



ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

COURSE NAME: **BIBLICAL THEOLOGY I**

COURSE CODE: **BS101**

COURSE CREDIT: **3**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Generally, Biblical Theology is a study of how God presents God self and God's actions in the text of Scripture. It deals with matters internal to the Bible itself, treating the Bible as its own "narrative world." It treats the Bible as a book with a history and the historical context is of supreme importance in interpreting a text. It is primarily a descriptive discipline. It is not initially concerned with the final meaning of the teachings of the Bible or their relevance for today. This is the task of systematic theology. However, it has the task of expounding the theology found in the Bible in its own historical setting, and its own terms, categories, and thought forms.

Also it seeks to understand that story on its own terms and looks at what the Bible actually says and how it says it. It looks at patterns/types within Scripture, literary features, symbols. Biblical Theology is closely related to, if not inclusive of, biblical hermeneutics.

Biblical Theology I is a survey of the writings that are sacred to both the Jewish and Christian traditions. It will examine the three parts of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (Law, Prophets and Writings). The various types of literature of which the Old Testament is composed, e.g., narrative, law, prophetic oracle and poetry, will be analyzed according to both traditional and contemporary techniques of biblical interpretation. Special attention will be paid to major theological themes within the Old Testament, based upon the biblical text and the writings of major biblical theologians. The course will also consider the historical development and interrelationship of these themes throughout the successive periods of biblical history. A **pre-requisite for this course is BS 100.**

AIM:

- To provide the student with a basic understanding of Old Testament Theology, and
- To build a foundation for further study of Old Testament Theology. This course will assist students
- To assist students to understand how the Latter Prophets and Writings fit into the Old Testament Canon, and how they contribute to the understanding of faith experience in ancient Israel.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Identify the principles and patterns of biblical Hebrew poetry in order to interpret it well.
- Explain how the prophetic institution and the prophetic books lay a foundation for the prophetic work of Jesus Christ and how this then lays a foundation for the Church's mission.
- Value all of the above as crucial to an ongoing study of the whole canon of Scripture as well as foundational to the way persons live their Christian lives and pursue their ministries.

COURSE CONTENT:

1. In order to understand and apply any passage of Old Testament Scripture faithfully, one 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,



ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

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.

2. Central themes of the Old Testament: God's fourfold purpose for God's people found in Exodus 5:22-6:8. This purpose consists of "deliverance, to summon a people who will be peculiarly God's own, to offer God self for them to know and to give them land in fulfillment of God's promise".
3. Old Testament themes: Monotheism, Sovereignty, Election, Covenant, Theocracy, Law, Sacrifice, Faith, and Redemption.
4. The Theology of the Torah
5. The Theology of the Prophets
The Deuteronomist
Isaiah to Malachi
6. The Theology of the Writings
Psalms
Wisdom Literature
The Chronicler
Ezra to Nehemiah

COURSE TEXTS:

Chisholm, R.B. Jr. (2002). *Handbook on the prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.
Longman, T. III. (1988). *How to read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.
Martens, E.A.(1981). *A focus on Old Testament theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
Oehler, G. F. (n.d.). *Theology of the Old Testament*. (G. Day, Trans.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
The Bible (a modern critical edition, preferably the New Oxford Annotated, College Edition or the Harper Collins Study Bible; any respectable scholarly translation, e.g. RSV, NRSV).
Von Rad, G. (1985). *Old Testament theology, Volume 1*. London: SCM Press Ltd.
Walton, J. H. (1994). *Chronological and background charts of the Old Testament*. Revised and Expanded. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
Zuck, R. (Ed.). (1991). *A Biblical theology of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Lectures
Discussion
Class presentations

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Class Attendance	5%
Mid Term Exam (written)	30%
Individual Class Presentation (written & or Oral)	15%
Final Paper (written)	50%
TOTAL	100%

This Course will be assessed by coursework, by written examination, or by a combination of these. The exam paper will assess students' grasp of the course material and a final written essay on a selected theme tracing the development of the theme throughout Scripture and its significance for today will be required.