



LEADERSHIP *through* UNDERSTANDING

NT/OT 3A03 Biblical Theology

Class Schedule. Monday @ 10:30am-12:20pm

Professor. Dr. Paul S. Evans

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Office. 236

Course Description:

A study of the discipline of biblical theology, which integrates the contents and theological themes of the Old and New Testaments, as the basis of Christian theology and ministry. Attention will be given to questions of canon, authority, the relationship of the Old to the New Testament, the unity and diversity of the biblical canon and the use of the Bible in Christian ministry.

Course Objectives

Knowing:

- To have an introductory knowledge of the discipline of biblical theology
- To be aware of the diversity within the Canon but also the different ways of viewing the unity within this diversity
- To have a grasp of the structure of biblical thought as it is revealed throughout redemptive history
- To have an appreciation to how the various biblical genres and books contribute to our understanding of God's redemptive plan.

Doing:

- To be able to trace out the themes that run throughout the Bible, such as: Creation, Covenant, Commandment, Temple, Priest, Sacrifice, Atonement, Idolatry, Kingdom, Exile, Messiah, The Day of the Lord, The people of God
- To be able to articulate the implications of biblical theology for a systematic theology and a Christian worldview.
- To complete an in-depth study on a biblical-theological theme

Being:

- To embrace the contemporary relevance of the whole of Scripture for the Church and society today
- To grow closer to God through study of the Bible

Required Textbooks

- Hafemann, Scott J. *Biblical Theology: Retrospect and Prospect*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Hafemann, Scott J., and Paul R. House, eds. *Central Themes in Biblical Theology: Mapping Unity in Diversity*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2007.
- A Bible in a modern critical translation (e.g., NRSV, TNIV, NIV, NLT, NASB).
- Readings posted on the web or handed out in class



All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Evaluation: The assignments and their weights are as follows:

- 1. 15%. Reading:** Students must read the textbooks in their entirety as well as other assigned readings. These readings must be done according to the timeline of the reading schedule. Each student will account for their timely reading by sending an email by the last day of classes (**April 5**) stating their reading accomplishments.
- 2. 20%. Review** of R.W.L. Moberly, "How May We Speak of God? A Reconsideration of the Nature of Biblical Theology." *Tyndale Bulletin* 53.2 (2002): 177–202. **Due Feb. 6. Email pdf file.**
 - Papers must be 6 pgs, double-spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font throughout (footnotes should be 10pt Times New Roman font). See "Review Guidelines" below.
- 3. 25%. Student presentations.** Students will work in pairs to complete this assignment. Students will prepare a presentation on a biblical-theological theme wherein they will summarize the content of relevant biblical texts and interact with relevant secondary literature.
 - While taking into account critical scholarship and academic level readings, the presentation will be aimed at a popular audience at the level of the average church go-er. The format of the presentation is up to the students. Students are encouraged to employ video, PowerPoint, activities, artwork, music or other creative avenues in which to communicate in their presentation. A separate schedule sign-up sheet will be available in class.
 - Students must hand-in a detailed lesson plan to the professor at the beginning of class on the day of their presentation.

4. 40%. Paper on biblical-theological theme. Due April 2. Email pdf file.

- 15 pgs, double-spaced, 12pt Roman font throughout entire paper. However, footnotes must be single-spaced and 10pt Roman font.
- After reading through the textbooks, students will choose one biblical-theological theme, and write a paper on biblical theology that succinctly traces this theme throughout the biblical material.
- The theological theme covered in the paper must interact with each of the major sections of the Old Testament and the New Testament. The paper must show awareness of the diversity exhibited within the Canon while also pointing out continuity and unity in this theology. The closing section of the paper (2 pages) must reflect on the implications your biblical-theological theme has on your theology, worldview and ministry.
- The paper will interact with both the biblical text and at least **10** secondary resources. Students are responsible for the quality of these Internet resources. These secondary sources do not include primary sources (the Bible, Josephus, Qumran). By way of **supplement** to these 10 sources, a student may use a **maximum of 2** Internet resources. Each source listed must be drawn on in the paper and evidenced in the footnotes etc.
- See 'Paper Evaluation' section below
- ALL TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY YOUR PROFESSOR

5. Reading the Bible

In order to get a sense of both its flow and content, each student is encouraged to read the entire Bible during this semester. This is especially important if a student has never read the Bible through carefully before. The Bible is an assumed foundation for this course, but the professor will not grade you on your Bible reading completion.

College Style for Submission of Written Work

All written work is to be submitted in accordance with the McMaster Divinity College Style Guide for Essays and Theses, available on the McMaster Divinity College website.

All papers to be submitted in electronic format (a pdf file) only. Email to pevans@mcmaster.ca. If you need a program for creating pdfs go to <http://primopdf.com> or <http://www.pdf995.com> for a free pdf maker. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., evans.researchpaper.pdf). To avoid late marks pdf papers must be received at the beginning of class on the day on which they are due (i.e., before 10:30am).

Policy concerning late papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances. (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions and in the interests of fairness any request

for extensions will take into account the entire class. Late assignments will be docked at the rate of 1% per day for the first 7 calendar days (including weekends) and 4% per day after that. All assignments must be received by the last day of class in order to avoid a failing grade in the class.

Inclusive language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Classroom Behaviour

Attendance & Participation

- Students are expected to be on time to class or ready to give an explanation for their tardiness to the professor.
- Students are also expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance with the professor.
- Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class.
- All student participation in way of comments or questions must be done without disrespect or ridicule
- Students may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up their desks.

Academic dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the respective professor. This syllabus has been prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.

Review Guideline

Name: _____

I. The Review of Moberly's Article. "How May We Speak of God? A Reconsideration of the Nature of Biblical Theology," should roughly follow this format:

Summary of Content: 2-3 Pages

Critique of Content 1-2 Pages

Personal Reflection 1-2 Pages

Total=*no more* than 6 pages! Pages 7ff *will not* be read

The following items are rated according to the following scale:

1 = poor/inadequate; 2 = adequate; 3 = good/more than adequate; 4 = very good;

5 = excellent/superior.

Summary of Content (noted key concepts etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of Critique (evidence of critical thought)	1	2	3	4	5
Reflective Thought (theological depth, sensitivity)	1	2	3	4	5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1	2	3	4	5
Grammar/Spelling	1	2	3	4	5
Neatness/Presentation	1	2	3	4	5

§ Note: this is a simple evaluation tool to assist in paper assessment. The categories are not weighted equally, and thus are not added together or averaged to calculate your grade.

II. The following need attention if checked

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified review
<input type="checkbox"/> Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page numbers etc. need attention
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite primary resources correctly/consistently (e.g., Gen 1:26; Genesis 1; etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> The paper is too long/too short
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly
<input type="checkbox"/> The paper needs balance
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

III. Comments

Paper Evaluation

Name: _____ Topic: _____

I. The next items are rated according to this scale: 1 = inadequate; 2 = adequate; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = superior.

Bibliographic consciousness	1	2	3	4	5
Range and Use of Sources	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity in Defining Issues	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Argument	1	2	3	4	5
Awareness of Exegetical Issues	1	2	3	4	5
Accuracy of Data and Assertions	1	2	3	4	5
Analysis /Critical Thinking	1	2	3	4	5
Introduction (Thesis Statement /Clear Issue)	1	2	3	4	5
Development of Thesis (focus)	1	2	3	4	5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1	2	3	4	5
Organization/coherence of ideas	1	2	3	4	5
Grammar/Spelling	1	2	3	4	5
Neatness/Presentation	1	2	3	4	5

§ Note: this is a simple evaluation tool to assist in paper assessment. The categories are not weighted equally, and thus are not added together or averaged to calculate your grade.

II. The following need attention if so indicated

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified essay
<input type="checkbox"/> Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page numbers etc. need attention
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<input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly
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<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

III. Comments