

## **OTHB9405 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY**

**Dr. Archie W. England**

**Spring Semester 2013**

**Wed., 1:00-3:30**

### **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**

The student will:

1. Become familiar with the literature in the field of Old Testament theology.
2. Study the historical development of Old Testament theology, essentially from the reformation to the present—with the greatest emphasis upon current issues.

3. Identify and explore the various models and methods applied to the study of Old Testament theology.
4. Address the outstanding issue of what a theology of the Old Testament should be.

### **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 contributor to the field of OT theology
5. Critical analysis and synthesis of how systematic and biblical methodologies have approached the theological message of the Old Testament.

### **Requirements of the Seminar**

The student will:

1. Read selected primary and secondary literature (significant monographs and/or articles) on Old Testament theology. (Due throughout the first nine weeks)
2. Prepare a reflection paper on Johann Gabler's treatise. The student is asked to think through the implications of the systematic versus biblical theology methodologies. (5-8 pages, SS, due first class)
3. Prepare an annotated bibliography (Pentateuch, historical prophets, latter prophets, Wisdom literature, and the Writings) reflecting on how the theology of the Old Testament has impacted OT studies in the last thirty years. (30-40 sources)
4. Lecture on the selected theological method of Bruegemann, Kaiser, Childs, or Knierim during weeks 12-14. (8-10 pages, SS, approximately 75 minutes of lecture)
5. Prepare and present a critical assessment (of one of the assigned OT theologies: (1) worship; (2) ethics; (3) relationship with God; (4) sovereignty of God in daily life; and (5) community) from the OT into the NT. Assess how your analysis compares/contrasts with systematic/biblical methods and then conclude by using your presentation as a case study for doing an OT theology or a biblical theology.
6. Submit a final exam. This capstone project is to prepare a course syllabus for teaching OT theology in each of the venues: a local church ministry; an undergraduate class; an on-line master's course; or a traditional master's level course. (Due the week of finals)

### **Required Texts**

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.

Ollenberger, 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.

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

\_\_\_\_\_. *Wisdom in Israel*. Translated by James D. Martin. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press, 1970.

**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.....	10%	
Reflection paper over Gabler, Systematic, and biblical theology.....	10%	
Annotated bibliography and presentation .....	10%	10% = 20%
Major Theology critique and lecture .....	10%	10% = 20%
Final Seminar Paper .....		25%
Final Examination (syllabus) .....		15%

**Course Schedule**

<b>Week 1</b>	<b><i>Historical Background and Overview</i></b> Organization of Seminar Definition and Distinction of "Biblical Theology" Ollenberger, <i>Old Testament Theology: Flowering and Future</i> <b>Due: Gabler Reflection Paper</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b><i>Historical Background and Overview</i></b> Gerhard Hasel, <i>Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate</i>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b><i>Historical Background and Overview</i></b> John Hayes and Frederick Prussner, <i>Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development</i>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b><i>Historical Background and Overview</i></b> Leo Perdue – Reconstructing Old Testament Theology lecture by Dr. England
<b>Week 5</b>	Walter Eichrodt, <i>Theology of the Old Testament</i> (2 vols.)
<b>Week 6</b>	Eichrodt, <i>Theology</i> , continued
<b>Week 7</b>	Gerhard von Rad, <i>Old Testament Theology</i> (2 vols.)
<b>Week 8</b>	von Rad, <i>OT Theology</i> , continued Gerhard von Rad, <i>Wisdom in Israel</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b><i>"This dog won't hunt"</i></b> James Barr, <i>The Concept of Biblical Theology</i>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b><i>Annotated Bibliography Presentations</i></b> Pentateuch _____ Historical (Early Prophets) _____

<b>Week 11</b>	<b><i>Annotated Bibliography Presentations</i></b> Latter Prophets Writings Wisdom Literature	_____ _____ _____
<b>Week 12</b>	<b><i>Analysis of Major Theology</i></b> Presentations 1 and 2	_____ _____
<b>Week 13</b>	<b><i>Analysis of Major Theology</i></b> Presentations 3 and 4	_____ _____
<b>Week 14</b>	<b><i>Analysis of Major Theology</i></b> Presentations 5 <b><i>Major Paper Presentation</i></b> Presentation 1	_____ _____
<b>Week 15</b>	<b><i>Major Paper Presentations</i></b> Presentations 2 and 3	_____ _____
<b>Week 16</b>	<b><i>Major Paper Presentations</i></b> Presentations 4 and 5	_____ _____

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Reflection Paper on Johann Gabler's treatise contained in the Appendix to Ollenburger's *Old Testament Theology* (**5–8 pages single-spaced**) – Due Week 1

Annotated Bibliography in a selected area (Pentateuch, Historical Literature, Latter Prophets, Writings, or Wisdom Literature; **30–40 sources**) – Due Weeks 10 and 11

Analysis of Major Theology (Brueggemann, Waltke, Kaiser, Childs, or Knierim; **8–10 single-spaced pages**) – Due Weeks 12–14

Major Paper Presentations (tracing one particular area of Biblical Theology throughout the Old and New Testaments; Worship, Ethics, Relationship with God, Sovereignty of God in Daily Life, Community; **20-25 single-spaced pages**) – Weeks 14–16

Major project: Lecture 20-35 pages; plus teaching outline; graded for content and presentation  
Student will prepare a thoroughly researched (and documented) lecture on the major theologian listed. Study the text or texts of that theologian (the ones most pertinent to the field of OT theology); give an overview of the teachings and impact of the writings. Be thorough. Approximately one hour and forty minutes will be designated for the lecture presentation and discussion. This project is intentionally designed for the student to become the functional expert on this theologian. Papers are due the professor and students the seminar prior to delivery. No exceptions please.