



BVGT 310 Old Testament Theology (12p/6 cr)

Subject: Old Testament

Prerequisites

Basic eligibility for university studies.

Students auditing the class: No prerequisite

Educational Objectives

After completing the course the student is expected

- Describe the various approaches to Old Testament theology (historical, history of redemption, world-view story, canonical, confessional).
- Learn the central theological themes and issues.
- Explain the diversity and the unity of theological themes in the Old Testament, and how they relate to the New Testament.
- Formulate a working personal position on biblical theology of the Old Testament

Contents

A study of the major themes, issues, and approaches to theology of the Old Testament. Emphasizes the contributions of various biblical books and genres to the unity of the Old Testament. Relates theology of the Old Testament to the Bible as a whole, and how to understand the New Testament better in light of the Old Testament. The contextual milieu of the ancient Near East will also be examined for its impact upon the theology and writings of the Old Testament.

Teaching and Assessment

Teaching consists of lectures, assigned reading, and at least 3 zoom discussions.

Teaching and assignments for students taking the course for Bachelors credit

Teaching consists of lectures (live, recorded and/or synchronous), reading assigned literature and books, and discussions. Students will be assessed through participation in forum/discussion questions as available, five 1-2 page reflection papers (double-spaced), and a final research paper (7-10 pages double-spaced with bibliography and citations).

Students taking the course for Diploma

Teaching consists of lectures (live, recorded and/or synchronous), reading assigned literature and books, and discussions. Students will be assessed through participation in forum/discussion questions as available, and five 1-2 page reflection papers (double-spaced).

Students taking the course for audit

Students who are not taking the course for credit are encouraged to watch the video lectures, complete the readings, and participate in the discussions.

Course Grading Breakdown for students taking the course for Bachelor's credit

5 Short Reflection Papers	50%
Research Paper	50%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A =	100-95
A- =	94-90
B+ =	89-87
B =	86-83
B- =	82-80
C+ =	79-77
C =	76-73
C- =	72-70 *
D+ =	69-67
D =	66-63
D- =	62-60
F =	59 and below

* A grade below C- will not be counted towards your degree program

Required Textbook and Readings

1. Modern translation of the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament (check with instructor)
2. Dempster, Stephen G. *Dominion and Dynasty: A Theology of the Hebrew Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
3. Additional articles and texts as provided by the instructor, available in Moodle.
 - a. Kalimi, Isaac. "Models for Jewish Bible Theologies: Tasks and Challenges." Pages 107-133, in *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 39 (2017).
 - b. Sweeney, Marvin A. "Foundations for a Jewish Theology of the Hebrew Bible: Prophets in Dialogue." Pages 161-186. *Jewish Bible Theology: Perspectives and Case Studies*. Eisenbrauns, 2012.
 - c. Goldingay, John. "God's Person." Pages 19-81, in *Biblical Theology: The God of Christian Scriptures*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016.
 - d. Wright, Christopher J. H. "'Live Such Good Lives among the Nations...': The Missional Impact of Old Testament Ethics in the New Testament." Pages 252-269, in *Interpreting the Old Testament Theologically: Essays in Honor of Willem A. VanGemeren*. Ed. Andrew J. Abernethy. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.
4. Routledge, Robin. *Old Testament Theology: A Thematic Approach*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2008.

Recommended Textbooks

1. Bartholomew, Craig G. and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
2. Klink III, Edward W. and Darian R. Lockett. *Understanding Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
3. Birch, Bruce C., Walter Brueggemann, Terence F. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2005.
4. Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. London: SCM, 1985.
5. Levenson, Jon D. *Sinai and Zion. An Entry into the Jewish Bible*. Minneapolis: Winston Press, 1985.
6. Vanhoozer, Kevin. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: A Book-by-Book Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
7. Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

SCHEDULE FOR EACH SESSION

Each session consists of at least three major video lectures and reading assignments

SEE MOODLE FOR DETAILS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS

Session 1

Session 1 (One Short Reflection Paper Due)

A. Introduction to Old Testament Theology

1. Defining Theology and Old Testament Theology
2. Methods of Doing Old Testament Theology
3. Material for Doing Theology
 - Authority and Unity of Scripture
 - The Canon
4. Perspective for Doing Old Testament Theology
 - The Old Testament and the Christian
 - Reading the Law
 - Reading the Prophets
 - Reading the Psalms and Wisdom Literature
5. Overview of the Old Testament
 - Plan, purpose, and plot

Question for consideration:* How does the OT apply to the Christian life?

Readings to be Completed (See Moodle for details):

1. Dempster, chapter 1. A book or ragbag: a literary approach to Old Testament Theology
2. Kalimi (pdf available in Populi OT 307 in Lessons under Session 1)
3. Sweeney (pdf available in Populi OT 307 in Lessons under Session 1)

Session 2 (Second Short Reflection Paper Due)

B. Thematic Approach: Major Theological Themes of the Old Testament

1. God

Creator, Monotheism
God-Spirit-Word
King, LORD
Presence (Immanuel)
Read Routledge, ch 2

2. Creation

God's Sanctuary: Tabernacle, Temple
Humanity's Nest
Read Routledge, ch 3

3. Humanity

Image of God, Royal Child of God, Priest,
Stewardship (Servant)
Sin, Distorting the image of God: Cause and consequences

4. Covenant

Covenants of God: Noah, Abraham-Israel, Moses, David, Jesus, Church
Election: Blessed to be a blessing (Noah, Abraham-Israel, Moses, David, Jesus,
Church)
Read Routledge, ch 4

5. Kingship (video by professor Kaminski)

God as king
Monarchy in Israel
God's covenant with David
The king and justice
Read Routledge, ch 7

6. Redemption-Reconciliation

Sacrifice and Atonement: grace through faith
Reconciliation
Read Routledge, ch 5-6

7. New Creation

The Day of the Lord
Gathering of the nations
The new earth and new heavens

Readings to be Completed (See Moodle for details)

Question for consideration:* What is our responsibility as humans created in God's image?

Session 3 (Third Short Reflection Paper Due)

C. History of Redemption Approach: The Mission of God through the Old Testament

1. Genesis: Creation through the Patriarchs
2. Exodus-Deuteronomy: Slavery and Exodus through the Wilderness
3. Joshua-Judges: Promised Land through the Judges
4. 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings: The Monarchy through the Exiles
5. Major and Minor Prophets: History through the Eyes of the Prophets
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel: God's Eye View of History
Minor Prophets: Echoes and Visions of That Day
6. Psalms and Wisdom Books: Living and Reflecting on the Faith
Psalms: David, Torah, Kingdom

Job: Suffering and Sovereignty
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes: Solomon, Wisdom, and Vanity
Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah: Endings and New Beginnings
Chronicles: "Let them go up!"

Readings to be Completed (See Moodle for details):

Dempster, chapters 2-5 (pages 45-156) for first half of Session 3; **and** chapters 6-8 (pages 159-227) for second half of Session 3.

Session 4 (Fourth Short Reflection Paper Due)

D. Worldview Approach: How to live in a fallen world

1. God's Mission through Humanity: The Plot Conflict of Good and Evil
2. Agency of Action-Consequence
3. Agency of Natural Forces
4. Agency of Malevolent Forces
5. Agency of Human Needs and Desires
6. Agency of Self-Sufficiency
7. Agency of Authority and Responsibility
8. Agency of Mercy and Grace
9. How Then Should We Live: Restoring the Image of God

Readings to be Completed (See Moodle for details)

Questions to consider:* How do you see your mission (and/or the mission of your church) as God's image-bearer.

Session 5 (One Impact Paper Due)

E. Messianic Approach: The Soon and Coming King

1. Bridge to the NT
2. OT in the NT
3. New Covenant fulfillment of the Old
4. Future Hope

Questions to consider:* Where do we see glimpses of the Messiah in the Old Testament? How does the New Testament theologially apply passages from the Old Testament to point to Jesus as Messiah, and to his first and second coming?

Readings to be Completed (See Moodle for details)

Routledge, chapters 9-10