

COURSE SYLLABUS

Old Testament Theology I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets

Course Lecturer: Richard E. Averbeck, PhD

Course Description

Welcome to *Old Testament Theology I: Pentateuch and Former Prophets*, an online graduate-level course designed to expand your understanding of foundational theological concepts introduced in the Old Testament, which will inform interpretation of all of Scripture.

In this course, Dr. Richard E. Averbeck introduces the content and theology of Genesis through Kings, identifying the foundational themes that emerge and tracing them through the rest of the Bible. The goal of the course is to work through the books section by section focusing on major passages and their theological connections through all of Scripture. Special attention is given throughout the course to the significance of these passages for the church and the Christian life so that you will be keenly aware of the need to go beyond a simplistic and mechanistic reading of the text into a deeply implicational reading, expecting to be both informed and impacted by its message.

Course Objectives

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

- Identify various genres of literature in Genesis through Kings and learn to interpret them with credibility.
- Articulate the significance of Genesis 1-11 as the primeval historical and theological foundation for understanding our human experience in the world.
- Understand how the Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy) lays the historical and especially the theological foundation for the Former Prophets (Joshua-Kings) and for the rest of the Bible.
- Understand how the Pentateuch and the Former Prophets fit together within the canon, and how they contribute to our understanding of faith experience in ancient Israel.
- Value the ways in which Ancient Near Eastern literature can inform our reading of Scripture.
- Become familiar with the history recorded in Genesis through Kings and its relationship to the history of the surrounding Ancient Near Eastern world.
- Trace the overall historical progression of God's covenantal redemptive program from Genesis through Revelation.

- Value all of the above goals as crucial to an ongoing study of the whole canon of Scripture as well as foundational to the way we live our Christian lives and pursue our ministries.

Course Lecturer



Richard E. Averbeck, 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*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Dyrness, William. *Themes in Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Sandy, D. Brent & Ronald L. Giese, Jr., eds., *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Revised and Expanded. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

We also recommend you have a copy of the Bible so you can read the Old Testament books of Genesis through Kings. You should use a modern translation (not a paraphrase), e.g., RSV, NASB, NKJV, NIV, NRSV, etc.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Lectures:** 45-minute lessons that can be listened to as many times as needed.
2. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz, the Midterm, and the Final Exam. Quizzes and the Exams will cover the material presented in the lectures.