



## BMIN 7570 Old Testament and Christian Formation

Summer 2024

June 3-7

8:00-10:55 AM and 1:00-4:30 PM

Professors: Dr. Lance Hawley  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an intersection of Old Testament theology with missional theology. Students engage the mission of God in the Old Testament by examining creation, God's blessing to Abraham, the calling of Israel, the law, temptations of idolatry, social ethics, and other topics. Students develop a theological framework of God's mission in the world and how God is seeking to form a people to bear witness to God's redemption.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Exhibit the ability to think theologically about contemporary ministry challenges.
- Demonstrate effective skills in oral, written, or media performance that will increase one's communication and ministerial effectiveness appropriate to one's particular ministry context.

#### Additional course objectives

- Engage a missional-theological hermeneutic for the study of the Old Testament, by noticing key theological themes that offer a framework for the life of the church.
- Provide missional leadership for one's ministry context by accessing the rich biblical-theological frameworks in the Old Testament.
- Deepen one's spiritual formation and leadership by utilizing key biblical themes found in Old Testament literature

## READINGS

### Required Texts

Barram, Michael. *Missional Economics: Biblical Justice and Christian Formation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.

Fretheim, Terence E. *God and World in the Old Testament: A Relational Theology of Creation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.

Rhodes, Michael, Robby Holt, and Brian Fikkert. *Practicing the King's Economy: Honoring Jesus in How We work, Earn, Spend, and Give*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.

Stetzer, Ed, and Philip Nation. *Compelled: Living the Mission of God*. Birmingham: New Hope, 2012.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.

## COURSE FORMAT

The course format will be varied, including lecture, discussion, Bible study, prayer, and written reflective activities. Students are expected to have read all required materials before the class on the HST campus and be prepared to lead or engage in focused conversations. Additional time will be spent besides the face-to-face session with online class discussion through Zoom and posting assignments and offering responses to one another.

## REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation (including Zooms and Responses) (10%)
2. The Mission of God Dialogue Paper (20%)
3. Book Review (20%)
4. Conversation Team (10%)
5. Course Project and Paper (40%)

## GRADING SCALE

A = 90-100    B = 80-89    C = 70-79    D = 60-69    F = < 60

## PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. **INTRODUCTORY ZOOM SESSION – MONDAY, MAY 6 @ 1:00PM-2:30PM CST.**  
Everyone is required to attend via Zoom (Zoom ID # 9012750468). This will be a chance to catch up with one another and review the syllabus and course expectations.
2. **THE MISSION OF GOD DIALOGUE PAPER – DUE MAY 31.** Imagine that Terrence Fretheim and Christopher Wright were having a dialogue about God’s missional work in the world as it is represented in the Old Testament. On the basis of their books assigned for this class, write a fictitious dialogue between these two. The dialogue should highlight their areas of agreement, disagreement, and theological emphasis, and it should represent the fullness of their account of God’s mission in the world. Begin with “opening statements,” in which each scholar presents the theological framework in the Old Testament for God’s mission and the “gospel” of the Old Testament. Represent the scholars accurately, using quotations and paraphrasing, citing page numbers for both. And be creative! The paper should be about 10-12 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, and according to the standards of Turabian.
3. **BOOK REVIEW – DUE JUNE 5** – Write one book review for two books: (1) Rhodes, Holt, and Fikkert, *Practicing the King’s Economy*, and (2) Michael Barram, *Missional Economics*. The review should be 9-10 pages in length. The elements of the IDeA format should appear in your review. Here is a summary of the IDeA format:
  - a. **Identify** the author and the context of the book, **Describe** or summarize the book’s chapters, and **Assess** or evaluate the book’s arguments.
  - b. It is recommended that your outline be as follows:
    - i. Introduce both books together
    - ii. Review *Missional Economics*
    - iii. Review *King’s Economy*
    - iv. Compare and contrast the two books

## **PROPOSED INTENSIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

The class will meet Monday-Friday (June 3-7) from 8:00am-4:30pm with breaks throughout.

### **Monday AM**

Creation in Genesis and Beyond

- Framing God's Mission

### **Monday PM**

Being Human in God's World

- Community
- Blessing

### **Tuesday AM**

Sin and Salvation

- Metaphors for Sin
- Redemption

### **Tuesday PM**

Covenant and Sanctification

- Law
- Divine Presence

### **Wednesday AM**

Leadership and Justice

- The Sent (Israel; King; Prophet; Priest)
- Economic Justice
- Discussion of Barram and Rhodes, Holt, and Fikkert

### **Wednesday PM**

Judgment and Hope

- The Nations

### **Thursday AM**

Wisdom and Character

- Back to Creation
- Divine Mediation
- Goals for Life
- Suffering Well

### **Thursday PM**

Psalms and Spirituality

### **Friday AM**

Discussion of Stetzer and Nation

### **Friday PM**

Field Trip

## AFTER-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. **CONVERSATION TEAM MEETING – DUE JUNE 21** – After our intensive week, lead a conversation with your team about the Old Testament in the life of the church. Briefly share with them what you are learning from your readings and class. Then ask the following guiding questions: What has been your experience of how the Old Testament connects with the life of the church? How have you understood the Old Testament to shape the life of the church? Post a 500 word reflection on the meeting.
2. **BRIEF ZOOM SESSION – JUNE 24 @ 1:00PM-2:30PM CST.** Everyone is required to attend. The professor will send out an invite. This will be a chance to check-in and receive an update on students' projects and offer mutual encouragement.
3. **PROJECT AND PAPER – DUE JULY 15** – Write a 25-30 page paper that develops a theological framework based on the Old Testament for a particular missional work of your church. Choose a theological theme from the Old Testament. Develop the theme and describe how it informs a ministry of your church. Imagine this as a part of your theology chapter in your dissertation. The first 2/3 of the paper should be an exploration of a theme that appears throughout the Old Testament. The final 1/3 should demonstrate how this theme applies and provides a framework for ministry practices in your context. Meet with your conversation team two times to present your research and the theological vision you are following. Incorporate discussion with team into the practical section of your paper. With the help of your conversation team, identify three practical ways where this theological framework is going to shape your church moving forward. Identify convictions and practices that spring from the OT framework, Conversation Team meetings, and the current context of the church.  
E.g., How the theme of “exile” is going to shape your churches support of missions.
  - a. **EACH STUDENT SHOULD OFFER A BRIEF RESPONSE TO EACH STUDENT’S PAPER (250 WORDS) BY JULY 26.**

## **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: lhawley2@harding.edu

Cell Phone Number: (901) 275-0468

Office Phone Number: (901) 432-7729

The best way to communicate with me is by email. I check it often and expect you to check it as well for class announcements and additional documents. Feel free to contact me with your questions any time. I will use Canvas and your Harding University email address, so please make sure to check it regularly.

### **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 quizzes/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.

### **Textbooks**

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.

### **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.

### **Library Resources**

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site ([www.hst.edu](http://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, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

## **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.

## **Canvas Online Learning System**

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (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, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system, although it is best to email directly to [lhawley2@harding.edu](mailto:lhawley2@harding.edu).

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. 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.