

COURSE SYLLABUS

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.

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.

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.

It will also be helpful to have a copy of the Bible in order to read the Old Testament books of Job through Malachi.

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.