

Syllabus
eGBIB 611 - Old Testament Theology
3.0 Credit hours

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Old Testament Theology presents the student with the major theological issues in the Old Testament as they developed throughout the history of Israel and in relation to the nation's political and religious institutions. A special concern in this course is further to trace the core of theological development and also to see how the theology of the Old Testament points towards Messianic salvation.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to:

- A. perceive the Old Testament as a historical, literary, and theological unity comprising a holistic world view.
- B. work with the particulars of theological issues against the broader horizon of Old Testament theology.
- C. assess how history, covenant, cult, prophecy, and wisdom contributed to the development of Old Testament theology.
- D. constructively apply Old Testament theology to current life issues.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student should be able to:

- A. explain essential concepts such as *grace*, *covenant*, *promise* and *law* as it relates to Old Testament theology.
- B. define the relationship between law, prophecy, and wisdom as expressed in the Old Testament.
- C. discuss the tension between individual and collective worship and praxis, especially as seen in the prophetic writings.
- D. describe attributes of God such as holiness, righteousness, faithfulness, mercy, love, and judgment.
- E. trace the development of salvation history in the Old Testament as it pertains to the cult, leadership, Messianic hopes, and eschatology.
- F. explain the development of covenants within the nation of Israel, how they relate internally, how they affect salvation history both in relation to Israel and the gentiles.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

1. Required

Anderson, Bernhard W. *Contours of Old Testament Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.

The Bible. Any contemporary version.

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Covenanted Self: Explorations in Law and Covenant*.

Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.

Hess, Richard S. and M. Daniel Carroll R (eds.). *Israel's Messiah in the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

2. Reference Works (not required)

Aharoni, Yohanan and Michel Avi-Yonah. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. 3rd ed. New York: Macmillan 1993.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster, 2000.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Texts that Linger, Words that Explode: Listening to Prophetic Voices*. : Fortress Press, 2000.

La Sor, W. S., D.A. Hubbard, F. Wm. Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. 2nd. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1996.

Walton, John. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

V. COURSE PROCEDURES *Discussions*

Discussions are done on the Internet every week, and the topic is presented by the teacher. Each student responds on the initial question and thereafter gives at least one response to another student. Note that participating in discussion is both mandatory and meriting.

Book-reports

The dates given for hand-in are fixed in the respect that delay results in deduction of points (1% for each day overdue all days included). Book reports are to contain two parts: the first part is a rather short summary of the main points in the book (approximately two pages long). The second part in the report is your own opinion and discussion with the author on subjects treated in the book (approximately two pages long as well).

Reading Anderson's Book

The lessons given in each unit does not correspond exactly with Anderson's book. The schedule for reading the book is therefore a suggestion that you as a student may alter if you find it profitable. What is important is of course that you read it as the course proceeds and that you write the book report on the book towards the end of the course.

Reading the Bible

The Bible readings correspond to the lessons given in each unit. In other words, the Bible passages should be read as they are given in the course calendar.

Objective test

The test coming in the last week of the course is not based on the lessons, or on the books.

Rather, they are based on the Bible passages in the course calendar as well as on the history chart

and the concepts listed at the same page. As such it comes as close as possible to an objective test.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the following divisions:

Discussions 35%

Book-reports 40%

Objective test 25%