



GOT 514 Biblical Theology of the Old Testament

Fall 2020

Instructor Information

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Office Location: Student Life Office

The best way to connect with Dr. Goodwill is through email. He will check email daily and do his best to respond within 24 hours. If you do not receive a respond within 24 hours, please assume that the email was accidentally overlooked and send a follow-up email.

If your question needs a response sooner than 24 hours, please call/text.

Course Description: A study of the progressive development of special revelation in the Old Testament period with an emphasis on its contribution to the central message of the Bible, its main theological subthemes, and its major continuities and discontinuities with New Testament theology (3 hours credit).

Prerequisite: none

Textbook Information:

1. Eugene Merrill. [*Everlasting Dominion*](#). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2005.
2. One of the following books for the book review (student will choose):
 - Randy Jaeggli. [*Embrace Life Under the Sun: God's Wisdom for today from Ecclesiastes*](#). Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2015 [265 pages].
 - J. Gary Millar. [*Now Choose Life: Theology and Ethics in Deuteronomy*](#), NSBT. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998 [222.156 M648n – 166 pages].
 - Paul Williamson. [*Sealed with an Oath: Covenant in God's Unfolding Purpose*](#), NSBT. Downers Grove: IVP, 2007 [231.76 W732s – 193 pages].
 - Christopher J. H. Wright. [*God's People in God's Land: Family, Land, and Property in the Old Testament*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990 [221.67 W951g – 265 pages].

Another book of your choosing that is relevant to OT theology. All other choices must have the advance approval of the instructor. If you do not get advance approval, the book may not satisfy this requirement and you may have to do additional reading.

MBU Institutional Outcomes supported by this course.

1. **Written Communication.** Students will write correctly and cohesively with compelling argumentation.
9. **Biblical Interpretation.** Students will interpret Scripture using the historical-grammatical method with careful attention to the immediate and broad biblical context.



Course Goals: By the end of this class, I desire the student to...

2. Understand the relationship between “Biblical Theology” and “Systematic Theology.”
3. Understand the benefits offered by the discipline as well as the abuses of some of its practitioners.
4. Understand the different methods for Biblical Theology (word studies, theology of an author/book, and development of a particular topic).
5. Trace the primary themes of the Old Testament.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class the student will be able to...

1. Articulate the nature of Biblical Theology and its relationship to Systematic Theology.
2. Demonstrate the different methods and tools for Biblical Theology.
3. Trace the development of topics or primary themes through major revelatory epochs of the Old Testament.

Course Requirements

Lectures

Lecture videos will introduce you to the material and often include additional discussion that would be difficult to include in the course notes. Each week may have multiple lectures, but the average weekly viewing time for the lectures is 30 minutes.

Reading

Students should read the course texts as assigned each week. Reading is reported by responding to the weekly reading journal in the course website.

Discussion Forums

Most weeks, there will be a discussion question. Generally, students will post their own answer to the question and then respond to 2 other student responses to the question. Responses are graded primarily on the quality of the contribution to the discussion. Responses should add value to the overall discussion thread. **Initial posts are due on Thursdays at 11:55pm** while responses are due on Saturdays at 11:55pm.

Projects

There are four different projects in this course. Please see the examples on the “Course Notes and Instructions” for more information as well as the course lectures.

1. Word Study on *hesed* [Strong’s H2617] (**Due Date:** 11/21; 50 points)
Word studies form the backbone of Biblical Theology since themes are often traced through words. While knowledge of Hebrew is helpful, it is not necessary for this project. The word study is brief which means it is a summary or synthesis of the student’s research. Lectures and handouts will describe in detail how a student ought to research for the word study.
 - Format: a 1–2 page (no more than 2), double-spaced paper with 12 point Times New Roman font and 1 inch margins
 - Required components:
 - Introduction to the word
 - How many times it is used in the OT (do not worry if you are slightly off)?
 - In what grammatical form does it primarily appear (e.g., verb, noun, adjective)?
 - Why is it an important word to study?
 - Translation chart (see example word study)
 - List of senses with a discussion of at least two supporting passages
 - Brief discussion on how this word study ought to help someone interpret the Old Testament
 - List of sources used (see example Word study)

Note: you are not required to use resources, but they are recommended.



2. Subject Study on Sacrifice (**Due Date:** 12/5; 50 points)

Subject studies trace a subject or theme through the entire Old Testament. For this course, the subject study should answer two unstated questions. First, what does the Old Testament teach about the subject? Second, how should a New Testament believer respond to respond to the Old Testament teaching?

- Format: a 3–4 page, single-spaced outline/paper with 12 point Time New Roman font and 1 inch margins (see example subject study for outline/paper format example).
- Required components:
 - Introductory Paragraph
 - Historical Survey (e.g., how does the topic progressively develop in the Old Testament?)
 - Topical Outline with brief explanation paragraphs
 - Significance of the Study for the New Testament believer
 - Conclusion Paragraph
 - List of sources used (see example Subject Study)

3. Book Review (**Due Date:** 12/19; 50 points)

- Format: a 7–8 page, double-spaced paper with 12 point Times New Roman font and 1 inch margins
- Content: This is a completely original review, not a research paper. You should not read other reviews on the book from magazines or journals.
 - Introduction (½–1 page): It should introduce the broad topic that the book addresses and lead in to the contribution this particular book seeks to make to the issue.
 - Main Body (5–6 pages): Summarize the content of the book.
 - Critique (1 ½–2 pages): This should analyze the content, and you may need to do some reading in other works to do it. For example, answer some of the following questions. Is author’s approach helpful? Does the author support his arguments or prove his point adequately? What were the book’s strengths and weaknesses? You should give substantial reasons for your positive and negative assessments.

4. Theology of Micah Paper (**Due Date:** 1/16; 100 points)

A book theology defines the primary message and/or theme of a book, explains how key words/passages demonstrate the theme, breaks down the theme into subthemes, and demonstrates the significance of the book to the New Testament believer.

- Requirements:
 - Read Micah at least 10 times before writing the paper (include a statement at the end of the paper saying that you have read the book at least 10 times).
 - Bibliography should have at least 8 academically credible sources such as Old Testament theologies, commentaries, theological dictionaries, or journal articles.
- Format: 12 page, Turabian paper with headings and footnotes. The title page/outline and bibliography do not apply toward the page count.
- Content:
 - Introduction (½–1 page): It should introduce the book with relevant historical information before focusing on the book’s message and/or theme. *Note: a theme is a general topic while a message involves how the book expects one to respond to the theme. For example, the theme of Leviticus is “holiness” while the message of Leviticus is “a relationship with the Holy God requires holiness.” Not every book lends itself to a concise and accurate message, but every book will have a theme.*
 - Main Body (9–11 pages): the structure of the main body will vary from student to student and from book to book. It will likely include a discussion on the key words/passages that carry the book’s theme as well as subthemes that support the overall theme.



- Conclusion (½ –1 page): The conclusion should summarize the paper, bring the reader’s focus back to the book’s message/theme, and briefly discuss the value of the book’s theology to the New Testament believer.

Final Exam (Due Date: 12/19; 100 points)

The final exam is a closed-book essay exam. You may use an unmarked Bible (no study Bibles) for the test. The study guide for the final exam lists ten possible essay questions from which five questions will be on the final.

Grading Policy

1. Grading scale:

94-100	A	90-91	B+	81-82	C+	64-72	D
92-93	A-	85-89	B	80-75	C	0-63	D-
		83-84	B-	73-74	C-		

2. Grade weighting:

Reading	10%
Discussion Forums	20%
Projects	50%
Final Exam.....	20%

3. Late work policy:

- General Policy: Work not turned in on the day it is due will have its grade reduced 4% for each calendar day that it is late. Extensions will be given on a case-by-case basis.
- Specific Policy for Discussion Forums: Answering these questions requires interaction with other students during the week they are assigned. There is an 8% penalty per calendar day for initial posts that are submitted late (after 11:55pm on Thursdays) but before the responses deadline (11:55pm on Saturday). Initial posts that are submitted after the responses deadline will not receive a “0” on that week’s discussion forum.

4. Program Grade Requirements: In order to graduate, a student must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (including a maximum of two Cs) in any MA program, or a minimum grade point average of 2.5 in the MDiv program.



Appendix A

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, and it can exist in many forms. For example, the following would be considered a sample of academically dishonest activities that might occur in this class:

- ◆ Sharing advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Receiving advance information regarding the content or answers for a test or quiz.
- ◆ Using a previous student's old tests or quizzes as a study guide for this semester's tests and quizzes.
- ◆ Handing in the same paper or substituting a similar paper in more than one class without permission.
- ◆ Plagiarism. Representing the words or unique thoughts of another as your own.
- ◆ Submitting as your own, materials that have been enhanced by another.

Academic penalties for academic dishonesty range from an F grade on the particular evaluation to an F grade in the course. Also, a range of serious disciplinary penalties may apply.

Academic Success Center. Once source for academic help in any course is the Academic Success Center. If you require specific targeted academic help for any reason contact the Academic Success Center located in the Cedarholm Library. If you would like more information regarding targeted academic help, please contact the Academic Success Center director at academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Program Director, in the Library, (ph. 920/206-2340) or email academicsuccess@mbu.edu.

Library Services. The Maranatha Cedarholm Library is committed to providing services to distance education students that are equivalent to residential students. Read about the library services that are available to you through Cedarholm Library. You can search the library resources by clicking on the Library link found under Quick Links on the sidebar in MyMaranatha.

Netiquette: Netiquette refers to the standards of behavior for online communication.

- All communication in discussion forums and through email should be respectful and professional.
- If someone asks you a question in a discussion forum, take the time to respond.
- If a coursemate or the instructor sends you an email, acknowledge that you received it by responding with a quick email.
- Your posts should be related to the course content. If you would like to chit-chat with someone, use email or the Virtual Café
- found on the Collaboration page.
- Don't type your posts in ALL CAPS. This makes the reader think you are yelling.

Technology Problems:

Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for missing an assignment. Technology will break down and fail at some point. Its failure is a normal process life, not an emergency. As you plan ahead and manage your time, assume that technology will fail, especially if you wait until the last minute to do an assignment!

When you have a problem with MyMaranatha or any other MBU website, please contact support@mbu.edu. If you are having difficulties navigating this course or have questions about how to use technology required for this course, please send me a quick email (andrew.goodwill@mbu.edu).



Course Schedule

	Merrill Reading	Project	General Discussion Topic (see forum for details)
Week 1: Description & History	1-74		Introductory Posts
Week 2: Questions & Approaches	75-162		Is there a central theme in the Old Testament?
Week 3: Word Study Method & Key OT Words	165-275		Trace the importance of Exodus 19 through the Old Testament.
Week 4: Subject Studies (Method)	277-324	Word Study on hesed	Evaluate and discuss Merrill's concept of sacred space.
Week 5: Subject Studies (Key Studies)	325-412		<i>(no discussion forum)</i>
Week 6: Book Theologies (Method)	413-64	Subject Study on Sacrifice	Evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of tracing Deuteronomistic History through a historical book.
Week 7: Book Theologies (Examples)	465-88		Develop a lesson series based on the book theologies presented in week 6 and 7.
Week 8: Connecting the Testaments	641-51	Book Review	Summarize your week 2 discussion and evaluate how your answer has changed or been confirmed.
Final Project		Theology of Micah	