

**TRINITY SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY  
SUMMER TERM 2017  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
Department: Biblical Studies  
Course Title: Foundations in the Old  
Testament  
Course Number: OT 500 (Online)  
Credit Hours: 3  
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## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to provide the student with an introduction to the history of salvation as expressed in the OT. It explores the major themes and events recorded in the OT with special attention to the relationship of the OT to Jesus Christ.

Our interaction with the OT is intended not only to increase your knowledge, but also encourage spiritual growth and skill in using the OT in ministry.

## **II. COURSE GOALS:** By the end of this course students will:

1. Gain a working knowledge of the history, major themes, and content of the OT. This includes a basic understanding of each book's historical background, content, message and place in the canon of Scripture.
2. Gain a familiarity with the historical and cultural ancient Near Eastern context of the OT.
3. Describe Israel's geography and the location of historical sites in the ancient Near East that are important for our understanding of the OT.
4. Understand how the OT is a book about Christ.
5. Appreciate the relevance of the OT for teaching, preaching and Christian living.

## **III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:** In order to achieve these goals, students will:

1. Read, summarize, and evaluate 2 major OT theologians.
2. Develop the skill to identify major persons, places and events in the ANE and the OT.
3. Develop the ability to communicate the richness of the OT books to a diversity of people in diverse ministry settings.

## **IV. COURSE OUTCOMES:** As a result of this class, students will:

1. Be able to identify major persons, places, and events in the ANE that are important for understanding the OT.
2. Preach and teach from the OT with biblical-theological sensitivity and clarity, with an

emphasis on how the various portions of the OT point to and find their fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus.

**The learning outcomes for Trinity School for Ministry are:**

1. The student will recognise and identify the biblical theology evident in the course work.
2. The student will be able to articulate an Anglican understanding of biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral theology.
3. The student will be able to effectively communicate the Christian message to a diversity of people in order to advance the mission of God.
4. The student will be prepared to effectively lead in a variety of Christian communities.

M.Div.: The student will be prepared to effectively lead in a variety of Christian communities.

MAR: The student will be equipped to apply scholarship to the life of the church in his or her chosen theological discipline.

STM: The student will be equipped to successfully pursue further independent research and post-graduate study in his or her chosen theological discipline.

This course furthers all four of these goals, but it will make a particular contribution in helping students to articulate a biblical theological understanding of the OT (1) and effectively communicate an often ignored and/or misunderstood portion of Scripture (the OT) to a diversity of people in diverse ministry settings (3,4).

Along with these objectives related to knowledge and skill that will be assessed through your written work, there are other objectives that are worth mentioning, even though your development in these areas will not be formally assessed. Seminary education is not just a matter of growing in knowledge and skill, but also in one's relationship with God and one's Christian character as a disciple of Jesus. I pray [I truly do] that your work in this course will promote such growth.

**Assessment of Learning Outcomes:**

Weekly Quizzes

Participation in weekly Class Discussion

Book Reviews

Final Exam

**V. TEXTBOOKS**

Our main textbook will be the Old Testament. Use a reliable English translation (not a paraphrase) of the OT such as ESV, RSV, NASB, NIV, NKJV. We have a tremendous amount of reading to do. Familiarizing ourselves with the text of the OT is necessary if we are to develop our appreciation for the big redemptive picture that unfolds in the Bible. This in turn will help us appreciate how the OT gives Christians the bearings to understand where we come from and where we are going.

## **OTHER TEXTS:**

Clines, D.J.A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. JSOTSup 10. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1997. ISBN: 978-1-85075-792-4 \$49.95

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *The Goldsworthy Trilogy: Gospel And Kingdom: A Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament*. Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 2001.

Longman, Tremper III. & Ray Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament* [2<sup>nd</sup> ed.] Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity Press, 1992.

## **RECOMMENDED:**

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

## **VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM**

**Assignment One:** Read D.J. Clines' *The Theme of the Pentateuch* and write a seven - page book review. In the first three pages write a brief summary of Clines' major points. For the last four pages write a critical analysis of particular features of his discussion that you found interesting, helpful, or troublesome. [20%]

**NB: BE SURE TO READ THE AFTERWARD IN THE BOOK**

**NB:** Please stick to the page limits. I will not read beyond page 8.

**Assignment Two:** Read **EITHER** *The Goldsworthy Trilogy: Gospel and Kingdom: A Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament* **OR** *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament* [Wright] and write a seven-page review. In the first three pages write a brief summary of the major points. For the last four pages write a critical analysis of particular features of his discussion that you found interesting, helpful, or troublesome. [20%].

Students must use SBL style of writing. See: Patrick H. Alexander, et al. *The SBL Handbook of Style: for Ancient Near Eastern Biblical and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999. ISBN 978-1-56563-487-9. See also: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/44040953/SBL-Sample-Paper>

**Assignment Three:** Weekly quizzes (20%). I will drop the lowest quiz grade before tallying your total.

**Assignment Four:** Comprehensive Final Exam based primarily on class lectures and quiz materials (40%)

**Class grade will be based on:**

Quizzes – 20%

Book reviews – 20% each

Final Exam – 40%

NB: Failure to participate in online class discussion threads may adversely affect your final grade.

Incompletes are not normally given and are given only in the most serious of cases. They are not granted as a way to extend the semester due to incomplete work. In order to request an incomplete, student must obtain the necessary form online and bring to the professor who will list the specific assignments to be completed with due dates. The due date cannot be beyond six weeks from the last day of class. The form will be submitted to the Academic Dean for final approval.

As per The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) requirements, several samples of student work may be randomly selected and used as a class artifact as part of an on-going assessment of courses and degree programs. Students' names will be removed from any work used for this purpose.

**VII. Grading System:**

The following is offered as a guide, rather than a set of rules.

**B:** Work will demonstrate broad (sufficient information is covered) and deep (supporting material is offered) coverage of the material. Information will be accurate and there will be a clear and coherent structure. Coverage of the material and comments will be reasonably competent without being exceptional.

**C:** Work will demonstrate reasonable coverage of the material but will lack breadth and depth of analysis. There will not be serious inadequacies in the information presented, but the overall structure will be characteristically unclear, narrow, and shallow and void of imaginative and interesting analysis.

**D:** Work will be notably defective according to the criteria outlined above.

**F:** Work will demonstrate a complete failure on the part of its author to interact with the material in accordance with criteria outlined above.

**A:** Work will demonstrate exceptional coverage of the material. What distinguishes work in this category from a "B" is the author's ability to develop the material in breadth and depth beyond what is necessary for a good understanding of it. The author will engage with the material in a way that is often though not always marked by creativity,

exceptional insight, and/or extensive research.