



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

OT 502 CO: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT II

Spring 2012, Columbia Campus

Meeting Times: **Mondays, 9:00 a.m.-noon**, beginning **Jan 30**; Final exam: **May 7**

Professor: Max Rogland

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OFFICE HOURS (Columbia):

During the Spring 2012 semester my Columbia office hours are 1:30-4:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 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 traces the history and examines the literature of the Israelite people from the division of the kingdom through the development of Judaism. In this, the Hebrew poetic and wisdom literature of the Old Testament is studied along with such other topics as the content, interpretation, and the unity of the Old Testament. *Students should complete OT 501 Old Testament I prior to taking this course. Required for M.Div., M.A.C.M., M.A.P.M., and M.A.T.S. students. Three hours.*

COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

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. Specifically:

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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 centrality of the gospel and the culmination of all the OT motifs and themes in Jesus will be discussed.
4. Finally, the importance of the OT in the formation of our contemporary theology, character, and wisdom will be placed before the student.

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the major geographical features and national entities of the ancient Near East during the period covered by the Biblical books studied.
2. Outline the major events of Israel's history.
3. Describe the various approaches to the OT, their results and the reigning paradigms for present-day study of the Hebrew Bible.
4. Describe the contents and theology of each book from 1 Kings through Malachi.

ERSKINE VIRTUAL CAMPUS (EVC):

This course utilizes Erskine's Virtual Campus learning management system 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. After you are officially registered for the course, you will be provided information necessary to access the online course or portion of the course. Information will be sent to the student's Erskine email address and access to the online course site should be done in a timely manner.

The OT 502 CO classroom can be found at: <http://ets.mrooms3.net/>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

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.

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 the Holy Spirit through the Old Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2006. (ISBN: 978-0-8308-2591-2)

Alexander, T. Desmond, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem: An Introduction to Biblical Theology*. Kregel, 2008. (ISBN: 978-0-8254-2015-3)

RECOMMENDED:

Grudem, Wayne (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.

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

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

COURSE SCHEDULE:

A full class schedule of topics, assignments, etc. is provided below (**Appendix A**).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Course readings: 10%

You are required to read assigned Bible passages from 1 Kings 12 through Malachi, T. Desmond Alexander's *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, C. Wright's *Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament*, and a number of chapters from Longman & Dillard's *Introduction to the Old Testament*. See the Course Schedule (**Appendix A**) 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 B**) and submit it at the final exam session on **May 7**.

2. In-Class Geography Quizzes (2 @ 5% each = 10% total) on **Feb 27** and **April 23**. 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 **March 5** and will cover the historical books studied. The second exam covers the Psalms and Wisdom Literature and will be due on **April 9**. The third exam will cover Old Testament Prophetic Books will be due on **May 7**. Further details regarding these exams will be provided in class.

4. Two reflection papers: 20%

You will write reflection papers on T. Desmond Alexander's *From Eden to the New Jerusalem* (**due March 19**) and C. Wright's *Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament* (**due May 7**), 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:

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|--------|----|-------|----|-------|----|
| 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/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.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: OT 502 Spring 2012 Class Schedule

| Class Session & Date | Topic | Bible Readings and Longman-Dillard (LD)¹ | Exams & Papers |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| I: Jan 30 | Introduction; 1-2 Kgs | | |
| II: Feb 6 | 1-2 Kgs (cont.); 1-2 Chron | LD: chs. 11 & 12 | |
| III: Feb 13 | Ezra-Nehemiah | Bible: 1-2 Kgs; LD: ch.13 | |
| IV: Feb 20 | Esther | Bible: Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther; LD: ch.14 | |
| V: Feb 27 | Psalms | Bible: Psalms; LD: ch.16 | In-Class Geography Quiz #1 |
| VI: March 5 | Job & Proverbs | Bible: Job & Proverbs; LD: chs.15 & 17 | Historical Books Take Home Exam DUE |
| VII: March 12 | Ecclesiastes | Bible: Ecclesiastes; LD: ch.18 | |
| VIII: March 19 | Song of Solomon | Bible: Song of Solomon; LD: ch.19 | Alexander Reflection Paper DUE |
| IX: March 26 | Isaiah | Bible: Isaiah; LD: ch.20 | |
| April 2 | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK | | |
| X: April 9 | Jeremiah-Lamentations | Bible: Jeremiah & Lamentations; LD: chs. 21 & 22 | Psalms/Wisdom Take Home Exam DUE |
| XI: April 16 | Ezekiel & Daniel | Bible: Ezekiel & Daniel; LD: chs. 23 & 24 | |
| XII: April 23 | Minor Prophets (I) | Bible: Hosea-Nahum; LD: chs. 25-31 | In-Class Geography Quiz #2 |
| XIII: April 30 | Minor Prophets (II) | Bible: Habakkuk-Malachi; LD: chs. 32-36 | |
| May 7 FINAL EXAM SESSION: Prophetic Books Take Home Exam & Christopher Wright Reflection Paper DUE | | | |

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

Appendix B: OT 502 Spring 2012 Reading Checklist

| Class Session/Date | Assigned Readings:² | Readings completed on time? |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| I: Jan 30 | | |
| II: Feb 6 | Longman & Dillard: chs. 11 & 12 | |
| III: Feb 13 | Bible: 1-2 Kgs; Longman & Dillard: ch.13 | |
| IV: Feb 20 | Bible: Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther; Longman & Dillard: ch.14 | |
| V: Feb 27 | Bible: Psalms; Longman & Dillard: ch.16 | |
| VI: March 5 | Bible: Job & Proverbs; Longman & Dillard: chs.15 & 17 | |
| VII: March 12 | Bible: Ecclesiastes; Longman & Dillard: ch.18 | |
| VIII: March 19 | Bible: Song of Solomon; Longman & Dillard: ch.19; Alexander, <i>From Eden to New Jerusalem</i> | |
| IX: March 26 | Bible: Isaiah; Longman & Dillard: ch.20 | |
| X: April 9 | Bible: Jeremiah & Lamentations; Longman & Dillard: chs. 21 & 22 | |
| XI: April 16 | Bible: Ezekiel & Daniel; Longman & Dillard: chs. 23 & 24 | |
| XII: April 23 | Bible: Hosea-Nahum; Longman & Dillard: chs. 25-31 | |
| XIII: April 30 | Bible: Habakkuk-Malachi; Longman & Dillard: chs. 32-36 | |
| May 7 Final Exam Session | Wright, <i>Knowing the Holy Spirit</i> ; 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 February 6.