



OLD TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS

3 credits

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	Mon, Oct 24, 2016
Days:	Monday to Friday	Instructor:	Grace Ko PhD Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, CCST (Tor) Adjunct Professor, Tyndale Seminary	Last day to add/ drop/change to audit:	4 pm, Mon, Oct 24, 2016
Time:	9 AM to 4 PM	Email:	gko@tyndale.ca	Last day to request revised exam:	n/a
Room:		Phone:	(905)737-7722	Last day to withdraw from course:	1 pm, Thu., Oct 27, 2016
Lab/Tut:	n/a	Office:	(416)226-6620 ext.6791	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	Wed., Jan 4, 2017
		Office Hrs:		Last day of classes:	Fri, Oct 28, 2016

A. Textbook: Required Text 必讀課本

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

(中譯本: 阿諾德、拜爾合著; 文子梁譯《舊約透析: 全方位研讀舊約》。香港: 漢語 2004。)

Dyrness, W. *Themes in Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1979

(中譯本: 端力斯著; 馮美昌譯《認識舊約神學主題》。台北: 校園 1996。)

B. Recommended Texts 推薦課本

House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.

Provan, I., V. P. Long, and T. Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*.

Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

LaSor, W., F. Bush, and D. A. Hubbard. *Old Testament Survey*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

(中譯本: 賴桑著; 馬傑偉譯《舊約綜覽》。香港: 種籽 1988。)

Course Description:

This course lays the foundation for Old Testament study at Ambrose by providing a window into the historical, cultural and geographical background, the literary and theological content and the practical relevance of the Old Testament. The goal is to provide a framework that will enable the students to

experience the text of the Old Testament throughout their lives. The student will not only gain an understanding of the content of these books and their backgrounds, but also consider and develop an approach to interpreting these texts theologically within a modern context.

本課程旨在幫助學生瞭解形成舊約聖經的歷史、文化、地理、及宗教背景；分析舊約神學這門學科，探討舊約中重要的神學課題；並助學生建立正確釋經方法及運用經文於現今社會。

Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to 讀畢本科，學生可以

- Gain awareness of the various major Old Testament theologies 瞭解多種主要舊約神學
- Demonstrate a knowledge of key elements and issues in Old Testament history 明白舊約歷史的重要元素及問題
- Gain knowledge of the social, political and religious world of ancient Israel derived from both biblical texts and extra-biblical sources 從聖經及古文獻中瞭解舊約聖經所處世界
- Know the contents of the three major canonical units of the Old Testament: Law, Prophets and Writings 知道正典舊約聖經中三大部份的內容: 律法, 先知, 及著作
- Appreciate the importance of knowing the theology of the Old testament for understanding the New Testament 洞悉舊約神學對新約的重要性
- Apply the message of the Old Testament for contemporary Christian living 將舊約信息正確的運用於現今基督徒的生命中

Course Schedule:

Day One (Oct 24)

Session 1: Introduction to the Old Testament

- Why study the Old Testament?
- What is the Old Testament?
- How to compile a theology of the Old Testament?
- Is the Old Testament reliable and is it still relevant to us today?

Session 2: The Pentateuch (I)

- Some critical issues of the Pentateuch: Source criticism, historicity of the patriarchs and the exodus.
- The structure of the Pentateuch
- The theology of the Pentateuch
- What does the biblical text tell us about God?

Day Two (Oct 25)

Session 1: The Pentateuch (II)

- The Mosaic Covenant: Law and worship
- Differing ways of grouping laws
- The uniqueness of the Decalogue (The Ten Commandments)

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- Discussion on the ethical authority of the Old Testament

Session 2: Historical Books: Former Prophets

- The writing of history in the Old Testament
- Kingship in ancient Israel
- The Davidic Covenant
- The theology of the former prophets (Joshua-Kings)

Group Discussion 1: Covenant and Law

(Please email me the marks for your group members as soon as possible)

Day Three (Oct 26)

Session 1: Prophetic Literature: Latter Prophets

- The Major and Minor Prophets
- The role of the prophets
- The Suffering Servant in Isaiah

Session 2:

- Jeremiah's Confession
- Outline of Ezekiel
- The Ordering of the Minor Prophets
- The Relevancy of the Old Testament Prophecy

Day Four (Oct 27)

Session 1: Psalms

- The Editing of the Book of Psalms
- Types of Psalms

Session 2:

- "Davidic Psalms" and the Historical Narrative
- Christological Reading of the Psalms

Day Five (Oct 28)

Session 1: Wisdom Literature

- What Constitute Wisdom Literature
- Theology of Wisdom Literature
 - Creation Theology

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- Fear of the Lord

Session 2:

- Retribution Theology
- Human Experience and Questioning
- Application and integration

Group Discussion 2: Ethics in the Old Testament and Today's Application
(Please email me the marks as soon as possible)

Requirements:

Reading assignments (10%)

Due: Jan 31, 2017

One of the main assignments in this course is the reading assignments. You will be assigned readings from the selected portion of the Old Testament. You will be required to submit a completed chart listed at the end of this syllabus, indicating the extent of your completion of the assigned biblical readings.

2. Reading Responses (20%)

Due: Oct 28 & Nov 18, 2016

Read *Encountering the Old Testament* chapters 1-3, 10 and write a response to them. When writing a response, first, give a précis of the reading, then write one thing that impresses you most or one critique that you would like to make against the reading, and state your reason. **Due date:** Oct 28, 2016

讀《舊約透析:全方位研讀舊約》第1至3章及10章,以1000字為限,其中三分之二的字數必須簡介所讀內容,餘下字數寫出你最欣賞或最反對之處及其原因。呈交日期:10月28日

Read and write a response to *Encountering the Old Testament* chapters 19-21. **Due date:** Nov 18, 2016

詳讀並寫《舊約透析:全方位研讀舊約》第19至21章的閱讀報告。呈交日期:11月18日

3. Group Discussions (5%each)

10%

During the course, there will be two in-class discussion times of approximately

45 minutes each. These discussions have five purposes.

在此課程裡,將有兩次約四十五分鐘的小組討論,目的如下

- To challenge students to develop their critical thinking skills 引發學生建立批判思維

- To enable students to improve their skills in developing and expressing

theological arguments in a group context 增進學生在小組裡表達神學論點的技巧

- To empower students to foster ability in leading fellow students in discussion 加強學生領導他人發表意見的能力

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- To have students take responsibility for their fellow students' education by mutually supporting one another 讓學生們互相支持並為對方的學習負責
 - To encourage students to listen respectfully to views not their own 鼓勵學生以謙虛及尊重的態度去聆聽不同的意見

Details and sample questions will be given in class 詳情及問題將於堂上派發

First Group Discussion: Oct 25, 2016 第一次小組討論: 10月25日 5%

- Read *Themes in Old Testament Theology* chapters 6-7, and be prepared to discuss **Covenant and Law**
詳讀《認識舊約神學主題》第六至七課，討論題目為：**聖約與律法**

Second Group Discussion: Oct 28, 2016 第二次小組討論: 10月28日 5%

- Read *Themes in Old Testament Theology* chapters 9-10, and be prepared to discuss **Ethics in the Old Testament and Today's Application**
詳讀《認識舊約神學主題》第九至十課，討論題目為：**舊約倫理與今日應用**

4. Inductive study on Esther (30%)

Due: Dec 2, 2016

The purpose of this exercise is to help you develop a method of Bible study which can be used in studying any other biblical books. Avoid the use of annotated Bibles, commentaries and other reference works or secondary materials. This is an independent study using inductive method.

- Inductive Study Method Guidelines:

As a suggestion, read the following sections in Oletta Wald's *New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2002), pp. 4-6, 10-33, 46-48 and 56-57. Pay particular attention to the chart on pp. 17-18. Of particular importance is the point about repetition and progression of ideas since the theme of a book is often related through repetition.

- a. Read through the book of Esther at least three times, noting patterns, emphases, development, recurring theological concerns and structural devices. Try to read through the book in one setting.
- b. Write your inductive study using the observations that you have made. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, font 12, no longer than 8 pages. It should contain the following **five sections**:
 - Chapter captions/titles
Prepare your own table of contents by giving appropriate, concise and creative captions to each chapter.

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- Analysis of the book's structure
What are the major sections of the book? How are these sections subdivided? What markers in the text indicate a move is being made from one section to another section of the book?
 - General observations regarding the book's major characters and geographical setting
Are there any patterns in how the characters are portrayed? Do the character portrayal and the geographical setting have an impact on the story? What significance do they have for the plot?
 - Theme of the book
What is *the* gist of the book (you should be able to state the theme in one sentence)? How is this theme developed in various parts of the book? Be sure you don't confuse *the* theme of the book with sub-themes or motifs. You are encouraged to outline the sub-theme as well, but only insofar as this aids your outline of the theme.
 - Theological insights and application
What are some of the more prominent theological emphases of the book? How are they developed? How do these emphases relate to other books in the Bible? (Make sure to show where in the book your emphasis is grounded before exploring links with other biblical books). In what ways can you practically apply these truths in your life and in the life of the Church? (Give specific suggestions). What ideas for preaching and teaching in the Church emerge from your study?

此習作為要學生練習讀敘述文的策略。以班上派發的講義為指引，寫一篇以斯帖記的釋經文章。字數限為 4000-5000 字。呈交日期: 12 月 2 日

5. Final paper: Write your own OT theology (30%)

Due: Jan 31, 2017

Scholars debate over how one should write an Old Testament theology. Based on what you have learned from this course, if you have to write your own Old Testament theology, how would you do it? Would you argue for one main theological theme or center of the Old Testament or several theological streams or themes? What would it/they be and why? You should support your argument by citing appropriate biblical (OT) passages. **Please note:** I do not want to see any New Testament passage until the very last paragraph. This essay is to be 4-6 pages in length, double-spaced, font 12.

As a suggestion: Read chapter 1 (pp.11-57) and appendix (pp.548-59) in Paul House, *Old Testament Theology* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998). This reading will inform you of the challenges in doing Old Testament theology and the various approaches used by scholars to compile an Old Testament theology.

學者們對如何撰寫舊約神學各有不同的見解。從你在本科所學到的，如果你要撰寫舊約神學，你會從何入手？你會是選擇一個或多個神學主題為中心？那些主題是甚麼？你必須列舉原因及舊約聖經章節支持你的論點。字數限為 3000-4000 字。

呈交日期: 2017 年 1 月 31 日

Attendance:

Since this is an intensive course, student must attend every session of the course.

Grade Summary:

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|---|-----|
| 1. Reading Chart 閱讀表 | 10% |
| 2. Written Responses to Readings (10%each) 閱讀報告二份 | 20% |
| 3. Group Discussions (5%each) 小組討論二次 | 10% |
| 4. Inductive Study on Esther 以斯帖記研讀 | 30% |
| 5. Write your own OT Theology 試寫你自己的舊約神學 | 30% |

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	Excellent
A	
A-	Good
B+	
B	
B-	
C+	Satisfactory
C	
C-	
D+	Minimal Pass
D	
F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Other**Reading Completion Chart Sample**

Ambrose Seminary
Old Testament Survey (OT501)
Reading Completion Chart
Submitted to: Dr. Grace Ko

Student's name _____

READING	Date Completed & % Completed

Genesis-Exodus	
Leviticus-Deuteronomy	
Joshua-Ruth	
I and II Samuel	
I and II Kings	
Psalms 1-2, 30, 72, 73, 89, 90-92 and 145-150	
Proverbs 1-9; 31:10-31	
Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs	
Isaiah 1-12, 40-66	
Jeremiah 1-20, 31-33	
Ezekiel 1-24, 33-48	
Ezra, Nehemiah	
Hosea-Malachi	

Selected Bibliography

Interpretation and Reading Strategy

Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

_____. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York: Basic Books, 1985.

Bar-Efrat, S. *Narrative Art in the Bible*. JSOTSS 70. Sheffield: Almond Press, 1989.

Berlin, A. *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*. Sheffield: Almond, 1983. Reprint, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1994.

Dyck, E., ed. *The Act of Bible Reading: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

Fee, G. D. "History as Context for Interpretation." In *The Act of Bible Reading: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Biblical Interpretation*. Edited by Elmer Dyck. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

Fee, G. D., and D. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

Gabel, J. B., and C. B. Wheeler. *The Bible as Literature: An Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

Longman, T. III. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.

Mays, J.L., D. L. Petersen, and K. H. Richards, eds. *Old Testament Interpretation: Past, Present, And Future*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Ryken, L. *Words of Delight: A Literary Introduction to the Bible*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

- Ryken, L. and T. Longman, III., eds. *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Stuart, D. K. *Old Testament Exegesis*. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- VanGemeren, W. A. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

General Old Testament Studies

- Arnold, B. T., and B. E. Beyer., *Encountering the Old Testament. A Christian Survey*. 2d. ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Baker, D. W., and B. T. Arnold, eds. *The Face of Old Testament Studies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Bright, J. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000.
- Childs, B. S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Dillard, R. B., and T. Longman, III., *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- King, P. J., and L. E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Kaiser, W. C., Jr. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?* Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.
- Kitchen, K. A. *Ancient Orient and Old Testament*. Chicago: IVP, 1966.
- _____. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- LaSor, W., F. Bush, and D. A. Hubbard. *Old Testament Survey*. 2d. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Longman, T. III. *Making Sense of the Old Testament*. Three Crucial Questions. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Provan, I., V. P. Long, and T. Longman, III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.
- Vaux, Roland de. *Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Old Testament Theology

- Alexander, T. D. *From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker,
- Brueggemann, W. *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997.
- _____. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984.
- Childs, B. S. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.
- _____. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1986.
- Dumbrell, W. J. *Covenant and Creation*. Nashville: Nelson, 1984.
- Dyrness, W., Jr. *Themes in the Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove:

- InterVarsity, 1980.
- Gowan, D. E. *Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.
- Hasel, G. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Hayes, J. and F. Prussner. *Old Testament Theology: Its History and Development*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1985.
- House, P. R. *Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.
- Kaiser, W. C., Jr. *Towards an Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Leggett, D. A. *Loving God and Disturbing Men: Preaching from the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.
- Martens, E. *God's Design*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Ollenberger, B. C., E. A. Martens, and G. F. Hasel, eds. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology*. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study 1. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- Robertson, O. P. *The Christ of the Covenants*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1980.
- Waltke, Bruce K. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling (if applicable)

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot

conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.