



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

OT 501 CO: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT I

Fall 2011, Columbia Campus

Meeting Times: Mondays, 9:00 a.m.-noon, beginning **Aug 29**; Final exam: **Dec 5**

Professor: Max Rogland

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OFFICE HOURS FOR FALL 2011:

During the Fall 2011 semester my Columbia office hours are 1:30-4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, but it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first, just in case I have to be away for some unexpected reason. Other times may be available by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the history and literature of Israel to the end of the united kingdom. In dealing with Israelite economic, social, political, cultural, and religious life, the Old Testament is illumined by studies in archaeology, geography, and ancient Near Eastern texts. Introductory issues such as canon, historical-critical approaches, and the authority of the Old Testament are also treated. *Required for M.Div., M.A.C.M., M.A.P.M., and M.A.T.S. students. Three hours.*

COURSE GOALS:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service in the Christian Church.” To achieve this mission, the ability to understand the Bible in various contexts must be taught. These contexts include the Bible’s ancient Near Eastern cultural setting, the immediate context of the literary unit in question, the context of the book of the Bible at issue or the OT as a whole, its canonical context admitting the light of the NT that points to Christ, and the context of the whole counsel of God that includes the implications of the Word today. This course will seek to raise the students’ awareness of how to read the OT in these various contexts. The specific goals of this course are as follows:

- This course will expose the student to the history and geography of the OT. Many of the names and places should become clear, and the timeline of events should crystallize the student’s understanding of the progress of redemption. Along the way, insights from comparative studies will be discovered.
- At appropriate points in the study of the material, the questions that generations of modern scholars have asked of the text will be raised and their answers supplied and critiqued. The strengths and weaknesses of these approaches will be considered, including the “grammatical-historical” method of interpretation.

- The student will gain adeptness at relating the OT revelation to its fulfillment in Christ's person and work. How the NT influences our reading of the Old is an important consideration in this course. The "grammatical-historical" method is not the all-in-all of interpretation. The centrality of the gospel and the culmination of all the OT motifs and themes in Jesus will be discussed.
- Finally, the importance of the OT in the formation of our contemporary theology, character, and wisdom will be placed before the student.

ERSKINE VIRTUAL CAMPUS (EVC):

This course utilizes Erskine's EVC website as a place to make a number of required class resources available to you. Thus, you will need frequent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. See **Appendix A** below for directions on setting up an account. After you have set up an account and are officially registered for the course then you will need an enrollment key in order to access the OT 501 CO online classroom (this key is available from the instructor). Students must have their EVC accounts set up by the first class session. As soon as you have registered for the course you should check the online classroom for important information pertaining to the class. The OT 501 CO course is listed under the "hybrid" classrooms on EVC: <http://hybrid.erskineseminary.net/>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

REQUIRED:

Dillard, Raymond B., and Tremper Longman III, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd edition. Zondervan, 2006. (ISBN: 978-0310263418)

Curtis, Adrian (ed.), *The Oxford Bible Atlas*. 4th edition, paperback. Oxford University Press, 2009. (ISBN: 978-0-1995-6046-2)

Wright, Christopher J., *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 1992. (ISBN: 978-0-8308-1693-4)

Longman, Tremper, *Immanuel in Our Place: Seeing Christ in Israel's Worship*. Presbyterian & Reformed, 2001. (ISBN: 0-87552-651-9)

Collins, C. John, *Genesis 1-4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary*. Presbyterian & Reformed, 2006. (ISBN: 978-0-87552-619-5)

RECOMMENDED:

Soulen, Richard, and R. Kendall Soulen, *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*, 3rd edition. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001. (ISBN: 978-0-664-22314-4)

W. Grudem (ed.), *The ESV Study Bible*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008. Many formats and bindings are available; the basic hardcover edition is ISBN 978-1-4335-0241-5.

M. Silva (ed.), *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. (ISBN: 0-310-20828-9)

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at:

<http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

PLEASE NOTE: When ordering a book that has been published in more than one edition, make certain that you acquire the correct one (check the ISBN number when ordering); do not attempt to substitute an older edition of a required textbook.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

A full class schedule of topics, assignments, etc. is provided below (**Appendix B**). For now, note the following important dates:

- The first class session meets on **August 29**.
- No class on **November 21** – Thanksgiving Break
- The final exam is on **December 5**.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Course readings: 5%

You are required to read the Bible from Genesis 1 through 1 Kings 11 in its entirety, as well as T. Longman's *Immanuel in Our Place*, C. Wright's *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, and a number of chapters from Longman & Dillard's *Introduction to the Old Testament*. See the Course Schedule (**Appendix B**) for details. The grade for this component is based upon the percentage of readings completed on time (partial or late readings will not be counted). By diligently completing all of the assigned readings on time the student will receive full credit for this grade component. You must complete the Reading Checklist (**Appendix C**) and submit it at the final exam session on **December 5**.

2. In-Class Geography Quizzes (3 @ 5% each = 15% total) on **Sept 26, Nov 7, and Nov 28**. Study guides for these will be provided by the instructor.
3. Take-Home Exams: 60% (20% each)

There will be three take-home (open book) exams in this class. The first will be due on **Sept 26** and will cover general introductory issues and Genesis 1-11. The second exam is on the entire Pentateuch/Torah and will be due on **Nov 7**. The third exam will cover Old Testament History will be due on **Dec 5**. Further details regarding these exams will be provided in class.

4. Two reflection papers: 20%

You will write reflection papers on T. Longman's *Immanuel in Our Place* (due **Oct 31**) and C. Wright's *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament* (due **Nov 28**), each worth 10% of your course grade. For general guidelines on writing reflection papers, consult the document "Writing Theological Papers" by Don Fairbairn, posted on the EVC hybrid classroom. Further details pertaining to these papers will be provided in class.

5. Attendance and participation

There is no grade component for attendance and participation. However, you are expected to attend every class meeting, so under no circumstances are you to ask me, “Is it okay if I miss class on such-and-such a date?” Missing class is NEVER “okay”. You are allowed one absence without penalty, but you are responsible for all material presented in class, whether you are present or not. A second absence will result in a **3%** reduction in your course grade. Three or more absences are not acceptable and will require that you withdraw from the course. Arriving after the first hour of class will be counted as an absence. Arriving after the first fifteen minutes of class will be tolerated once, but repeated late arrivals will be treated as absences.

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY’S GRADING SCALE:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND SEMINARY POLICIES:

For official seminary policies on Course Drop/Add/Withdrawals, Required Textbooks, Language About God and Humanity, Conduct in Theological Discussions, Course Incompletes, Class Attendance, Style and Bibliographic Formatting Requirements, Exegesis Credit for Bible Electives, Chapel Attendance, Portfolio Requirements, and Plagiarism, see the following link:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSStudents.pdf

In addition to the information provided there, please note the following:

Policy on Absences and Late/Incomplete Work: Sleeping in class is counted as an absence, as is missing more than half of a class session. More than one class absence will result in grade penalties, as will any assignments turned in late.

Taping Class Lectures: If you wish to tape a lecture using your own recording device, you must complete an “Audio Recording Request” form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at: <http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics/PdfDownloads.html>

Appendix A: First time EVC users

If you have never created an EVC account, please complete the following steps to access to the online classroom.

If you have taken an EVC course previously, go to the web site listed below and enter your user name and password.

1. Go to the online classroom website: <http://seminary.erskine.edu/Academics/EDEN.html>
2. Click on the EVC Login button.
3. Select the term for which you are enrolled.
4. Read carefully the text under the heading “*Is this your first time here?*” Click on the “*Start now by creating a new account*” button.
5. An email will be immediately sent to the email address you entered in the new account form. When it arrives read the email and click on the web link it contains. Your account will be confirmed and you will be logged in. This must be done in a timely manner – the confirmation will not stay for long in the system.
6. Find the course for which you are enrolled.
7. Enter the **enrollment key** in order to access the online classroom. Once your registration is confirmed by the Registrar’s office you may contact the instructor to obtain the key.

** Notes:

- The **enrollment key** and your **user name and password** are different. Do not attempt to use one for the other.
- It is recommended that you write down your user name and password so that it won’t be forgotten. The EVC office cannot provide you with this information.
- Please do not share the enrollment key with other students.

Appendix B: OT 501 Fall 2011 Class Schedule

Class Session & Date	Topic	Bible Readings and Longman-Dillard (LD)¹	Exams & Papers
I: 8/29	Introduction; Genesis		
II: 9/5	Genesis (cont.)	LD: chs. 1 & 2	
III: 9/12	Genesis-Exodus	Bible: Genesis	
IV: 9/19	Exodus	Bible: Exodus; LD: ch.3	
V: 9/26	Leviticus		In-class Geography quiz on Gen 1-11 and take home exam on Gen 1-11 due
VI: 10/3	Leviticus-Numbers	Bible: Leviticus; LD: ch.4	
VII: 10/10	Numbers	Bible: Numbers; LD: ch.5	
VIII: 10/17	Numbers-Deuteronomy		
IX: 10/24	Deuteronomy	Bible: Deuteronomy; LD: ch.6	
X: 10/31	Deuteronomy		Longman reflection paper
XI: 11/7	Introduction to OT Historical Books; Joshua & Judges	Bible: Joshua & Judges; LD: ch. 7	In-class Geography quiz on Pentateuch & take home Torah exam due
XII: 11/14	Ruth; Samuel & the Rise of the Monarchy; Saul and David	Bible: Judges & Ruth; LD: chs. 8 & 9	
11/21 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK			
XIII: 11/28	David and Solomon	Bible: 1 & 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-11; LD: chs. 10 & 11	In-class Geography quiz on Historical Books; Wright reflection paper due
12/5 FINAL EXAM SESSION: HISTORICAL BOOKS TAKE HOME EXAM DUE			

¹ Readings must be completed BY the dates on the schedule.

Appendix C: OT 501 Fall 2011 Reading Checklist

Class Session/Date	Assigned Readings: ²	Readings completed on time?
I: 8/29		
II: 9/5	Longman & Dillard: chs. 1 & 2	
III: 9/12	Bible: Genesis	
IV: 9/19	Bible: Exodus; Longman & Dillard: ch.3	
V: 9/26		
VI: 10/3	Bible: Leviticus; Longman & Dillard: ch.4	
VII: 10/10	Bible: Numbers; Longman & Dillard: ch.5	
VIII: 10/17		
IX: 10/24	Bible: Deuteronomy; Longman & Dillard: ch.6	
X: 10/31	Longman, <i>Immanuel in Our Place</i>	
XI: 11/7	Bible: Joshua; Longman & Dillard: ch. 7	
XII: 11/14	Bible: Judges & Ruth; Longman & Dillard: chs. 8 & 9	
XIII: 11/28	Bible: 1 & 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-11; Longman & Dillard: chs. 10 & 11; Wright, <i>Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament</i>	
12/5 Reading Checklist DUE		

I verify that the above readings were completed as indicated.

Signature

Print name

² Readings are to be completed by the date given; e.g., the first two chapters of Longman & Dillard should be completed by the start of class on September 5.