

THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
TH6601 — Fall 2014 Online — Dr. Michael W. McDill
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Course Description:

A survey of the theology of the Old Testament, including an analysis of current thought. Biblical terminology and methodology are used.

Course Objectives:

1. To become familiar with the key concerns of Old Testament theology.
2. To understand the theme(s) of Old Testament theology.
3. To sketch the thematic structure of the books of the Old Testament.
4. To gain competence in preaching or teaching the Old Testament with regard to its theological concepts.
5. To gain a theological perspective on the unity, continuity, and correlation of both testaments of Holy Scripture.

Textbook:

Kaiser, Walter. *The Promise-Plan of God: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Review Books:

Kaiser, Walter. *Recovering the Unity of the Bible: One Continuous Story, Plan, and Purpose*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Martens, Elmer. *God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994. [A scanned pdf of this book (2nd edition) will be available on the class website]

Assignments (with percentage of grade):

\$ Weekly quizzes over readings in Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God*. These will be taken online. Quizzes consist of 10 true-false questions over the assigned reading for the week. Each incorrect answer will deduct 5 points from the quiz grade. (20%)

\$ Mid-term exam essay (3-6 pages) over two questions pertaining to class reading, lectures, and discussions in the first half of the semester. (20%)

\$ Final exam: The method for this exam will be to give essay questions which will be opportunities for the student to display his knowledge and analysis of class reading, lectures, and discussion. (20%)

\$ Writing assignments (choose **one option – 40% of final grade):**

Option 1: Book Reviews of Kaiser, *Recovering the Unity of the Bible: One Continuous Story, Plan, and Purpose*, and Martens, *God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology* (5-7 pages each). Reviews should: 1) summarize the material succinctly, 2) include analysis of the substance and themes of the book, and 3) assess the book's strengths and weaknesses, and 4) comment on the value of the book.

Option 2: Research paper (12-15 pages) over topic chosen by student (with professor's approval) using Turabian form. A minimum of 10 resources should be used and reflected in the bibliography with *at least 2* being journal articles. Please have a topic to me by the fourth week of class and a preliminary bibliography by the seventh week. See list of possible topics below. Note: please do not submit a paper from a previous course!

Topics:

- Salvation in the Old Testament
- Law and Gospel in the Old Testament (Connection with N.T.)
- Treatment of O.T. by figure, movement or era in Church History
- Covenants in the Old Testament
- Worship in the Old Testament
- The Messiah in the Old Testament
- The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
- Applying the Old Testament in Preaching
- War in the Old Testament
- Topic of your own choosing (approved by professor)

General writing instructions (for book reviews or research paper): The papers will be graded according to **form** (Turabian), **style** (can professor understand your writing and are your thoughts clear and concise), **content** (have you fully read and comprehended the concepts in the book [or your topic if research paper]), and **analysis** (have you written clearly your own critical view of the book's [or topic's] content and value). **Plagiarism** will not be tolerated! In writing a paper, when you use someone else's words or thoughts and do not attribute them to the original author, you are essentially claiming that these words or thoughts are your own. This is plagiarism. Therefore, always cite quotations and any other specific information or ideas from other authors. General biographical or English dictionary information is considered common knowledge and need not be cited.

Class Procedures:

All **writing assignments** (excluding exam essays) should conform to Turabian, 8th Edition. Students should utilize the MABTS Turabian Tutor for quick access to key issues concerning style and format. Written work, including exam essays (which are not subject to Turabian), may be submitted to the instructor electronically via email.

Attendance: Attendance is required for online classes just as for regular classes. Attendance will be determined by students accessing online materials, **participating in forums** and submitting assignments. Students have a maximum of nine absences during the course term.

Proctors: Proctoring of exams is required. The exams in this course are open-book exams (using your textbooks and notes from class, not the internet or other outside sources). Exams will be posted on the class website. Please have completed exams (indicating your compliance with the above instructions concerning open-book exams) sent to the professor via email by your proctors. Notify the professor early in the semester as to the name and email of the proctor. Proctors may not be immediate family. Please review the information on the [midamericaondemand](http://midamericaondemand.com) website concerning proctors.

Class Forums: *Mandatory* participation in the class online discussion, responding to the professor's lessons, instructions, and questions posted in the online class schedule each week. This will give opportunity for interaction with professor and other classmates on the subject material for the course. The student will be expected to have completed that week's reading requirement and demonstrate knowledge of its contents through his posted comments. *A missed forum will be counted as an absence.*

Practical Missions: Students are required to participate in practical missions while taking online courses. Students are also required to participate in Report Hour. A virtual Report Hour is posted online in each week's assignment block. Even if students participate in the regular report hour on campus, they must also use the virtual report hour forum each week. If no witness has occurred, the student will log in and report "present."

Contacting Professor: Please email the professor with any questions or concerns. If you need to call and cannot reach Dr. McDill please leave a message and the professor will call back or respond via email.

Late Work: Assignments which are turned in late will incur a deduction of two points for each day late. The student is responsible for contacting the professor regarding assignments which will be late, otherwise the professor will assume the student does not plan to submit those assignments.

Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the information provided in this syllabus during the term.

Schedule: (The daily class schedule is approximate and may be adjusted as the semester progresses.)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Lectures</u>
1) Aug. 18-24	Introduction to course:	Read syllabus / Moodle instructions
2) Aug 25-31	Kaiser, Introduction	Introduction to OT Theology
3) Sept. 1-7	Kaiser, Ch. 1-2	Patriarchal Era
4) Sept. 8-14	Kaiser, Ch. 3-4 <i>Paper Topic Due</i>	Mosaic Era
5) Sept. 15-21	Kaiser, Ch. 5	Davidic Era
6) Sept. 22-28	Kaiser, Chs. 6-7	Wisdom Era
7) Sept. 29-Oct. 5	Kaiser, Ch. 8 <i>Mid-Term Exam posted;</i> <i>Bibliography Due</i>	Prophets – 8 th Century BC
8) Oct. 6-12	<i>Fall Break on Thursday</i>  Kaiser, Ch. 9	Prophets – 7 th Century BC
9) Oct. 13-19	Kaiser, Chs. 10-11 <i>Mid-Term Exam due</i>	Exilic and Postexilic Prophets
10) Oct. 20-26	Kaiser, Part 2 Introduction -Ch.12	Promise and Law
11) Oct. 27-Nov. 2	Kaiser, Ch. 13	Promise-Plan and Mission
12) Nov. 3-9	Kaiser, Chs. 14-15	Promise-Plan and Kingdom
13) Nov. 10-16	Kaiser, Chs. 16-17	Promise-Plan and Holy Spirit
14) Nov. 17-23	Kaiser, Chs. 18-19	Promise-Plan and Jesus' Supremacy
 Nov. 24-30	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
15) Dec. 1-7	Kaiser, Ch. 20	Promise-Plan and Gospel
16) Dec. 8-14	Kaiser, Epilogue	
Exam Week Dec.16-17	<i>Final Exam</i> <i>Book Reviews or Research Paper due</i>	

Grading Scale: Grade point averages are determined on a 12-point grading system.
The grade point value of each letter grade is:

A	97-100	4.0 quality points per semester hour
A-	95-96	3.8 quality points per semester hour
B+	93-94	3.5 quality points per semester hour
B	90-92	3.0 quality points per semester hour
B-	87-89	2.7 quality points per semester hour
C+	84-86	2.3 quality points per semester hour
C	81-83	2.0 quality points per semester hour
C-	77-80	1.7 quality points per semester hour
D+	75-76	1.3 quality points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 quality points per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 quality points per semester hour
F	69 and below	0.0 quality points per semester hour

Selected Bibliography

- Anderson, Bernard W. *Contours of Old Testament Theology*. Fortress, 1999.
- Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. SCM, 1999.
- Beecher, Willis J. *The Prophets and the Promise*. New York: Thomas Crowell; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1905, 1963.
- Briggs, Richard S. *The Virtuous Reader: Old Testament Narrative and Interpretive Virtue*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*. Fortress, 1997.
- Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. Fortress, 1986.
- Eichrodt, W. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961-67.
- Hasel, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Eerdmans, 1995.
- Heine Ronald E. *Reading the Old Testament with the Ancient Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.
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- Merrill, Eugene. *Everlasting Dominion: A Theology of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2006.
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- Terrien, S. *The Elusive Presence: Toward a New Biblical Theology*. Harper and Row, 1978.
- Von Rad, G. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 vols. Harper and Row, 1962-65.
- Waltke, Bruce K. *An Old Testament Theology: an exegetical, canonical, and thematic approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
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