



### **Class Information**

**Day and Time:** Tuesday 4:45-7:15 pm

**Room Number:** E202

### **Contact Information**

**Instructor Name:** Joel A. Reemtsma, Ph.D.

**Instructor Email:** jreemtsma@criswell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 907-690-1423

**Instructor Office Hours:** NA—Appointment Only

### **Course Description and Prerequisites**

A study of the principal religious themes of the Old Testament from the perspective afforded by exegetical studies of the Hebrew text. While the course includes a historical introduction to the discipline of Old Testament theology, focus is on delineating the distinctive elements of Hebrew thought and their contributions to the shape of biblical revelation. (Prerequisites: OTS 501, OTS 601, or equivalent)

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

- A. Identify the major people and events associated with the history and development of Old Testament theology;
- B. Explain the different approaches and methodologies that have been proposed for the discipline of Old Testament theology;
- C. Assess the basic nature, structure, and content of the Old Testament in order to appreciate the character and purposes of God;
- D. Discuss major issues and problems within the field of Old Testament theology, explaining and evaluating their significance within the discipline;
- E. Evaluate a major Old Testament theology with regard to approach, methodology, structure, and conclusions in order to assess its value in the field of Old Testament studies;
- F. Develop an outline of your own Old Testament theology based on the reading and discussion throughout the course, briefly validating your own methodology and structure; and
- G. Write a research paper on a specific topic in Old Testament theology, synthesizing your own studies and understanding of the field and explaining the relevance of your conclusions to the broader field of biblical and theological studies.

## Required Textbooks

Hasel, Gerhard F. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. Revised and expanded fourth edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991. (978-0802805379)

Mead, James K. *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods, and Themes*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007. (ISBN: 978-0664229726)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Weekly Reading (15%): The textbooks, Hasel and Mead, are to be read according to the schedule provided in this syllabus. Supplemental materials (journal articles, excerpts from books, etc.) will be made available on Canvas at least one week prior to the due date. You are responsible to complete the readings according to the schedule *before* the class period. Late readings will be penalized by 50%. A report of your completed readings (both on time and late) will be given at the end of the course. Please keep track of your own reading so that you can have an accurate report. It is best to calculate based on pages read rather than trying to estimate the number of words or paragraphs.
2. Class Discussion (15%): Half of this grade will be determined based on your regular class participation during discussions. It is not based on how much you speak in the class discussion. What is required is that you be engaged in the discussion (paying attention, following along, etc.). For the other half of the grade, each student will be assigned texts and topics that will be covered throughout the semester and will lead at least one class discussion. The student leading the discussion is responsible to write out and turn in an outline of the reading (the content of what was read) and an outline of the discussion including discussion questions that are used. This may be emailed to the professor but it must be completed and turned in *before* the beginning of the class in which the discussion is conducted.
3. Exam (15%): There will be one exam in essay format over the history and methodologies of OT Theology. The exam is open book so you will be allowed to use any notes or materials you have to prepare for it. Be sure that if you quote anything in your answers, you include the reference for the quotation.
4. OT Theology Evaluation (15%): You will select *one* Old Testament theology to read and evaluate by the end of the semester. Approved theologies are indicated by an asterisk (\*) in the bibliography at the end of this syllabus. If you would like to read and evaluate a theology that is not listed in the bibliography, it must be approved by the professor. For larger, multi-volume works (such as Goldingay), you may read the first volume only. Some mutli-volume theologies that are not as large (such as Eichrodt, von Rad, Preuss, etc.) should be read in their entirety. Please discuss these options with the professor before making your selection. This is *not* a book review in the strictest sense because it does not include a summary of the work. It is only an evaluation of the theology, paying particular attention to method, structure, thoroughness, and consistency. The evaluation is to be 5-7 double-spaced pages.
5. Old Testament Theology Research Paper and Presentation (20%): You will research and write a paper about an Old Testament theological concept of your choice and deliver a presentation of it to the class. The paper may include (but is not limited to) issues on theological method, hermeneutics, the use of the OT in the NT, ancient Near Eastern thought in relation to OT concepts, or any specific OT concept (such as covenant, warfare, the afterlife, etc.). The paper should demonstrate your understanding of Old Testament theological issues related to your topic and should exhibit your ability to synthesize the message(s) of the Old Testament in order to formulate your thinking on that topic. This is *not* just a typical research paper, discussing everything you can discover about a specific concept; instead, it

should integrate your theological understanding of the Old Testament into your discussion of that concept. The paper is to be 15-20 double-spaced pages. It needs to include footnotes and a bibliography of sources consulted, including journal articles and articles taken from *Festschriften* (books honoring respected scholars). The paper must be received by the professor **no later than one week before the class presentation and before class on that week**. Copies of the paper will be distributed to the students on the week before the presentation and will constitute part of the reading requirement for that week. The grade for the project will be based on both the quality of the paper (80%) and the presentation (20%).

6. Old Testament Theology Outline (20%): You will write a theological outline of the Old Testament based on your own study and theological development over the course of the semester. The first part will be an introduction (not part of the outline) in paragraph form, single-spaced, and *no more than* one-half to three-quarters of a page. This will indicate your own method and structure, using proper biblical-theological terminology. If you are choosing a “center” (a cross-sectional method), please indicate what it is; if not, please indicate how you are structuring your theology. You do not need to validate your choice in this introduction since your outline will be sufficient enough to show how well it works in piecing together the message(s) of the Old Testament. The outline itself must be in proper format (e.g., no point A without a point B), full sentences, single-spaced within points but double-spaced between them, and *no more than* 10 pages. You will have the whole semester to develop your thinking on this project, so it is suggested that you focus your attention on it throughout the semester because it will require more thinking than writing.

## Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students’ ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Grading Scale

|    |        |                                    |
|----|--------|------------------------------------|
| A  | 93-100 | 4.0 grade points per semester hour |
| A- | 90-92  | 3.7 grade points per semester hour |
| B+ | 87-89  | 3.3 grade points per semester hour |
| B  | 83-86  | 3.0 grade points per semester hour |
| B- | 80-82  | 2.7 grade points per semester hour |
| C+ | 77-79  | 2.3 grade points per semester hour |
| C  | 73-76  | 2.0 grade points per semester hour |
| C- | 70-72  | 1.7 grade points per semester hour |
| D+ | 67-69  | 1.3 grade points per semester hour |
| D  | 63-66  | 1.0 grade point per semester hour  |
| D- | 60-62  | 0.7 grade points per semester hour |
| F  | 0-59   | 0.0 grade points per semester hour |

## **Incomplete Grades**

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

## **Academic Honesty**

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

## **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## Resources and Support

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu).

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing [writingcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:writingcenter@criswell.edu) or calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

| Week | Date        | In-Class Topic and Assignment Due   | Textbook Reading             |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1    | January 19  | Introduction to Course, Syllabus    |                              |
| 2    | January 26  | The Definition of OT Theology       | Mead, Ch. 1                  |
| 3    | February 2  | The History of OT Theology, Part 1  | Hasel, Ch. 1                 |
| 4    | February 9  | The History of OT Theology, Part 2  | Mead, Ch. 2                  |
| 5    | February 16 | Major Issues in Biblical Theology   | Mead, Ch. 3                  |
| 6    | February 23 | Methodology and OT Theology, Part 1 | Hasel, Ch. 2<br>(pp. 28-71)  |
| 7    | March 2     | Methodology and OT Theology, Part 2 | Hasel, Ch. 2<br>(pp. 71-114) |
| 8    | March 9     | Methodology and OT Theology, Part 3 | Mead, Ch. 4                  |
|      | March 15-21 | SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS             |                              |

|    |           |   |                              |
|----|-----------|---|------------------------------|
| 9  | March 23  | History and OT Theology<br><b>Exam Due</b>                                  | Hasel, Ch. 3                 |
| 10 | March 30  | OT Theological Themes and Centers<br><b>Research Paper Topic Chosen</b>     | Hasel, Ch. 4;<br>Mead, Ch. 5 |
| 11 | April 6   | OT Theology and the New Testament   | Hasel, Ch. 5                 |
| 12 | April 13  | Prospects for Doing OT Theology<br><b>OT Theology Evaluation Due</b>        | Hasel, Ch. 6;<br>Mead, Ch. 6 |
| 13 | April 20  | Paper Presentations   |                              |
| 14 | April 27  | Paper Presentations   |                              |
| 15 | May 4     | Flex Lecture / Outline Workshop   |                              |
|    | May 10-15 | Final Exam Week – NO CLASS<br><b>OT Theology Outline Due Friday, May 14</b> |                              |

## Selected Bibliography

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\*Syllabus Developed by Dr. Kevin Warstler. Revised 1/19/2021



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## ADDENDUM FOR SP21

### OTS 602 L01.A

## Old Testament Theology

In the event that Criswell College has to close the campus to on-campus classes in during the SP21 semester, this addendum specifies how your instructor intends to adjust the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

The course requirements, assignments, calendar, and attendance requirements from the syllabus for this course are replicated below.

### Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Weekly Reading (15%): The textbooks, Hasel and Mead, are to be read according to the schedule provided in this syllabus. Supplemental materials (journal articles, excerpts from books, etc.) will be made available on Canvas at least one week prior to the due date. You are responsible to complete the readings according to the schedule *before* the class period. Late readings will be penalized by 50%. A report of your completed readings (both on time and late) will be given at the end of the course. Please keep track of your own reading so that you can have an accurate report. It is best to calculate based on pages read rather than trying to estimate the number of words or paragraphs.
2. Class Discussion (15%): Half of this grade will be determined based on your regular class participation during discussions. It is not based on how much you speak in the class discussion. What is required is that you be engaged in the discussion (paying attention, following along, etc.). For the other half of the grade, each student will be assigned texts and topics that will be covered throughout the semester and will lead at least one class discussion. The student leading the discussion is responsible to write out and turn in an outline of the reading (the content of what was read) and an outline of the discussion including discussion questions that are used. This may be emailed to the professor but it must be completed and turned in *before* the beginning of the class in which the discussion is conducted.
3. Exam (15%): There will be one exam in essay format over the history and methodologies of OT Theology. The exam is open book so you will be allowed to use any notes or materials you have to prepare for it. Be sure that if you quote anything in your answers, you include the reference for the quotation.
4. OT Theology Evaluation (15%): You will select *one* Old Testament theology to read and evaluate by the end of the semester. Approved theologies are indicated by an asterisk (\*) in the bibliography at the end of this syllabus. If you would like to read and evaluate a theology that is not listed in the bibliography, it must be approved by the professor. For larger, multi-volume works (such as Goldingay), you may read the first volume only. Some multi-volume theologies that are not as large (such as Eichrodt, von Rad, Preuss, etc.) should be read in their entirety. Please discuss these options with the professor before making your selection. This is *not* a book review in the strictest sense because it does not include a summary of the work. It is only an evaluation of the theology, paying particular attention to method, structure, thoroughness, and consistency. The evaluation is to be 5-7 double-spaced pages.
5. Old Testament Theology Research Paper and Presentation (20%): You will research and write a paper about an Old Testament theological concept of your choice and deliver a presentation of it to the class. The paper may include

(but is not limited to) issues on theological method, hermeneutics, the use of the OT in the NT, ancient Near Eastern thought in relation to OT concepts, or any specific OT concept (such as covenant, warfare, the afterlife, etc.). The paper should demonstrate your understanding of Old Testament theological issues related to your topic and should exhibit your ability to synthesize the message(s) of the Old Testament in order to formulate your thinking on that topic. This is *not* just a typical research paper, discussing everything you can discover about a specific concept; instead, it should integrate your theological understanding of the Old Testament into your discussion of that concept. The paper is to be 15-20 double-spaced pages. It needs to include footnotes and a bibliography of sources consulted, including journal articles and articles taken from *Festschriften* (books honoring respected scholars). The paper must be received by the professor **no later than one week before the class presentation and before class on that week**. Copies of the paper will be distributed to the students on the week before the presentation and will constitute part of the reading requirement for that week. The grade for the project will be based on both the quality of the paper (80%) and the presentation (20%).

6. Old Testament Theology Outline (20%): You will write a theological outline of the Old Testament based on your own study and theological development over the course of the semester. The first part will be an introduction (not part of the outline) in paragraph form, single-spaced, and *no more than* one-half to three-quarters of a page. This will indicate your own method and structure, using proper biblical-theological terminology. If you are choosing a “center” (a cross-sectional method), please indicate what it is; if not, please indicate how you are structuring your theology. You do not need to validate your choice in this introduction since your outline will be sufficient enough to show how well it works in piecing together the message(s) of the Old Testament. The outline itself must be in proper format (e.g., no point A without a point B), full sentences, single-spaced within points but double-spaced between them, and *no more than* 10 pages. You will have the whole semester to develop your thinking on this project, so it is suggested that you focus your attention on it throughout the semester because it will require more thinking than writing.

## Remote Class Sessions: Identity and Participation Verification

In the event of a decision to move to remote learning, students will be expected to participate in synchronous class sessions online to take place at the same time as originally listed in the syllabus: Tuesday 4:45p–7:15p. Students must log in at the appropriate time with both video and audio turned on for the duration of class (except for breaks approved by the instructor). Students will be expected to respond immediately to questions or prompts given by the instructor throughout the class. Students may use fixed or mobile devices so long as they can maintain both audio and video with sufficient bandwidth. Failure to log in to class will constitute an absence unless approved by the instructor. Absences may bring about a grade penalty at the instructor's discretion.