

COURSE SYLLABUS

OT512: Old Testament Theology II: Latter Prophets and Writings

Course Lecturer: Richard E. Averbeck, PhD

Course Description

Welcome to *Old Testament Theology II: Latter Prophets and Writings*, an online graduate-level course designed to expand your comprehension of Old Testament wisdom literature and prophets, including theological concepts that are basic to an understanding of the biblical message in both Old and New Testaments.

In order to understand and apply any passage of Scripture faithfully, we must begin with the foundational concepts and theology that precede and inform it. In biblical theology, the foundation is laid in the Pentateuch and Former Prophets (Genesis–Kings) and is picked up and further developed in the Latter Prophets and Writings (Job–Malachi). The history, poetry, wisdom, and prophecy of these books are essential for fully grasping the meaning and message of Jesus' teaching and our mission in the world today. As we gain the conceptual skills and perspective developed in the Old Testament texts and carried over into the New Testament, we discover a fuller view of God, pursue a more profound approach to worship, and develop a deeper sense of mission for contemporary life.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of your study, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand how the Latter Prophets and Writings fit into the Old Testament canon and how they contribute to our understanding of faith experience in ancient Israel.
- Identify the principles and patterns of biblical Hebrew poetry in order to be able to interpret it well.
- Articulate the nature and principles of biblical worship as illustrated in the Psalms and understand the relevance of this teaching for Christian worship today.
- Explain how the prophetic institution and the prophetic books lay a foundation for the prophetic work of Jesus Christ.
- Discuss how Old Testament prophecy and the work of Christ combine to define and drive the mission of the church.
- Describe the relationship between the Holy Spirit's work in the Old and New Testaments.
- Understand the teachings of the Latter Prophets and Writings as crucial to an ongoing study of the whole canon of Scripture.
- Apply the truths and principles found in the Old Testament to Christian life and ministry.

Accessibility

If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

Course Lecturer



Richard E. Averbek, PhD

Education:

- Annenberg Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, PhD
- Grace Theological Seminary, MDiv and MA
- Calvary Bible College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Dallas Theological Seminary (1990-1994)
- Chairman of the Old Testament Department, Grace Theological Seminary (1980-1990)
- Visiting lecturer at the Lutheran School of Theology in Copenhagen and Århus, Denmark
- Preached and taught in China, across Germany, and West Africa
- Expertise in Old Testament Law, Near Eastern Studies, and Semitic languages

Other Career Highlights:

- Member of the Evangelical Theological Society, the Institute for Biblical Research, the American Oriental Society, and the Society of Biblical Literature
- Director of the Spiritual Formation Forum
- Licensed therapist in Wisconsin, having studied under his friend and colleague, the world renowned counselor and Christian psychologist, Dr. Larry Crabb

Publications:

- Numerous articles for *The Future of Biblical Archaeology*, *The Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *The Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care*, and *The Journal of Psychology and Christianity*
- Extensive contributions to *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* and *The Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*
- Entries for *The Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology; Faith Tradition, and History*; and *Cracking Old Testament Codes*
- Chief editor and major contributor to the *Life and Culture in Ancient Near East*

Online Professor

Within two weeks of your registration for the course, CUGN will assign one of its faculty members as the online professor. Once your online professor has been assigned, (s)he will be introduced and will guide you through the 8-week study. Your online professor will be available to you by email and can, at set times, be available by video chat or other real-time technology.

The following will be done by the online professor in order to stimulate student involvement and to

facilitate effective learning:

- Evaluate and assign grades to all coursework.
- Answer questions that may arise.
- Issue your final grade.

For additional help as you work through this course, please read *Succeeding in Your Online Course*, which is provided at the end of this syllabus.

Course Texts

Required:

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Ryan P. O'Dowd. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

Longman, Tremper III. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

You will also need a copy of the Bible as you will be required to read the Old Testament books of Job through Malachi.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Academic Honesty

At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

Plagiarism: If a student's work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar's Office at registrar@cugn.org or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in learning and processing information, and applying the learning to your life. These methods include the following:

Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed, listened to, and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- **Audio-based teaching**
The primary course content will be delivered via audio lectures, including the full transcript of each lecture.
- **Multisensory learning**
Because the primary teaching information is provided in audio and PDF text documents, students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.
- **Readings and other media**
Reading from the required textbooks will be assigned to students each week

Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

Discussion Forum

Students are required to respond to questions posted in the course and are encouraged to read and respond to the posts of other students.

Reflection

Through blogging, CUGN provides many opportunities for students to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and where they are challenged. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth and transformation.

Course Requirements

This course consists of a mentor relationship, readings, audio lectures, videos, discussion forums, a creative research project, quizzes, and blogging. The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

Mentor

This course requires that you seek out a mentor in your community with whom you can communicate by e-mail and/or telephone and with whom you can meet face-to-face at least twice during the

course. The purpose of this mentoring relationship is to enable you to assimilate the teaching in this course into your life and ministry. Further definition of the mentor's role in this course can be found in the "Mentor Requirements" information available in the Week 1 Assignments section of the course.

Reading

Study assignments covered in this course should be read in the context of the lesson in which they are assigned. In addition to the required textbooks, you may be asked to read supplementary materials.

Audio Lectures

Each of the lessons in this course features an audio lecture of approximately 40 to 50 minutes in length delivered by Dr. Richard Averbek. These instructional lectures are required and can be listened to as many times as needed. The written text of the lecture, as well as a guided outline to assist in note-taking, are made available in PDF format. There are 24 lectures in this course; therefore, three lectures will be presented and discussed each week.

Discussion Forums

Discussion questions related to each week's lectures are integrated into the weekly course requirements. You are required to post your own original response to each question in the Discussion Forum. Each response should consist of two to three well-developed paragraphs. In addition, your online professor may comment on your posts, and you should be prepared to respond to those comments.

Video Presentations

There are five video presentations related to this course that are required viewing. You will note them in the assignment section in the weeks where they are relevant.

Creative Research Project

You will develop a creative research project on a topic of interest related to the subject matter of this course. Upon completion of the project, you will submit a paper describing the project along with any related documentation. More guidance concerning the project will be provided by your online professor during the first week of the course, and you may also find topic ideas and further instructions in the Creative Research Project Instructions document available in the Before You Begin section of the course. The topic for your research project must be submitted to your professor for preapproval prior to beginning your research. Projects may be posted online to be read and commented on by other students. Your Creative Research Project and related writing are due at the end of Week 5. Remember, each week begins on a Monday and ends the following Sunday; therefore, the Creative Research Project is due on the Sunday of Week 5 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Quizzes

You will take a 10-question, multiple choice and/or true/false quiz at the end of each lecture. There is a "remediation" feature built into all quiz questions that allows you to review questions you missed. Once you have reviewed the question again, you can attempt to answer a second time. If you are correct, you will receive half of the normal credit for that question. If you do not attempt to answer the second time, you will not receive credit for that question. You will be given only one attempt to take each quiz. All quizzes are timed (20 minutes) and will be graded automatically.

Reflection

You will be required to keep a blog during the 8 weeks of this course, posting *at least once per lesson*. Your blog entries will consist of your response to the Personal Reflection Question found in each lesson's Class Time. Blog entries can be viewed only by you and CUGN faculty, unless you wish to make them available to anyone else taking the class. The purpose of the blog is to help you reflect on what you are learning, what you believe, and where you may be challenged in your thinking and your life by what is studied in this course. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth.

Due Dates

Each week of the course begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. EST and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST. Unless noted otherwise, all assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. EST on the Sunday of the week in which the assignment is due. For example, if an assignment is due during Week 2, you must complete and submit it by 11:59 p.m. EST on Sunday, the last day of Week 2. It is at your online professor's discretion to penalize late work.

Course Grading

All coursework must be completed and turned in to your online professor within five days of the end of Week 8. Please note that it is at your online professor's discretion to penalize late work.

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Online Participation	30% of Course Grade
Creative Research Project	30% of Course Grade
Lesson Quizzes	25% of Course Grade
Reading	10% of Course Grade
Mentor Meetings	5% of Course Grade

Grades will be issued within two weeks of the end of the course.

Weekly Topics and Assignments

Week 1:

- Take the Moodle tutorial for online instruction.
- Listen to the following lectures:
 - #1: *Introduction: God, People, and the Bible*
 - #2: *Introduction to the Latter Prophets and Writings*
 - #3: *Worship and the Psalms*
- View the video *The Oneness of God, Part I*.
- Read the following from the course texts:
 - Longman, *How to Read the Psalms*: Introduction, Chapters 1 and 3

- NOTE: During this course, you will be expected to read all the books of the Old Testament from Job through Malachi. The weekly assignments will relate to the books being covered in that week's lectures. However, as some portions of Scripture are much longer than others, please feel free to read these biblical books at a faster pace that will allow you to complete all the Bible reading by the end of Week 8. You will be asked to verify that you have done so.
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 1, 2, and 3.
- Identify and contact your mentor.
- Submit topic for Creative Research Project.

Week 2:

- Listen to the following lectures:
#4: The Arrangement, Groups, and Categories of Psalms
#5: Truth, Creation, and Redemption in the Psalms I
#6: Truth, Creation, and Redemption in the Psalms II
 View the video *The Oneness of God, Part II*.
- Read the following from the course texts:
 Longman, *How to Read the Psalms*: Chapters 5, 6 and 7
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 4, 5, and 6.
- Have first meeting with your mentor.

Week 3:

- Listen to the following lectures:
#7: Sin, Worship, and the Psalms I
#8: Sin, Worship, and the Psalms II
#9: Introduction to Wisdom Literature
- Read the following from the course texts:
 Longman, *How to Read the Psalms*: Chapters 9 and 10
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.

- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 7, 8, and 9.

Week 4:

- Listen to the following lectures:
#10: The Book of Proverbs
#11: Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Solomon
#12: Introduction to Prophecy
- View the video *A Voice in the Wilderness*.
- Read the following from the course texts:
 Bartholomew and O'Dowd, *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 10, 11, and 12.

Week 5:

- Listen to the following lectures:
#13: The Prophets in Old Testament History
#14: Prophets: False and True
#15: The Eighth-Century Prophets: Jonah and the Compassion of God I
- Read the following from the course texts:
 Chisholm, *Handbook on the Prophets: "A Wayward Prophet Learns a Lesson" (Jonah)*
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 13, 14, and 15.
- Submit Creative Research Project.

Week 6:

- Listen to the following lectures:
#16: The Eighth-Century Prophets: Jonah and the Compassion of God II
#17: The Eighth-Century Prophets: Amos and the Justice of God

#18: The Eighth-Century Prophets: Hosea and the Faithfulness of God

- Read the following from the course texts:

Chisholm, *Handbook on the Prophets*: “A Lion Roars” (Amos) and “Restoring a Wayward Wife” (Hosea)

- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 16, 17, and 18.

Week 7:

- Listen to the following lectures:

#19: The Eighth-Century Prophets: Micah and the Judgment of God

#20: The Eighth-Century Prophets: Isaiah, the Holiness of God, and the Servant of God

#21: The Eighth-Century Prophets: The Suffering Servant in Isaiah

- View the video *Day of Atonement: Yom Kippur*
- Read the following from the course texts:
Chisholm, *Handbook on the Prophets*: “Isaiah”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.
- Complete quizzes 19, 20, and 21.

Week 8:

- Listen to the following lectures:

#22: The Seventh-Century Prophets: Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk

#23: The Seventh-Century Prophets: Jeremiah and the Covenant of God

#24: The Sixth- to Fifth-Century Prophets

- View the video *Sukkot: Feast of Tabernacles*
- Read the following from the course texts:
Chisholm, *Handbook on the Prophets*: “Jeremiah and Lamentations”
- Participate in the Discussion Forum.
- Complete your blog entries.

- Complete quizzes 22, 23, and 24.
- Have final meeting with your mentor.

Week 8 Follow-Up:

- Complete and post all blog entries.
- Complete Discussion Participation, Reading Completion, and Mentor Meetings Validations.
- Complete and submit course evaluation form.

Course Contributors

CUGN utilizes the radio and television teams of Our Daily Bread Ministries to enhance the students' educational experience. This course uses five videos from the *Day of Discovery* television program. The expert contributors to these programs are listed as follows:

- Avner Boskey, Th.M. (Dallas Theological Seminary), Teacher for Final Frontier Ministries
- Mart DeHaan, Litt.D. (Cornerstone University), Senior Advisor of Ministry Content for Our Daily Bread Ministries
- Jimmy DeYoung, Ph.D. (Louisiana Baptist University), Journalist and Conference Speaker
- Steve Herzig, B.S. (Philadelphia College of Bible), Director of North American Ministries for Friends of Israel
- Helen Frenkley, Former Director of *Neot Kedumim* (The Biblical Landscape Reserve of Israel)
- Vernon C. Grounds, Ph.D. (Faith Theological Seminary), Chancellor and Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Christian Ethics at Denver Seminary
- Meno Kalisher, C.B. (Philadelphia Biblical University), Author and Pastor of Jerusalem Assembly House of Redemption, Israel
- Dwight D. Pentecost, Th.D. (Dallas Theological Seminary), Distinguished Professor of Biblical Exposition at Dallas Theological Seminary
- Rabbi Chaim Richman, International Director of the Temple Institute
- M. Daniel Carroll Rodas, Ph.D. (University of Sheffield, United Kingdom), Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Denver Seminary
- Charles Ryrie, Ph.D. (University of Edinburgh, Scotland), Former Dean of Doctoral Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary

- Renald Showers, D.Theo. (Grace Theological Seminary), Professor, Church Historian, and International Speaker

Notes Regarding This Syllabus

This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. CUGN will provide specific instructions related to assignments for each lesson, specific discussion question postings, and interactive involvement with all students.

Succeeding in Your Online Course

1. Remember that this is a full semester's study completed in eight weeks. Therefore, expect that there will be a significant time commitment needed in order to complete all the requirements.
2. If you have any questions about the Moodle learning environment, the course requirements, schedule, or assignments, please contact the online professor who is ready and willing to help you have a successful online learning experience.
3. Technological problems may occur. Be sure to have a back-up plan in case of computer failure or late arrival of textbooks.
4. Before you post a comment or a response to another student's comment, be sure you have read the material and listened to the lectures related to the topic under discussion.
5. Think about how you can promote additional discussion by the comments you post.
6. When you post, respond directly to the question under consideration and express your points clearly and concisely, making only one main point per post.
7. If you find sources related to the topic being discussed, please share them with the class.
8. Practice good "netiquette": Disagree respectfully, stay on point, and don't post anything that is derogatory or inflammatory.
9. Enjoy, learn, challenge, and be challenged!