

OT 502: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT II

Spring 2008

Due West Campus, Wednesdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Professor: Max Rogland

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OFFICE HOURS FOR SPRING 2008:

I will typically be available in my office in Columbia between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, though it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first. Contact me if you wish to arrange a meeting time on Wednesdays when I am at the Due West campus.

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. Topics treated include canon, criticism, content, interpretation, and unity of the Old Testament.

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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Textbooks may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine.

LaSor, Hubbard, and Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

May, Herbert G. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.

The text of the Old Testament from 1 Kings 12 through Malachi. The English Standard Version of the Bible is recommended (available online at: www.gnpcb.org/esv/).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Your final grade will be based upon the following factors:

- A. Exams: 75% total
 1. The History exam will cover all material presented in class or assigned to be read pertaining to the historical books: 25%
 2. The Prophecy exam will cover all material presented in class or assigned to be read pertaining to the prophetic books: 25%
 3. The Poetry and Wisdom exam will cover all material presented in class or assigned to be read pertaining to the poetical books: 25%
- B. Worksheets and assignments: 20%
- C. Class Attendance and Participation: 5%
 1. You will be held responsible for all material presented in class.
 2. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Absences must be approved by the instructor. If the student misses a class, he or she will be required to do work equivalent to the number of class hours missed. It is contingent on the student to seek out the professor for this compensative work to avoid losing credit for those hours. If you miss more than 3 class periods, you will be given a failing mark for the course.
- D. Bible reading: pass/fail

You are required to read the text of 1 Kings 12 through Malachi in its entirety. No grade for this component is given, but failure to complete it and to submit a signed statement indicating this will result in an "Incomplete" for the course.

OVERALL 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:

Registration: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy: Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students taking a class that meets four times over a semester/term must attend the first meeting of the class.

Late or Incomplete Work: Any work not submitted by the due date will be assessed a late penalty. Students should review the Seminary policy on “Incompletes” in the Seminary catalog. A grade of “Incomplete” is not a privilege of the student. It is the prerogative of the professor. It can be given as a final grade only when the student (1) has completed most of his/her course work and (2) has been providentially hindered from doing the rest of the course work. Note that there is a processing fee associated with “Incompletes,” and that “Incompletes” must be completed by the stated deadline or they automatically become an “F.” Only the Dean may approve extensions of deadlines for “Incompletes.”

Taping Class Lectures: To tape a lecture the student must complete an “Audio Recording Request” form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at:

http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics_Files/PdfDownloads.html

COURSE SCHEDULE, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAM DATES:**February 6**

Topics: Introduction; Historical Books

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.9, 14-15; 1 Kings 12-22 & 2 Kings

February 13

Topic: Historical Books

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.41 & 49; 1-2 Chronicles

February 20

Topic: Historical Books

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.40 & 42; Ezra-Esther

February 27

Topic: Historical Books

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.16-17, 21-22; Isaiah

March 5**Historical Books Exam**

Topic: Prophets

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.24 & 39; Jeremiah & Lamentations

March 12

Topic: Prophets

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor ch.25; Ezekiel

March 19 – no class (Spring Break)**March 26**

Topic: Prophets

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor ch.43; Daniel, Hosea-Malachi

April 2

Topic: Prophets

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.18-20, 23, 26-30

April 9

Topic: Prophets

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.31-32; Psalms 1-72

April 16**Prophets exam**

Topic: Psalms and Wisdom

Reading assignments for next class: Psalms 73-150

April 23

Topic: Psalms and Wisdom

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.33-34; Proverbs

April 30

Topic: Psalms and Wisdom

Reading assignments for next class: LaSor chs.35-37; Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

May 7

Topic: Psalms and Wisdom

May 13 Final Exam

