

OT500 Exploring the Old Testament | Summer 2020

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Credit Hours: 3

This course occurs completely online with no scheduled classroom time. This course follows a weekly schedule that runs for 14 Weeks from Monday, May 18, through Monday, August 24, 2020. A week in this course begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday with the exception of the first week, which runs from Monday through Monday. You will have required activities due on certain days each week.

Course Information

Office Hours

Your instructor is available for email correspondence. If you have a question about the course, you can contact your instructor via email.

Technical Support

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary offers technical support during regular business hours. If you have a technical issue with your course, please email servicedesk@gordonconwell.edu.

Course Description

Introduces the history, literature and thought of the Old Testament as reflected in its major divisions and individual books. Designed and recommended for those who have not had a systematic survey of the Old Testament, enabling them to proceed with seminary-level studies.

OT500 surveys the entire Old Testament, touching on each of the thirty-nine OT books via lectures, assigned textbook readings, illustrative visual aids, and assigned Bible reading. This is not a simplistic or remedial course. It is an exploration of significant topics, unique features and the value for Christian belief and practice of the various parts of the Old Testament. The course lessons move through the Old Testament in a generally chronological fashion, bringing out historical and cultural information intended to help students appreciate the meaning of the inspired text.

Gordon-Conwell Mission

This course satisfies part of the following institutional learning objective:

- **Article 1: To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world.** Because the teaching of God's Word is indispensable to the well-being and vitality of God's people, the seminary has a fundamental responsibility to encourage in its students

a love for Scripture. The seminary is to teach exegetical skills by which they will be able to apply Scripture effectively.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Establish a foundation for further study of the Old Testament and the New Testament through learning its main figures, events, and themes
2. Show an understanding of the Old Testament as Christian Scripture
3. Appreciate the great themes and unique features of the individual OT books
4. Reflect on the usefulness of the Old Testament for Christian life and ministry
5. Explore a variety of factors that help make the Old Testament more comprehensible to its readers

Weekly Lessons

Over 14 weeks, you will cover the following topics and lessons:

- Week 1: Background, Overview, Introductory Considerations
- Week 2: Israel's Law and Order
- Week 3: The Promised Land and Survival
- Week 4: Israel's Empire Years
- Week 5: Royal Poetry and Wisdom, Part 1
- Week 6: Royal Poetry and Wisdom, Part 2
- Week 7: Study Week
- Week 8: The Divided Kingdom to the Fall of Samaria
- Week 9: Judah: A Brief Respite
- Week 10: The Last Days of Judah and the Fall of Jerusalem, Part 1
- Week 11: The Last Days of Judah and the Fall of Jerusalem, Part 2
- Week 12: The Captivity of the People
- Week 13: Return and Rebuilding
- Week 14: Study Week

Weekly Work Flow

This course runs for 14 weeks with each week running from Tuesday to Monday. Your workflow will vary slightly depending on whether there is a Class Discussion assigned:



For Study Weeks, you will not listen to lectures or read new material. You will prepare for and attend an online conference, and you will prepare for and take an exam.

Required Materials

Reading

Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. [*How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*](#), 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014 (ISBN# 978-0310517825, E-book: 978-0310517832), as assigned.

D. A. Carson, et al., ed., [*New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*](#), Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1994). Read in connection with each book listed in the class outline. Always read at least the introduction to each biblical book. It is assumed that you will have read all the Old Testament book introductions for the exam. (ISBN-13: 978-0830814428)

A Bible. Read/skim through the Old Testament, in conjunction with the assignments. Use a modern translation of your choice (e.g., NIV, ESV, NRSV, ASV). Please do not use a paraphrase. (e.g., The Message, Amplified)

Technology

You will need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet and capable of downloading files and streaming multimedia presentations.

Required Activities

To demonstrate achievement of course objectives, you will participate in various required activities. You will find detailed descriptions of these activities on your course site, but an overview of these requirements is given below:

Listen to Lectures

You will begin each lesson by listening to assigned lectures.

Read Required Texts

Once you have viewed the lectures, you will read the required texts as assigned. You are expected to complete the relevant reading in preparation for each lecture, leading up to each conference and online forum, the mid-term, and the final exam, but the reading assignments are not graded and reading notes need not be turned in. There is no reading log or other assignment that requires submission of proof of reading, since your reading is directly tested via the mid-term and final exams.

Contribute to Discussions

Some weeks include class discussion. After you have listened to the lesson lecture and read the assigned readings, you will contribute to the discussion. These posts should demonstrate

understanding of and critical engagement with lesson material. For each discussion, you will also respond to at least one of your peers.

Attend Online Conferences

Leading up to the Midterm and Final Exam, you will attend an online conference. In these conferences, your instructor will answer questions relating to material covered in the first and second parts of the course.

Take a Midterm Exam

By the end of Week 7, you will take a Midterm Exam, which covers all the material from Weeks 1-7.

Take a Final Exam

By the end of the course, you will take Final Exam, which covers all the material from Weeks 8-14.

Grading

Your assignments are categorized and weighted for grading as follows:

Course Assignment	% of grade
Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	45%
Discussions	9%
Online Conferences	6%
Exam Preparation Questions	Marked Complete or Incomplete

You must follow the criteria detailed in the Assignment Instructions posted on your course site. Grading will be based on your work's alignment with the performance criteria in the Assignment Instructions. You must also submit work by the "due by" dates listed in the Course Summary on the Syllabus tool of the course site. Any work submitted after these "due by" dates will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date unless you make arrangements with you instructor ahead of time.

The grading scale will be as follows:

A 92.5, A- 90, B+ 87.5, B 82.5, B- 80, C+ 77.5, C 72.5, C- 70, D+ 67.8, D 62.5, D- 60, F below 60

Course Policies

Instructor Feedback

Your instructor will reply to email within 1-2 business days. He or she will give feedback on assignments within one week of submission and post grades and any additional comments in the course gradebook within two weeks of submission.

ADA accommodations

Gordon-Conwell is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you have a special need or disability, please refer to the ADA Accommodations section of your home campus's Student Handbook for information about the accommodation process. Students who have a special need are asked to discuss the provisions of their accommodation with the appropriate office at their home campus as soon as possible.

Violations of Academic Integrity

The seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source (taken from the *Hamilton Student Handbook 2018-2019* – please be sure you understand your campus's most current Academic Integrity Policies).

Discussion Posts

When quoting from or paraphrasing course readings, provide the author's name and page(s) in parentheses. If quoting from other sources, provide appropriate documentation. Similarly, when referring to a specific lecture, identify it using the title of the segment.

Netiquette

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

Seminary Policies

You must be familiar with current seminary policies, which are in place for academic activities. Please refer to the Student Handbook for your home campus to familiarize yourself with policies pertinent to participating in academic activities at the seminary. Policies pertaining to this course would include those on Academic Integrity, Late Work, and Accessibility, among others.