

## **OTHB9405 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY**

**Dr. Archie W. England**

**Fall 2017-18**

**Tuesday, 3:30-6:00 pm**

### **Mission Statement:**

The Mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Course Purpose:**

Discovering the Bible's message is a critical task of the exegete. In the current theological milieu, the historicity (and, thus, the value) of Israel's faith, witness, and record is increasingly questioned. Consequently, investigating "the what" and "the how" of Israel's history and religion can provide a valuable basis for understanding and interpreting the Old Testament. To attempt such study, this seminar will expose the student to various methodologies (of approach to the study of the Old Testament) and, particularly, to the roles of systematic and biblical theology.

### **Core Values:**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in by preparing the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This year, the focus is upon Servant Leadership.

### **Key Competency:**

The Seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.

### **Description of the Seminar**

The course is designed to explore the various issues in the field of Old Testament theology. Emphasis is given to historical development and methodology in Old Testament theology as well as treatment of various theological emphases in the Old Testament.

### **Objectives of the Seminar**

KNOWLEDGE (Students successfully completing this course should...)

- 1) Become aware of the various methods that have been used in the historical timeline of the growth of the field of OT theology.
- 2) Become familiar with selected significant contributors and aspects of their methodological contributions to this field

ATTITUDE (Students successfully completing this course should...)

- 1) Appreciate the complexities of the theology and theological history of the OT

- 2) Recognize the importance of sound exegesis in the development of theology
- 3) Be more confident in interpreting biblical theology

SKILLS (Students successfully completing this course should...)

- 1) Be able to recognize and/or develop the theological themes of each OT genre by evaluating selected biblical texts.
- 2) Be able to demonstrate critical thought skills by reading and attempting to apply selected methodologies promoted by significant contributors of this field.

### **Methodology of the Seminar**

1. Lecture
2. Critical reading from primary source materials and anthologies
3. Bibliography research, along with annotation
4. Critical thinking and assessment of a major contributors to the field of OT theology
5. "Close reading" of the biblical text, along with narrative/literary analysis in order to ascertain the theological message of the Old Testament.

### **Required Textbooks for the Seminar**

Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.

Eichrodt, Walther. *Theology of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Translated by J. A. Parker. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961.

Hassel, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Fourth ed. Revised and expanded. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Hayes, John H., and Frederick Prussner. *Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

Klink, Edward W., III, and Darian R. Lockett, *Understanding Biblical Theology: A Comparison of Theory and Practice*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Ollenburger, Ben C., ed. *Old Testament Theology: Flowering and Future*. Revised edition of *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology*. In *Sources for Biblical and Theological Study*, no. 1. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2004.

Perdue, Leo G. *The Collapse of History: Restructuring Old Testament Theology*. In *Overtures to Biblical Theology*, edited by Walter Brueggeman, John R. Donahue, Sharyn Dowd, and Christopher R. Seitz. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Reconstructing Old Testament Theology: After the Collapse of History*. In *Overtures to Biblical Theology*, edited by Walter Brueggeman, John R. Donahue, Sharyn Dowd, and Christopher R. Seitz. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

Von Rad, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. Translated by D. M. G. Stalker. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.

### **Requirements of the Seminar**

The student will research and write to develop and demonstrate competence in the four following areas of the field of Old Testament and Biblical Theology (70-90 pages, single-spaced, total allowable):

1. Critical briefs. Nearly every week of the first nine weeks, each student will serve as a discussion leader for one section of the assigned texts (see the seminar schedule below). Given no changes in the number of students committed to taking this seminar, each student will mostly work with 50-60 pages of a text, although both weeks with Eichrodt and von Rod will be double that load. First, students presenting will divide 120 minutes. Second, each student will provide everyone with 1-3 page, single spaced, critical briefs, along with summarized bullet points from their respective section. As intended for this seminar, a “critical brief” is a shortened evaluation of the read and analyzed text. Identify the strengths and weaknesses, along with the biases of the author. Be sure to address what the author has contributed via the section assessed. The bullet points should have page references, thereby making later research more convenient.
  
2. Short Paper plus annotated bibliography (synchronic approach). Distributed 5 days before due to all members of the seminar.
  - (A.) Prepare a 10 page, ss, researched paper on a selected Old Testament theology theme. I will make suggestions for themes in the first seminar meeting, but each student is invited to make suggestions, as well. In fact, I would welcome two students combining to write pro/con papers on a topic or a set of comparison papers (e.g., theology of worship via the tabernacle vs temple context). Though the short paper should alert us to the broad subject, the goal is for you to narrow the topic and write deeply within the 10-15 page (single spaced) limit.
  - (B.) Prepare approximately a 10 page (SS) annotated bibliography that alerts us to the resources that exist for the selected topic. Annotations should be 4-10 lines in length.
  - (C.) Present the paper and significant resource findings to the seminar.
  
3. Long Paper (diachronic approach).
  - (A.) Two students each will divide and select passages from the four dominant divisions of the Old Testament: Law, Prophets, Wisdom, or Writings. This paper should be 25-35 pages (single spaced). The task of this paper is to derive a theology of the Old Testament from the genre, literary construct, and historical context of the biblical text. I do not expect you to analyze all of the Law; but you must begin with a selected text and work outward—not vice versa. Ask questions of the biblical text, striving to draw out the authorial intent of the biblical writer (who worked under inspiration of the Holy Spirit). I will gladly work with each person needing assistance. **AND, THOSE TAKING THIS CLASS A MINOR MAY TWEEK THIS ASSIGNMENT TO DOVETAIL WITH THEIR MAJOR (Preaching, NT, etc.).** The paper must be distributed to all members of the seminar at least 5 days before the presentation.
  - (B.) Prepare a series of PowerPoint slides (or other presentation system) and present the paper accordingly. Save 40% of the presentation time for questions, challenges, and feedback from both seminar members and professor.

### **Evaluation of the Seminar**

Each student is expected to adhere to the policies regarding absences, grading, etc., outlined in the current seminary catalog. Also, each student is expected to use biblical and theological languages whenever possible, especially in research for lecture and paper presentations.

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation & Reading .....	20%
Critical Briefs.....	20%
(Synchronic) short paper, presentation, and annotated bibliography .....	30%
(Diachronic) long paper, bibliography, and PowerPoint presentation .....	30%
.....	100%

**Course Schedule**

**Old Testament Theology**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignments due</u>
8/22	Syllabus Day: Assignments, Adjustments, Agreements, etc. "Gabler and the "Quest" for a "biblical" theology	(Ollenburger, 497-506); All of Ollenburger
8/29	Hasel's <i>Old Testament Theology</i>	Read all; 2 discussion leaders for each II _____ III-VI _____
9/05	Hayes/Prussner's <i>Old Testament Theology</i>  Development of a theological reading and how the church/academy struggled to synthesize theory and practice; history, historicity, and historiography	Read all; Discussion leaders for I II III IV V
9/12	Klink/Lockett's <i>Biblical Theology</i>  Major trends; <b>be sure to start noting the major contributors for the section that you have been assigned.</b>	Read all; 2 discussion leaders for each I II III IV V
9/19	Leo Perdue, <i>The Collapse of History</i>	Read all; 2 discussion leaders for each I II III IV
9/26	Leo Perdue, <i>Reconstructing Old Testament Theology</i>	Read all; 1 discussion leader per chapter
9/30	Walther Eichrodt, <i>Theology of the Old Testament</i>	Read all; 1 discussion leader for every 3 chapters
10/03	Gerhard von Rad, <i>Old Testament Theology</i>	Read all; 1 discussion leader for every ~125 pages

10/10	James Barr, <i>The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective</i>	Read first 14 chapters; choose one additional chapter for presentation 15-16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
10/17	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	
10/24	Short papers on OT theological topics	<i>Three 45" presentations</i> 1 2 3
10/31	Short Papers, cont'd	<i>Three 45" presentations</i> 1 2 3
11/07	Short Papers, completed Masters Student Presentation Due:	<i>Three 45" presentations</i> 1 2 3 Augustine Hui
11/14	<b>No class this week</b>	<b>ETS</b>
11/21	<b>THANSGIVING BREAK</b>	
11/28	Major Papers on OTT from biblical genre: Law, Prophets, Wisdom, and Writings	<i>Three 60" presentations</i> 1 2 3
12/04	Major Papers on OTT from biblical genre: Law, Prophets, Wisdom, and Writings	<i>Three 60" presentations</i> 1 2 3
12/11	Major Papers on OTT from biblical genre: Law, Prophets, Wisdom, and Writings	<i>Two 60" presentations</i> 1 2 3

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- Beale, Gregory K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
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