Old Testament;
- d. Students will explore the unity of the Old and New Testaments, developing a personal understanding of the challenges in such an exercise, and how the exercise might be accomplished;
- e. Students will explore the relevance of Old Testament theology within the Church's contemporary discourse.

III. Course Requirements

A. Required Texts

- a. Robin Routledge. *Old Testament Theology: A Thematic Approach*. Intervarsity Press, 2008.
- b. Ben C. Ollenburger, ed. *Old Testament Theology: Flowering and Future*. Eisenbrauns, 2004.
- c. Additional readings as assigned in course outline.

Course requirement	Hours	Weight	Due Date
Reading	25 hours		
Attendance at all lectures	30 hours		
Prepare for, and participate in seminars (3)	6 hours	10%	Seminars noted on course outline
Response to seminar held Feb 9	2 hours	15%	February 23, 2012
Presentation of OT Theology	5 hours	15%	One of March 15, 29, or April 5, 2012
Critical Review of Routledge	10 hours	25%	April 12, 2012
OT Theology Paper	30 hours	35%	April 17, 2012
	103 hours	100%	

B. Assignments and Grading

- a. **Reading Preparation.** To prepare for classes in this upper-level course, students are expected to complete the readings outlined on the Course Schedule before coming to class.
- b. **Seminars.** Three seminars on the assigned readings will be held throughout the semester. Student participation is crucial to the learning experience, and further details on contributing to a seminar will be provided the first day of class. **10% for informed participation.**
- c. **Seminar Response.** Following the seminar on February 9, students will prepare a thoughtful 3 page response to the readings and the seminar conversation. Students may comment briefly on the approach to OT theology taken in each paper (3-5 sentences), with some reflection on how the articles contrast/compare (3-5 sentences). Focus most of the response on key points of agreement or disagreement with the authors (and why), critical reflection on student interaction in the seminar, or implications drawn from the articles for reading the OT in the Church. **15%; due February 23, 2012.**
- d. **Presentation of OT Theology.** Students will prepare a one-page, single-spaced summary of a work on Old Testament theology, and present their findings in class. Further instructions for this assignment and a list of OT Theologies from which to choose will be provided in the first class. **15%; due when presented on March 15, 29, or April 5, 2012.**
- e. **Critical Review, and Comparison of Routledge.** 4-5 pages, double-spaced. Prepare a critical review of Routledge's *Old Testament Theology: A Thematic Approach*. Include some comparison of his assumption and methods to the OT Theology presented by you in class. Further instructions provided in class. **25%; due April 12, 2012.**
- f. **Old Testament Theology Paper.** 10-12 pages, double-spaced. Research paper on select topic. Topics, and further instructions provided in class. **35%; due Tuesday, April 17, 2012.**

Note: You should submit written work in a style consistent with the model set out by Kate L. Turabian in her work *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. Do not use in-text citations for anything except biblical references; place all other citations in footnotes. If you don't do this, you will lose 5% off the paper. All written assignments are due at the beginning of the class falling on the due date, unless otherwise specified. You ought to ensure that your "campus mailbox number" is clearly marked on the cover page of your written submission.

C. General Guidelines for The Submission of Written Work

- a. Your work should Demonstrate the Following Characteristics
 - i. Accuracy (a fair and accurate presentation of scholarly judgment on the issue) – Is what I say correct? Is it valid? Have I understood the topic or question?
 - ii. Critical Analysis – Have I understood the main issues? Have I done sufficient research on the topic? Does my paper show critical reflection, interaction and dialogue with the biblical text and with authors writing on the subject?
 - iii. Organization – Does my paper follow a clear outline? Does my paper have a thesis statement? Is there a clear progression and development of a main idea or an argument in the paper? Does my argument have a meaningful order?
 - iv. Clarity – Does what I say make sense? Will others clearly understand what I am seeking to express?
 - v. Good Grammar and Writing – Is my paper free of spelling mistakes? Is the text punctuated correctly? Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar? Do I use inclusive language?
 - vi. Well Documented – Is my work complete? Does my bibliography reflect sufficient research? Have I fully and accurately documented where I have relied upon the work of others? Have I provided complete information about my research sources? Will others be able to locate these sources on the strength of my documentation?

- b. **Matters of Style.** You should submit written work in a style consistent with the model set out by Kate L. Turabian in her work *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. Written work ought to be free of spelling mistakes, punctuated correctly, and adhere to basic rules of grammar. It is expected that written work will be submitted in a clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (cf. the guidelines in Strunk and White, *Elements of Style*). Written work ought to betray a clear organization, argument and coherent thought
 - c. **Plagiarism and Honesty.** In all work, you are obliged to pay careful attention to matters of intellectual property, honesty and integrity. Plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs and will not be tolerated in any form whatsoever. Ensure that you have accurately and fully documented sources used in your paper. Documentation and notes should be consistent with the model provided by Kate L. Turabian in her work, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*.
 - d. **Title Page and Documentation.** The title page for all written work ought to include the title of the paper, name of the course, name of the professor, date of submission, and your name (if you have a campus mailbox, this should also appear on the title page). *Do not submit papers in any type of binder or cover: a staple in the top left corner of the paper ought to suffice.*
- D. **Late Assignments.** Students are expected to have their work in at the beginning of class on respective due dates. My standard policy will apply for late papers: if it is not in at the beginning of the class, you lose 1/3 of a letter grade. If it is not in by 4:15 p.m. that same day, you lose another 1/3 of a letter grade. After that, for each day (or portion thereof) the paper is late, the grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade. After 1 week, late papers need not be handed in, and will receive a “0”.
- Extensions without penalty will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, the hospitalization of yourself or a member of your immediate family, or a prolonged illness for which you require treatment by a physician and must be arranged with the professor prior to the respective due date. Reference to a heavy work load, other assignments, professional or ministry obligations or holidays do not constitute legitimate grounds for an extension. Requests for extension must be made in writing prior to the due date of the assignment and should explain the reason an extension is requested. Medical reasons will require a doctor’s note. Any extensions beyond the end of term must be first cleared with the professor, and then applied for at the registrar’s office. Without such an extension granted by the professor and the registrar’s office, no late assignments will be accepted after the last day of the term.
- E. **Criteria for the Evaluation of Written Work.** Your work will be evaluated on whether you answered the specific questions given, whether you followed any specific directions given in respect of format, and whether you following the general guidelines for submitting written work.
- F. **Submission of Written Work.** Students are required to retain a copy of all assignments (hard copy or electronic version). **Assignments will not be accepted in electronic format, except in unusual circumstances and by prior arrangement with the Professor.** If you do not have a campus mailbox and you wish your work returned, you must submit your assignments with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

IV. Proposed Course Schedule - TBA

- 1. Jan 12 **Why and What? An Apologia, and a working definition of Old Testament Theology**
Read: Routledge, ch. 1
- 2. Jan 19 **How Did We Get Here? A history of the field**
Read: Finish Routledge, ch. 1; in *Flowering* read “Old Testament Theology before 1933” by Ollenburger, “History of Israelite-Jewish Religion” by Eissfeldt, and “Oration” by Gabler
- 3. Jan 26 **Surfacing the Issues I**
Read: in *Flowering* read “Covenant” by Eichrodt, and “Israel’s Testimony” by Brueggemann
Seminar: on Eichrodt and Brueggemann

- Feb 2** **No Class; *Missio Dei***
- 4. Feb 9** **Surfacing the Issues II**
Read: in *Flowering* read “Canon” by Childs, and “One God” by Gerstenberger
Seminar: on Childs and Gerstenberger
- 5. Feb 16** **The How-To of Methodologies**
Read: in *Flowering* read Part 5
- 6. Feb 23** **Creation**
Read: Routledge, chs. 2, 3; Stager, “Jerusalem as Eden” *BAR* 23/3 (2000): 36-47, 66 [on reserve]; in *Flowering* read “Cosmos and History” by Knierim
Due: Response to Seminar
- 7. Mar 1** **Covenant**
Read: Routledge chs. 4, 6, 8 (p. 238-48); in *Flowering* read “Law and Promise” by Clements, and “Exodus and Election” by Preuss
Seminar on Clements and Preuss
- Mar 8** **No Class; Intersession**
- 8. Mar 15** **Sacrifice and Ritual**
Read: Routledge, ch. 5; in *Flowering* read “Cult” by McKenzie
Class Presentations on OT Theology Works
- Mar 22** **No Class; Professor at Conference**
- 9. Mar 29** **Kings and Prophets**
Read: Routledge chs. 7, 9 (p. 261-80, 299-302); in *Flowering* read “Land and Lifestyle” by Martens, “Royal Covenant” by Anderson, and “Judgment and Mercy” by Westermann
Class Presentations on OT Theology Works
- 10. Apr 5** **Prayer and Reflection**
Read: Routledge chs. 8 (p. 248-60), 9 (p. 302-10); in *Flowering* read “Presence in Absence” by Terrien
Class Presentations on OT Theology Works
- 11. Apr 12** **Crossing the Divide, or, Continuing the Story: Unity of the Old and New Testaments**
Read: Routledge chs. 9 (p. 280-98), 10; in *Flowering* read “Promise” by Kaiser; Paul House “Examining the Narratives of Old Testament Narratives,” *WJT* 67 (2005): 229-45 [Accessible through Providence database].
Due: Critical Review and Comparison
- Apr 17** **Due: OT Theology Paper**

V. Selected Bibliography

A Selected Bibliography will be provided for students in class.