

Syllabus for  
**GTHE 611—Theology of the Old Testament**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the major doctrines of the Old Testament with special reference to their historical development within the political and religious institutions of ancient Israel.

Prerequisite: GBIB 551.

The theology of the Old Testament is concerned with an understanding of God and His self-revelation as this is found in the canonical Scriptures. Two concerns guide the development of the study. The first entails an examination of the underlying unity in the communication of God with Israel. The second deals with the ways God dealt with Israel as His revelation of Himself moved toward a completed salvation in Jesus Christ.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study theological developments in the Old Testament within the context of a biblical worldview vis-à-vis a contemporary worldview.
- B. Develop insight in the literary corpus comprising the Old Testament Scriptures.
- C. Study the contributions of history, cult, prophecy, and wisdom to theological developments within Israel.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Identify and discuss the unifying themes of the Old Testament and the relevance to the Christian life and witness.
- B. Trace the theme of salvation in the Old Testament as holy history with reference to sin and atonement, death and future life, sacrifice, and cult and eschatology.
- C. Describe the attributes of God such as holiness, righteousness, faithfulness, love, and judgment.
- D. Explain the nature of man in the Old Testament with reference to man as creature, flesh, spirit, and image of God, male and female.
- E. Define and explain Torah and prophetism, especially in relation to ethical norms and the responsibilities of the individual.
- F. Trace the development of the concept of covenant in Israel's history.
- G. Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

##### A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks  
Kaiser, Jr., Walter. *The Promise-Plan of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008. ISBN: 9780310275862  
  
Strobel, Lee. *Case for a Creator*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2005. ISBN: 9780310240501
2. Other  
None

##### B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks  
None
2. Other  
None

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
    - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
    - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures
1. **Completion of Assignments**  
 Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
  2. **Incompletes**
    - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
    - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.
  3. **Examinations**
    - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
    - b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
    - c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
    - d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
  4. **Attendance**  
 The administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:
    - a. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
    - b. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.

- c. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
  - d. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
  - e. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
  - f. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
  - g. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to [www.studentresources.oru.edu](http://www.studentresources.oru.edu).

C. Course Policies and Procedures

- a. Evaluation Procedures
  - b. Grading
 

Term paper	60%
Final exam	40%
  - c. Grading scale:
    - A=90-100%
    - B=80-89%
    - C=70-79%
    - D=60-69%
    - F=59% and below
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
  - b. WPA requirements for this course:
    - (1) All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the term paper for GBIB 611 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
    - (2) Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
- a. The class is conducted in a lecture format. However, peer interaction is encouraged. Opportunity is provided for informal discussion of questions raised by class interaction.
  - b. Each student submits a term paper directly related to the subject of Old Testament theology. The subject matter of the proposed research topic is determined by consultation with the professor. The term paper must be 8 to 10 pages in length and must demonstrate the student's ability to do

- c. **session of week twelve.** Turabian form and style are required in the presentation of the term paper, and Courier New, 12 point, is the required font. The paper must be uploaded to ePortfolio.

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Topic	Reading
1	The Old Testament as Canon The God of Creation	pp. 7-29
2	The God of Israel	pp. 31-50
	The Trinity (Intercalate)	
3	The Names of God	pp. 51-71
	The Nature of the Covenant	
4	Biblical Cosmology	pp. 71-91
	The Word and the Spirit in Creation	
5	General Revelation: Wisdom Literature (Intercalate)	pp. 93-113
	Special Revelation: Dreams, Visions, Oracles	
6	The Covenant Relationship	pp. 113-133
	Election, the Basis of the Covenant	
7	Israelite Law: Torah	pp. 133-151
	Israelite Worship	
8	Purity and Sacrificial Rites	pp. 153-173
9	Sacrificial Worship, continued	pp. 173-191
	Holy History	
10	Sin and Judgment	pp. 191-217
	Judgment: Restoration of the Covenant	
11	The Official Leaders: Priesthood and Monarchy	pp. 219-239
	The Revelation of God's Presence	
12	The Spirit of God	pp. 239-259
	The Word of God	
	Paper due	
13	The Preservation of Creation	pp. 259-279
	The Celestial World	
14	Sin and Forgiveness	pp. 279-305
	Old Testament Morality	
15	The Individual and Community	
	The Hope of Salvation	
	Final exam (university schedule)	

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

**Master of Arts Biblical Literature**

**GTHE 611 Theology of the Old Testament**

**Dr. William McDonald, Instructor**

**Fall 2015**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Biblical Literature degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Translation, Biblical Language</b>			
Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament			X	
<b>2</b>	<b>Critical Methods of Exegesis</b>			
Display ability to employ critical methods of exegesis from an informed theological-hermeneutical perspective using biblical languages.	X			
<b>3</b>	<b>Major Old Testament Themes</b>			
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.	X			
<b>4</b>	<b>Major New Testament Themes</b>			
Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.		X		
<b>5</b>	<b>Scripture in Cultural Context</b>			
Apply the results of the critical study of Scripture in its cultural contexts to selected contemporary contexts.	X			
<b>6</b>	<b>Tools/Methods of Research</b>			
Write an advanced research MA thesis in Old Testament/New Testament using biblical critical tools and methods.	X			

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry  
M. A. Biblical Literature/Judaic-Christian Studies**

**GBIB/GTHE 611 Theology of the Old Testament**

**Dr. William McDonald, Instructor**

**Fall 2015**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Biblical Literature/Judaic-Christian Studies degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>Translation, Biblical Languages</b>				
Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament.				X
<b>Major Old Testament Themes</b>				
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.	X			
<b>Major New Testament Themes</b>				
Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.		X		
<b>Rabbinic/Judaic Literature and Culture</b>				
Demonstrate ability to perform research in rabbinic literature and reflect knowledge of the influence of Jewish culture and theology upon Christian faith and literature.			X	
<b>Concepts/Practices of Judaism</b>				
Relate the concepts and practices of Judaism in the period of the Second Temple to the ministry and teachings of Jesus and Paul for sound theological understanding.			X	
<b>Critical Methods of Exegesis</b>				
Utilize critical methods of exegesis and tools for interpreting and appreciating the central themes of Scripture and related Judeo-Christian literature within the matrix of early Jewish and Christian communities.		X		
<b>Tools/Methods of Research</b>				
Use biblical critical tools and methods to write an advanced research M.A. thesis in the OT/NT and employ Jewish literature and theology in the discipline of Judaic-Christian studies.		X		

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

**Master of Arts Biblical Literature/Advanced Languages**

**GBIB/GTHE 611 Theology of the Old Testament**

**Dr. William McDonald, Instructor**

**Fall 2015**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Biblical Literature/Advanced Languages degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>Major Old Testament Themes</b>				
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.	<b>X</b>			
<b>Major New Testament Themes</b>				
Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.		<b>X</b>		
<b>Hebrew/Greek Languages</b>				
Demonstrate proficiency in use of Hebrew and Greek for accurate translation of the Old Testament and New Testament.				<b>X</b>
<b>Additional Biblical Languages</b>				
Demonstrate proficiency in translation of sources in additional language(s) of the biblical era.				<b>X</b>
<b>Thesis Research/Writing</b>				
Write a thesis in the concentration of Advanced Languages utilizing knowledge of languages and critical exegetical methods.				<b>X</b>