



5030 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE
SUMMER INTENSIVE 2021
JUNE 14 - 19

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HST Mission

Harding School of Theology (HST) challenges Christian leaders to develop deeper faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.

The following student learning objectives are emphasized in this course.

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic content of the English Bible.
- Demonstrate advanced exegetical skills in the interpretation of Scripture.
- Exhibit an understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
- Evidence a love for God and others and a personal commitment to spiritual formation
- Be able to communicate effectively in written, oral, and multi-media forms.

Course Description

Catalogue Description: A study of current approaches to understanding the message of the Old Testament. Selected themes and passages will be considered in light of their contribution to the theology of the Old Testament and its meaning for the modern world.

Instructor's Expanded Description: The course emphasizes the complex unity-in-diversity of the Old Testament as well as its canonical/theological relationship to the New Testament while underscoring the Old Testament's independent authority and witness to God. Special attention is given to contemporary challenges to the OT's depiction of God and perceived incongruities between this depiction and that of the NT. The OT's relevance to numerous contemporary issues facing the church and world are also addressed.

Course Objectives

1. To cultivate an appreciation for both the diversity and unity of the Old Testament.
2. To enable critical assessment of theological readings of specific texts/books of the Old Testament as well as equip students with strategies for their own theological reading of these texts.
3. To encourage more consistent, complete, and accurate appropriation of the Old Testament in theological reflection and formulation as well as in Christian preaching, teaching, and counseling.
4. To foster appreciation for the Old Testament's independent testimony to God as well as the relationship of this independent testimony to the New Testament.
5. To encourage a deeper encounter with the triune God whom the Spirit continues to reveal through Israel's Scriptures, as well as through Christ and the New Testament, with a view to personal spiritual formation and more effective disciple-making.

Required Texts

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Rainey, Brian. *Religion, Ethnicity, and Xenophobia in the Bible*. New York: Routledge, 2019. (hereafter REXB)

Sun, Chloe T. *Conspicuous in His Absence: Studies in Song of Songs and Esther*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2021. (hereafter CHA)

Walton, John H. *Old Testament Theology for Christians: From Ancient Context to Enduring Belief*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2017. (hereafter OTTFC)

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Canvas can be accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>. If you have problems gaining access to the Canvas system, contact technical support for students by calling (501) 279-4545.

You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor. Of course, there are many email providers, and many students and professors hold more than one email address. To promote timely and secure communication about class related issues, students and professors will only use Canvas email. Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. For example, your instructor's email address is kyoungb1@harding.edu. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent!

HST Live Interactive Video Education (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

The HST LIVE/Zoom Meeting ID for this course can be found on Canvas.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the recorded HST LIVE orientation session, available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1os3e5SC8SY73884o5HbX9vGvb_zphXP9/view?usp=sharing

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

LIVE Etiquette:

- HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.
- “Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted only in extreme cases such as illness or family emergency (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all scheduled sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.
- Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (for example, a chair at a desk in your office). Create a distraction free environment. It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.
- Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. If you must go to the restroom & mute your audio/video, Then return to your screen, un-mute, and resume the class.
- Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (for example, no family noise, TV, etc.).
- Failure to observe these and related etiquette matters will result in grade reductions at the professor’s sole discretion.

Course Requirements

1. Chapter summaries from OTTFC
 - a. A 575-600 word summary of each of the eight chapters in OTTFC are due on Canvas by June 14 at 11:59 pm. To be clear each summary should be 575 – 600 words. The total words for the final product should therefore be between 4,600 and 4,800 words.
 - b. Each summary should include the following information.
 - i. A restatement of the thesis (the main idea or argument) of the chapter in your own words
 - ii. The key rationale or evidence offered in support of the thesis or argument
 - iii. The most valuable insight you gained from the chapter
 - iv. Anything from the chapter that you question or with which you disagree. Be sure to include an explanation as to why you disagree and offer some support for your disagreement. (If there is nothing in the chapter with which you disagree you may omit this part)
 - v. How reading the chapter impacts your use of the OT for spiritual formation and ministry
 - c. Summaries should be single spaced in 12 point Arial, Cambria, Calibri, Verdana, Courier New, or Times New Roman font.

2. Book reviews of CHA and REXB
 - a. A book review of 1500 – 1800 words of each of the supplemental texts (CHA and REXB) is due on Canvas on June 16 at 11:59 pm
 - b. The procedure and format of the book reviews should follow the guidelines set out at the following link: <http://www.lesleyannmcdaniel.com/how-to-write-a-nonfiction-book-review/#:~:text=Points%20to%20Consider%3A&text=Always%20write%20your%20reviews%20with,positive%20words%20and%20avoid%20sarcasm.&text=Take%20time%20to%20read%20reviews,them%20are%20not%20trained%20reviewers.>
 - c. AN IMPORTANT EXCEPTION TO THE GUIDELINES OFFERED AT THE LINK INCLUDED ABOVE: McDaniels encourages you to read other book reviews of the publication you are reviewing before writing your own. I ask that you DO NOT DO THIS. I want your opinion of these two works to be as uninfluenced by other scholars' opinion as possible and to this end I request that you write your review without consulting other reviewers.
 - d. Please follow the SBL Handbook of Style for all general style guidelines and citation concerns.
3. Final Essay Exam over Course Lectures.
 - a. A final essay exam consisting of four questions will open on Canvas Friday, June 19 and will be due June 26 at 11:59 pm.
 - b. The questions will arise from issues raised and discussed in the class sessions. Students are permitted to have access to textbooks and notes while composing their answers to these questions.
 - c. Students will have a time limit of three hours to take the exam upon the exam.
 - d. Answers to each question should be no shorter than 450 words and no longer than 550 words.
4. Sermon/lesson revision plus commentary
 - a. By June 14, students should submit on Canvas an unedited sermon manuscript or detailed lesson plan/outline on an OT text that they have presented within the past five years. If the submission is a lesson plan or outline, all main points and subpoints should be complete sentences clearly supporting a lesson objective or thesis associated with the selected OT text. The outline's progression of thought and main point should be clear to me when I read it. In other words, I should be able to easily reproduce the lesson from the outline provided, including illustrations, despite my never having heard or witnessed the actual presentation. It should be the next best thing to a manuscript.
 - b. By June 30th at 11:59 pm students should submit on Canvas a revision of the sermon manuscript or lesson plan/outline that they submitted June 14 documenting how they would preach/teach their chosen OT text differently after having completed this course.
 - c. The revision should be accompanied by a commentary explaining each change and the reasons for each change. The commentary should document specific aspects of the assigned readings or discussions in the course that provoked the revisions along with additional resources (besides assigned readings) that the student consulted to deepen and improve the sermon's/lesson's content. These resources should include commentaries, journal articles, and relevant monographs that the student became aware of during the course or during research for the revision. Appropriate citations and bibliography formatted according to the SBL Handbook of Style and the HST supplemental style guidelines must, of course, be included.
 - d. The completed assignment should be in research paper format, and be approximately 10,000 words in length, 12 point Courier, Times, Times New Roman, Arial, or Cambria font.
 - e. The following rubric will be employed in evaluating this assignment.

Criteria	Maximum Point Value
Submission of a clean, clear, coherent sermon manuscript, detailed lesson plan, or detailed Bible class outline on a text from the Hebrew Bible written and presented during the past five years. The submission should have clear thesis statement that unifies all of its parts	_____/15 pts
Thoughtful and extensive revision of the original submission that goes beyond structural, homiletical, or stylistic concerns. Revisions should reflect theological, spiritual, and methodological growth in the appropriation of the Hebrew Bible for contemporary Christian formation based largely (but not exclusively) on assigned readings in the course, class lectures, and discussions	_____/25 pts
A commentary that makes explicit the student's thought process, sources, and underlying rationale for each revision to the original submission. The commentary should interact extensively with assigned readings from the course, scholarly resources that are relevant to the subject matter of the submission/revision, and the student's own new interpretive insights into the relevant biblical texts.	_____/40 pts
A final draft that is relatively error free, manifesting best research and writing practices in terms of grammar, syntax, logic, argumentation, exegetical care, theological precision, and effective communication. In other words, the final draft betrays evidence of thorough proof-reading and revision.	_____/20 pts

Assignment Weighting and Grading Scale

Grade	Range
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	60>

Assignment	Weight
OTTFC Chapter Summaries	20%
Book Reviews of CHA and REXB	20%
Essay Final on Course Lectures	20%
Sermon/Lesson Revision w/ Commentary	40%
a) initial submission of sermon manuscript/lesson plan/outline	Broken down as follows: 10%
b) revisions	15%
c) commentary on revisions	15%
	40%

Schedule of Topics for Class Meetings

	Monday 6/14
AM	YHWH and the Gods (OTTFC Chapter 2)
PM	Cosmos and Humanity (OTTFC Chapter 3)
	Tuesday 6/15
AM	Covenants and Kingdom (OTTFC Chapter 4)
PM	Temple and Torah (OTTFC Chapter 5)
	Wednesday 6/16
AM	Sin and Evil (OTTFC Chapter 6)
PM	Salvation and Afterlife (OTTFC Chapter 7)
	Thursday 6/17
AM	Outliers in OT Theology – Esther and Song of Songs (Discussion of CHA)
PM	The Problem of Divine Absence (Discussion of CHA continued)
	Friday 6/18
AM	Racial Issues in the Old Testament (Discussion of REXB)
PM	Divine Violence in the Old Testament
	Saturday 6/19
AM	Reflections on the Relationship between the Testaments

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Accessibility/Communication HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):
Email: kyoungb1@harding.edu Phone Number: (501) 322-0124.

Students with Disabilities It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Credit Hour Workload For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Academic Integrity Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.