SYLLABUS

1 OT 500: Introduction to Biblical Theology
RTS-Jackson
2 credits
Fall 2010
Dr. Daniel Timmer
dtimmer@rts.edu

Course Description
The course investigates the covenantal nature of the Christian Bible from a biblical-theological perspective. The study of biblical theology includes: (1) the history, definition, task, method, and goal of biblical theology; (2) the attempt to identify the "center" of biblical theology as a way of understanding the relationship of the various parts to the whole; (3) attention to the framework of Christ, kingdom, and canon; and (4) selected themes in biblical theology as those threads that make up the fabric of the biblical canon.

Course Objectives
1. To grasp what biblical theology is, how it has been done, and how it should be done.
2. To develop a framework that will unify the various people, events, and themes of the canon.
3. To develop a redemptive-historical overview of the OT and, to a lesser extent, the NT.
4. To appreciate how the various threads and themes of the OT interrelate, and how they come to completion in the NT.
5. To make humble, thorough, Christocentric handling of Scripture part of all theological work.

Textbooks

Resources you may find helpful:

Miscellaneous
Unless otherwise specified, all written work is to be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5"x11" paper. All text is to be in a legible 12-pt typeface. Provide a cover page (including paper title, your name, mailbox number, class name, professor, and date) and full bibliography (when required), and be sure that each page after the cover page is numbered. Bibliographies and foot/endnotes are to be prepared according to Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.
(6th ed. or later), specifically the “notes-bibliography” style (as opposed to APA style = “Jones 1999, 23-25”).

The grading scale for the course is as follows: late work will be penalized one full letter grade/day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-96%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-93%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-90%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-87%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-85%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-77%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-74%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-71%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Handbook. Since cheating and plagiarism are tantamount to theft, either may result in a failing mark for the assignment concerned, a failing mark for the course, or dismissal from the Seminary.

In order to ensure full participation, any student with a disability requiring special accommodations (voice recording, special equipment, reading or writing needs) is encouraged to contact the professor before the beginning of the course.

Apart from special circumstances, you are kindly requested to not use laptop computers in class. In all cases, please turn off and refrain from using PDAs, iPods, cell phones, and the like.

This syllabus is intended to represent accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, and other information so that students are able to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify and part of this syllabus during the semester in light of events or circumstances which may present themselves during the semester.

Course Assignments

1. Readings on Biblical Theology (10% of course grade)
   Read the New Dictionary of Biblical Theology, pages 3-112, and answer the following questions.
   Answers should be a minimum of one paragraph and a maximum of one page (double-spaced).
   1. What are the definition, task, and goal of biblical theology? (see also BTRP 15-24)
   2. Briefly outline a history of the discipline of biblical theology. What are its official origins, who are the major players, and what is the current condition of biblical theology as a discipline?
   3. What are some of the critical issues involved in the study of biblical theology? Are these issues relevant to biblical theology in an evangelical context?
   4. How does the concept of “canon” relate to the study of biblical theology? What are some of the significant issues related to canon and the study of biblical theology? See also BTRP 83-99.
   5. What is the role of redemptive history in the study of biblical theology? See also BTRP 111-125.
   6. How does biblical theology inform, limit, or strengthen exegesis and hermeneutics?
   7. What are the issues involved in identifying a center of biblical theology? Is there a center of biblical theology? If so, what is it? See also BTRP 267-286.
   8. How does biblical theology contribute to the discussion of the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?
   9. What is the difference between “biblical” and “systematic” theology? In what ways are these two disciplines similar? In what ways are these two disciplines distinct?
   10. If someone were to ask you the question, “Why is the study of biblical theology important for the average, church-going Christian?” how would you answer based upon your reading so far?
2. Readings on Hermeneutics (10% of course grade)
Read Goldsworthy’s *Gospel-Centred Hermeneutics*, pages 23-85, 167-180, and 296-317, then answer the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of one paragraph and a maximum of one page (double-spaced).
   1. What is “hermeneutics” and how might hermeneutics relate to the study of biblical theology?
   2. According to Goldsworthy, how do Jesus Christ and the Gospel related to both hermeneutics and biblical theology?
   3. According to Goldsworthy, what are some of the theological challenges facing modern evangelicalism? How have these challenges manifested themselves in your own life of the life of your local church?
   4. According to Goldsworthy, what are the “Hermeneutics of Christ”?
   5. According to Romans 1:1-3, how does the Gospel relate to the Old Testament?
   6. How has your conception of the importance of the Gospel for the Christian life changed after reading Goldsworthy? What is the role of the Gospel in the Christian life, especially sanctification?

3. Readings on the Kingdom of God (10% of course grade)
Read the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pages 615-620, and Bright’s *The Kingdom of God*, and answer the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of one paragraph and a maximum of one page (double-spaced).
   1. What is the Kingdom of God?
   2. How does the Kingdom of God appear in the Old Testament?
   3. How does Jesus relate to the Kingdom of God?
   4. How does the concept of the Kingdom of God connect the Old and New Testaments?

4. Readings on Canon and Covenant (10% of course grade)
Read the *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pages 419-429, and Kline’s *The Structure of Biblical Authority*, pages 7-110, and answer the following questions. Answers should be a minimum of one paragraph and a maximum of one page (double-spaced).
   1. What is a covenant and, according to Kline, what are the formal origins of the biblical canon-covenant? According to Kline, how do the concepts of covenant and canon relate to each other?
   2. According to Kline, how do the concepts of covenant and canon relate to each other?
   3. How do the Old Testament genres of law, history, prophecy, praise, and wisdom relate to the covenantal nature of the biblical-canonical text?
   4. How do the concepts of canon and covenant help us to understand the nature and relationship between the Old and New Testaments?
   5. If someone were to ask you the question, “What kind of book is the Bible?” how would you answer in light of Kline’s book?

5. Take-home exam #1 (10% of course grade). This exam covers the theoretical part of the course (lectures 1-6). For this exam, you must work alone, but you may use your class notes.

6. NT use of OT (10% of course grade)
Choose two NT passage that draw explicitly on the OT, identify the theological methods (typology,
promise-fulfillment, etc.) the NT author uses, and explain why his connection of the testaments works. Pay special attention to the NT author’s theological presuppositions and framework. 5-7 pages total (1,500 words, double-spaced), no bibliography required.

7. Paper (30% of course grade)
Write a paper of about 15 double-spaced pages (about 3,500 words) on an approved passage following the method described in the course. Use at least 8 (eight) resources published after 1970, and identify explicitly the theological methods (typology, promise-fulfillment, etc.) by which your text presumes (OT) or shows (NT) continuity between the testaments.

8. Take-home exam #2 (10% of course grade)
At the end of the final lecture, you will receive a brief take-home exam. The exam will ask you to use the biblical-content-based lectures (lectures 7 and following) in a practical way. For this exam, you must work alone, but you may use your class notes.

F. COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week, Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/writing to complete by the beginning of class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 22-28 Aug</td>
<td>Introduction to BT, part 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 29 Aug-4 Sep</td>
<td>Introduction to BT, part 2</td>
<td>Readings on Biblical Theology (#1); Hafemann and Ciampa in CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 5-11 Sep</td>
<td>Christ as center</td>
<td>Readings on Hermeneutics (#2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 12-18 Sep</td>
<td>Kingdom as framework</td>
<td>Readings on the Kingdom of God (#3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 19-25 Sep</td>
<td>Canon and covenant</td>
<td>Readings on Canon and Covenant (#4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 26 Sep-2 Oct</td>
<td>“ Canonical” approaches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 3-9 Oct</td>
<td>(OT)BT: Creation-Noah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 10-16 Oct</td>
<td>-Reading week-</td>
<td>-Reading week-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9, 17-23 Oct</td>
<td>(OT)BT: Abraham-Israel</td>
<td>Schreiner, Thielman in CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 24-30 Oct</td>
<td>(OT)BT: Joshua-Solomon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11, 31 Oct -6 Nov</td>
<td>(OT)BT: Wisdom, kingship, righteousness, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, 7-13 Nov</td>
<td>(OT)BT: Divided monarchy</td>
<td>House in CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13, 14-20 Nov</td>
<td>ETS/SBL—no class</td>
<td>ETS/SBL—no class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, 21-27 Nov</td>
<td>SBL/Thanksgiving—no class</td>
<td>SBL/Thanksgiving—no class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15, 28 Nov-4 Dec</td>
<td>(OT)BT: Post-exilic period</td>
<td>Martens in CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 5-11 Dec</td>
<td>-Final exam-</td>
<td>-Final exam-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>