The passion of Bethel Seminary is to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ among all people in culturally sensitive ways. As a Spirit-empowered, biblically grounded community of learning, Bethel strives to develop and equip whole and holy persons to serve and lead so that churches and ministry agencies can become all they are called to be and do in the world for the glory of God.

OT/BT716 is designed in light of this statement of mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A discussion of various theological perspectives on such prominent themes in the Old Testament revelation as creation, anthropology, sin, covenant, sacrifice and law. The course takes an integrative and practical approach to the biblical theology of the Hebrew Bible with special attention to its application to current issues in society and the mission of the Church.

COURSE BENEFITS

Upon completion of this course you should be able to

- describe and compare contemporary approaches to biblical theology of the Hebrew Bible
- summarize and synthesize the important theological motifs found in various books of the Hebrew Bible
- describe and assess the significance of inductively identifying and validating a theological focal point
- demonstrate a basic acquaintance with cross-cultural aspects of biblical theology of the Hebrew Bible
- * practice biblical theology of the Hebrew Bible as it applies to biblical exposition and ministry in contemporary society
COURSE LITERATURE

The following will be needed to complete course requirements. Additional bibliography is provided on the course web page and in class lectures.

Primary literature:

Scriptures (Whichever translation you are comfortable with. Hebrew students are expected to use the Hebrew Bible. International students may use a translation in their mother-tongue.)

Secondary literature:

Required Texts:


Reserved literature:


Supplemental resources:


COURSE CONTENT

Dilemma of Definitions
Demands of the Discipline
Different Approaches to the Discipline
Recent Approaches to O.T. Theology
  Instruction
  Covenant
  Kingdom
  Mission
  Promise
Discontinuity and Continuity in Biblical Theology
Diachronic Treatment of the Documents
Discussion of the Old Testament's Relation to the New Testament
Discussion of O.T. Theology and Contemporary and Cross-Cultural Communication

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

The Seminary expects that you will attend class regularly. It is assumed that for an average student to earn an average grade s/he will invest approximately 120 hours of work. It is expected that all assignments will be completed on time. Normally late work will not be accepted. (Circumstances that a congregation would accept for postponing a Sunday sermon may be considered) All appropriate scholastic regulations set forth in the seminary catalogue are operative in this course.

✔ READINGS: You get to interact with the thinking of those working in Old Testament theology. You are expected to be “well read” in the biblical texts underlying the discussions.

✔ INVESTIGATION: You get to “dig in” to the biblical texts, analyzing and synthesizing the data.

✔ INTERACTION: Through seminar sessions you get to hone your skills of critical thinking and articulating theological concepts and arguments. An intended by-product of the seminar is a developing facility in servant leadership in the context of small group dynamics.

Through interactive reviews you also get to interact with others (scholars, ministers, and peers) on issues related to the material you are studying. As you interact with these persons, analyze the perspective they bring to the issue, their philosophical and theological presuppositions, evaluate their handling of the evidence, and respond to the conclusions they offer.

✔ REFLECTION: You have an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the theology of the Old Testament for the contemporary church and its mission.

Write a 1250 word paper in which you reflect on the implications of such passages as Matthew 5:17-18; Romans 4:23-24; 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 for ministry in contemporary society (500 words) followed by a synopsis of four significant issues in contemporary society to which the text of the O.T. speaks (750 words).

✔ ANALYSIS & APPLICATION: You get to prepare a concise and closely reasoned Integration Paper in which you discuss ways a leader in ministry might legitimately and effectively preach/teach theology from the various sections and genres of the Old Testament: Torah, Historical Narrative, Wisdom/Poetry, Prophecy

Part One: a concise and closely reasoned discussion of the significance of the theology of the Old Testament for the modern Church and its mission (750 words).

Part Two: a concise and closely reasoned discussion of ways one who is a leader in ministry might legitimately and effectively preach/teach theology from various genres of the Old Testament: Law, Narrative, Wisdom, Psalms, Prophecy (500 words @ totalling 2500 words).
Part Three: a concise and closely reasoned discussion of the significance of Old Testament theology in ministry to persons from non-Christian and post-Christian cultures (750 words).

✔ ASSESSMENT: Based on the learning approaches mentioned above, assessment of your progress in the course is multi-faceted. It includes successful completion of the assigned written and group work.

Submitting Assignments

All written assignments that are not posted to Bb Discussion Board are to be submitted in either MSWord or WordPerfect format. The filename given each assignment must follow the prescribed protocol. The filename will include course number, term, your last name, and assignment name. For example ot716-w08-jones-assignmentname.doc. Documents submitted without this filenaming protocol may not be registered and graded.

All assignments for Discussion Board or Assignments Page by midnight Saturday of the week assigned. Discussion Board interaction can continue through the following Wednesday.

Miscellany:

• Policies: Refer to the seminary catalogue and student handbook for policies that apply to all courses or consult http://www.bethel.edu/~pferis/otcommon/Academic_Course_Policies.pdf
• Attendance: Regular engagement in the class is an essential part of the learning enterprise. Being on-time for class is a matter of respect. Unexcused absence and multiple tardiness will result in reduction of grade.
• Late work: As per Catalog, it is expected that all assignments will be completed on time. Normally late work will not be accepted. (Circumstances that a congregation would accept for postponing a Sunday sermon may be considered with a reduction in grade) An Incomplete Contract may be approved for extenuating circumstances. Such exceptions may involve a grade reduction.
• Etiquette: Phones & beepers must be turned off during class. Tardiness & inappropriate behavior will result in reduction of grade. Tape recording is not permitted inasmuch as it can inhibit class participation. Men: hats off to you. 🎩
• N.b.: The professor may modify or otherwise supplement this syllabus and/or class instructions via Blackboard or e-mail. Other course material is available on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to avail herself or himself to such resources and check Blackboard and/or their email for such notices.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

The course grade will be earned on the basis of the following factors:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class preparation (reading, discussion group, participation)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group discussion</td>
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Written assignments

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<tr>
<td>Interactive reviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration paper</td>
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<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Dilemma of Definitions</td>
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<td>Diachronic Treatment of the Texts</td>
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<td>Patriarchal Period</td>
<td>Hasel, “The Question of Methodology,” ch.2 in OTT;</td>
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<td>Brueggemann, “Contemporary Old Testament Theology”;</td>
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<td>Kaiser, <em>TOTT</em> chs 2-4;</td>
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<td>Murphy, “Once Again...the Center of the Old Testament.”;</td>
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<td>Waltke, <em>OTT</em>, Pt. 1</td>
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<td>Waltke, <em>OTT</em>, chs 7-12</td>
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<td>Jan 31</td>
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<td>Feb 28</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
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<td>Contemporary and Cross-Cultural</td>
<td>Interactive review of a serious article on ways the theology of</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
<td>the O.T. is approached in Africa, Asia or Latin America.</td>
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*OTT* = *Old Testament Theology*