

COURSE OUTLINE
THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
TH 210

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory course on the theology of the Old Testament. It will trace a history of the development of the discipline and will proceed by exploring the major theological themes of the Old Testament. A rudimentary knowledge of Biblical Hebrew will be required for the course.

OBJECTIVES OF COURSE

The Major objective of this course is to get students familiar with the major theological themes of the Old Testament. This in turn is meant to enable the student develop a panoramic view of the Old Testament with regard to how ancient Israel developed its religious identity in their conception of God, Covenant, Creation, History etc. The student is also trained to appreciate the depth of the Israelite legacy with a constant reference to Ancient Near Eastern views with which Israel shares a cultural humus and which on the other hand, highlights the uniqueness of Israel's faith and theology. The student is also meant to develop a basic familiarity with the legacy of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Space will also be created for contextualizing the result of this study to deepen the student personally for an interest in reading and interpretation of scripture.

REQUIREMENTS

- Class attendant and participation are mandatory
- The students are required to read the materials according to the requirement of the professor
- They are expected to submit a well-researched written essay (between 3,000 and 5,000 words)
- The essay will be on selected major theology themes of the OT.
- The topic should be approved by the lecturer before they start researching on it. They are required to highlight the plurality of perspectives of the themes in the OT, indicate the link with the NT and highlight the contemporary relevance of the theme.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as yours. Penalties range from a loss of marks to dismissal from the University. To avoid plagiarism, any use of another's words or ideas must be fully cited in the proper format: identify the title, author, page number, or URL, and publication date of works when directly quoting small portions of texts, articles, interviews, or websites; appropriately identify the source of information when paraphrasing or restating ideas from a source. All essay must observe the academic standard both in terms of content, methodology and style as stipulated in the approved Manual of Reference.

GRADING CRITERIA

Continuous assessment shall be 40% while the final examination will be 60%. Marking scheme for all assessments would include (a) 40% for content (b) 20% for logic and coherence of thought (c) 20% for clarity of expression or articulation and (d) 20% for grammar and ability to use original biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew). Students should be aware that poor grammar may affect the grades.

COURSE OUTLINE

OCTOBER 5: General Introduction. The Development of the Discipline of Biblical Theology

- ❖ Brevard S. Childs, *Biblical Theology of the old and new testaments*, Minneapolis 1992, pp, 3-35

October 12: The God of Israel, His names; God as one; Israel's understanding of God against the Ancient Near Eastern Background.

- ❖ McKenzie, J.L, "Aspects of Old Testament Thought", in Brown R.E, et al, eds, *The New Jerusalem Biblical Commentary* (New Jersey 1990), pp. 1285-1290

October 19: The Spirit of God and Word of God. The Concept of the Spirit; The OT; The Word of God, Concept of Word, The Word in the OT.

- ❖ McKenzie, J.L, "Aspects of Old Testament Thought", in Brown, R.E, et al, eds, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (New Jersey 1990), pp. 1290-1292

October 26: God and Nature: The Concept of Nature, Creation and Continuous Creation

- ❖ McKenzie, J.L, “The Word of God in the Old Testament”, *Theological Studies* (1960) 183-206.

November 2: Israel-Yahweh’s Covenant People Human Nature. The Covenant: Definition and Background; Analogies for the Relationship of God to Israel; Covenant forms, covenant and the History of Israel.

- ❖ McKenzie, J.L “Aspects of Old Testament Thoughts”, in Brown, R.E, et al, eds, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, pp.1301-1304

November 9: Revelation, Nature of Revelation, channels of Revelation.

- ❖ McKenzie, J.L “Aspects of Old Testament Thought”, in Brown, R.E, et al, eds, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, pp. 1301-1304

November 16: Salvation: Yahweh’s Saving Deeds, Nature of Salvation, Reign of God.

- ❖ McKenzie, J.L “Aspects of Old Testament Thought”, in Brown, R.E, et al, eds, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, pp.1308-1310.

November 23: The Concept of Justice in the Old Testament

- ❖ Botterweck, GJ, Ringgren, H, *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids MI, Vols. 1-Anchor Bible Dictionary.

December 30: Sin and Forgiveness

- ❖ McKenzie, J.L “Aspects of Old Testament Thought” in Brown R.E, et al, eds, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, pp.1305-1397.

December 7: God’s Future plans for his people. The Messiah, Development of Royal Messianism.

- ❖ Botterweck,GJ, Ringgren, H,*Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids MI, Vols. 1-Anchor Bible Dictionary; McKenzie, J.L “Aspects of Old Testament Thought”, in Brown, R.E, et al, eds,*The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, pp. 1310-1312.

The following dates are tentative and may be reviewed

January 6: Revision! Revision!! Revision!!!

January 13: Revision! SUBMISSION OF TERM PAPERS.

January 20: Revision! Revision!! Revision!!!

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Botterweck, GJ, Ringgren, H, *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids MI Vols.1.

Brueggemann, Walter, *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*, Minneapolis 2005.

Childs, B.S, *Introduction to Old Testament as Scripture* (London 1987).

-----, *Biblical Theology of the Old and the New Testaments* (London 1992).

Eichrodt, W, *Theology of the Old Testament* vol.1 (Stuttgart 1961)

Hasel, G, *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate* (Grand Rapids 1975)

House, Paul R., *Old Testament Theology*, Downers Grove, 1998.

McKenzie, J.L, “Aspects of Old Testament Thought”, in Brown R.E, et al, eds, *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (New Jersey 1990) 1284-1315.

-----, “The Word of God in the Old Testament”, *Theological Studies* (1960) 183-206.

Rad, G. Von, *Old Testament Theology I-II* (London 1965).

Waltke, Bruce K., *An Old Testament Theology*, (Grand Rapids MI, 2007).