



TYNDALE
• SEMINARY •

**Syllabus
Winter 2013**

**OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY AND HISTORY
OLDT 0511**

WEDNESDAY 6:30-9:20 PM

INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA LEUNG LAI, PhD
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:30-6:15 p.m
(Other times by appointment; 2-week in advance sign-up sheet on office door)

To access your course material, please go to <http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide the student with a general introduction to the historical, sociological and religious world in which the Old Testament was produced, as well as the discipline of Old Testament Theology and the major theological emphases of the Old Testament.

Recommended: BIBL 501

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through lectures, demonstrated examples, class interaction, group discussion, reading and assignments, upon completion of the course, the student will:

- Be able to acquire the knowledge of the different existing and emerging models of Old Testament theology and their theological orientation, and be able to critically reflect on the proposed 2-fold theological framework (**God reaching out/speaking to Humanity; and Humanity reaching out/Speaking to God**) overarching the 3-fold division of the Hebrew Bible.
- Be able to acquire the basic knowledge of the major historical events of the OT and the ways that the **Acts of God** intersect with the **History of Israel**.
- Be provided with the major theological themes in each of the 3-fold division of the Hebrew Bible (Law, Prophets, and Writings).

- Be equipped with the necessary tools and skills in self-constructing a text-anchored and reader-oriented Old Testament Biblical Theology for each given passage, book, or division of the Old Testament Canon (i.e. from “**descriptive**” to “**normative**”).
- Be provided with “pointers” and “directives” to appropriate the theological message of the OT to the contemporary human and ecclesiastical life-context.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Perdue, Leo G. [Reconstructing Old Testament Theology after the Collapse of History](#).

Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005. (=Perdue)

House, Paul. R. [Old Testament Theology](#). Downers Grove: IVP, 1998. (=House)

B. SUPPLIMENTARY / RECOMMENDED TEXTS

The following texts will be on 2-hr. reserve in the library.

Baker, David W., H. Philip Long and Gordon J. Wenham (eds.). [Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument, and the Crisis of Biblical Israel](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. (=Windows) **e-R**

Birch, Bruce C. Walter Bruggemann, Terence E. Fretheim and David L. Petersen. A *Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999. (=TIOT)

Bruggemann, Walter. [Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy](#). Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997. (=TOT) **e-R**

Fields, Wilbur and William George Smith. *Old Testament History: An Overview of Sacred History and Truth*. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Company, 2006. (=Fields)

Goldingay, John. *Old Testament Theology* ([Vol. One: Israel's Gospel](#); [Vol. Two: Israel's Faith](#); [Vol. Three: Israel's Life](#)). IVP Academic, 2003; 2006. 2009. (=Goldingay) **e-R**

Hubbard (Jr.), Robert L., Johnston, Robert K., Meye, Robert P. (eds.). *Studies in Old Testament Theology*. Word Publishing, 1992. (=SOTT)

Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. (=Merrill)

Waltke, Bruce K. and Charles Yu. *Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Company, 2007. (=Waltke)

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Assignment A: 25% Due: Feb 6

Length: 7-10 double-spaced, type-written pages.

A close-reading of the following passages: Dan 9; Neh 9; Psalm 78 and 44. As you read, note the following: (a) the ways that the history of Israel was recalled; (b) the imageries that are at the center of these historical accounts; and (c) their distinctiveness as compared to any book on the history of a nation --- Are they concern about facts?; dates?; or events? Based on your observations/reflection, prepare (i) material for a one-hour

the beginning of class on respective due dates. Marks for late assignments will be deducted 10% per week.

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/seminary/calendar. An excerpt is attached with this syllabus for easy reference.

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Samples of “A” grade paper are available upon request.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Class Participation	10%
Assignment A	25%
Assignment B	20%
Assignment C	25%
Reading Assignments	20%
Total Grade	100%

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

This is only a general outline. A detailed lecture outline will be provided for each class session with recommended readings and required reading assignments.

All class sessions will be conducted in an interactive fashion. Knowledgeable participation in class discussions is expected after you have fulfilled your reading assignments.

A. Introduction

- A.1 The Three-fold Division of the Hebrew Canon
- A.2 The Old Testament and the Ancient Near Eastern World: An Overview
- A.3 Nature of Old Testament History and Old Testament Theology
- A.4 Encountering the Old Testament: Doing OT Studies in the Past Two Decades
- A.5 Tools and Resources: An Introduction

B. The Present Status of Old Testament Theology: An Overview

- B.1 Unity and Diversity, Centre or Strata of Theological Thoughts
- B.2 Critical Dialogue: Existing and Emerging Methods
- B.3 Constructing Old Testament Theology: The Present Task
- B.4 Self-Constructing Old Testament Theology: The Practice
- B.5 The Two-fold Theological Framework: A Proposal

C. GOD REACHING OUT/SPEAKING TO HUMANITY (LAW AND PROPHETS)

C.1 Themes and Theology of the Pentateuch

- C.1.0 Rationale and Objective
- C.1.1 Prolegomena to the 3-fold Patriarchal Promise (Gen 1-11)
- C.1.2 Promise of "Heir" (Gen 12-17)
- C.1.3 Promise of "Divine-Human Relationship" (Exod-Lev)
- C.1.4 Promise of "Land" (Num and Deut)
- C.1.5 Doctrine of the "Two-Ways"

C.2 Histories in the Old Testament (Former Prophets and Chronicler)

- C.2.1 Prophetic View of History (The Former Prophets)
- C.2.2 Chronicler's View of History: Midrashic/Didactic History
- C.2.3 Apocalyptic View of History (defer to Section **C.4**)

C.3 Theology of the Prophets (Latter Prophets)

- C.3.0 Prophetism
- C.3.1 View of God in the Prophets
- C.3.2 Covenant Idea in the Prophets
- C.3.3 From Divine Pathos to Prophetic Pathos: The Inner Life of the Prophets

C.4 Apocalyptic Literature -- Daniel

- C.4.1 Apocalyptic Movement: Two Dominant Views
- C.4.2 Where is Daniel to be placed in the Overall Structure of Old Testament Theology?
- C.4.3 In Times Like This: View of the Apocalyptic God
- C.4.4 Major Theological Themes

D. HUMANITY REACHING OUT/SPEAKING TO GOD (WRITINGS)

Theology of the Wisdom Literature (Wisdom Books and Psalms)

- D.1 What is Wisdom?
- D.2 Place of Wisdom in Old Testament Theology
- D.3 Faith Seeking Understanding
- D.4 The Tension between the "Norm" (Proverbs and some Wisdom Psalms) and (i) the "Exceptions" (Job and some Wisdom Psalms); and (ii) the "Reflective/Thinking-out-loud" (Ecclesiastes)

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Items marked with **R** are on 2-hr. reserve in the library.

- Anderson, Bernhard W. and Steven Bishop. [Contours of Old Testament Theology](#) Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999. **e-R**
- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Armerding, Carl E. and Gasque, W. Ward (eds.). *A Guide to Biblical Prophecy*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1989.
- Avalos, Hector. *The End of Biblical Studies*. Amherst, N. Y.: Prometheus, 2007.
- Ballard, Harold Wayne, B. Donald Keyser. [From Jerusalem to Gaza: An Old Testament Theology](#). Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2002. **e-R**
- Barr, James. *The Concept of Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.
- Benjamin, Don C. and Victor Harold Matthews. [Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East](#). Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2006. **e-R**
- Clements, Roland E. *Wisdom for a Changing World*. BIBAL Press, 1990.
- Clines, David J. A. [The Theme of the Pentateuch](#), 2nd ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997. (=Theme) **R & e-R**
- Dempster, Stephen G. [Dominion & Dynasty: A Theology of the Hebrew Bible](#). Downers Grove: IVP, 2004. (=Dempster) **R & e-R**
- Dumbrell, William J. *The Faith of Israel: Its Expression in the Books of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- Hogehaven, Jesper. *Problems and Prospects of Old Testament Theology*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1988. (=Hogehaven) **R**
- Isaak, Jon, Ed. *The Old Testament in the Life of God's People*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2009.
- Koehler, Ludwig. [Old Testament Theology](#). Cambridge: James Clarke & Co., 2003. **e-R**
- Knierim, Rolf P. [The Task of Old Testament Theology: Method and Cases](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. **e-R**
- LaSor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard and Frederic William Bush,. [Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament](#). 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. **e-R**
- Leclerc, Thomas L. [Introduction to the Prophets: Their Stories, Sayings, and Scrolls](#). Mahwah, N. J.: Paulist, 2007.
- Longman III, Tremper and Raymond Dillard, Eds. [An Introduction to the Old Testament](#). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. **e-R**
- Martens, Elmer A. *God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Matthews, Victor H. *Studying the Ancient Israelites: A Guide to Sources and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.
- McKenzie, Steven L. and John Kaltner. *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.
- Merrill, Eugene. [Everlasting Dominion: A Theology of the Old Testament](#). Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2006. (=Merrill) **R & e-R**
- Miller, Patrick D. [The Way of the Lord: Essays in Old Testament Theology](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007. (=The Way) **R & e-R**

Murphy, Roland E. [*The Tree of Life: An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature*](#), 2nd edn.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. (=The Tree) **R & e-R**

Okoye, James Chukwuma. *Israel and the Nations: A Mission Theology of the Old Testament*.

Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2006.

Ollenburger, Ben C. (ed.). [*Old Testament Theology: Flowering and Future*](#). Winona Lake:

Eisenbrauns, 2004. (=Ollenburger) **R & e-R**

Perdue, Leo G. *Wisdom Literature: A Theological History* (Westminster John Knox, 2007).

R

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: A Book-by-Book Survey*.

Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

** Cf. also **Tyndale OT Library Resources:**

(<http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsm modular/reading-rooms/oldt>)

VI. RECOMMENDED COMMENTARY SERIES AND TOOLS

A. Recommended Commentary Series

Word Biblical Commentary (WBC)

New International Commentary of the OT (NICOT)

Tyndale Old Testament Interpretation (Tyn)

The Communicator's Commentary (=Mastering the Old Testament)

The Forms of OT Literature (FOTL)

New Century Bible Commentary (NBC)

Hermeneia (very technical)

Old Testament Library (OTL)

Anchor Bible (AB)

Cambridge Bible Commentary (CBC)

B. Recommended Tools

The New International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE) ([Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#), [Vol. 3](#), [Vol. 4](#)) **e-R**

Anchor Bible Dictionary (ABD)

Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (IDB) ** (NIDB)

New Bible Dictionary (NDB), 2nd edn.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (TWOT)

Dictionary of Biblical Theology, 2nd edn.

Dictionary of Old Testament Words for English Readers

New Interpreter's Bible (NIB)

de Vaux, Roland. [*Ancient Israel: Its Life & Institutions*](#). The Bible Resource Series.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. **e-R**

Nemet-Nejat, Karen Rhea. [*Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*](#). Peabody.: Hendrickson,

2002. **e-R**