



**UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHWESTERN**  
— ST. PAUL —

OFFICE OF ADULT  
& GRADUATE STUDIES

# **BIB6312**

## **Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments**

**SUMMER 2023**

**SYLLABUS**

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# BIB6312 Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments

University of Northwestern – St. Paul

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of current methods and issues in the field of Biblical Theology, with emphasis on application to Old and New Testament books. Students will develop theological categories from the text and identify the variety and unity of theological themes.

**Credits: 4**

**Prerequisites: None**

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Please see “Contacting the Instructor” on the course site.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, a successful student will be able to

- CO-1. Defend the unity of the Bible and the complementary nature of the diversity and multiformity in it.
- CO-2. Examine the history and development of the discipline of Biblical Theology and how it differs from Systematic Theology.
- CO-3. Investigate important biblical themes in order to consider and define their inter-relationships.
- CO-4. Evaluate important systems of interpretation.
- CO-5. Analyze the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- CO-6. Develop your own Biblical theology.

## MATERIALS

### Required Textbooks and Materials

Blaising, Craig and Darrell Bock. *Progressive Dispensationalism*. Publisher: Grand Rapids: Baker Books, Year: 2000. ISBN: 9780801022432

Klink III, Edward W. and Darian Lockett. *Understanding Biblical Theology*. Publisher: Grand Rapids: Zondervan. Year: 2012. ISBN: 9780310492238

Gentry, Peter and Stephen Wellum. *God’s Kingdom through God’s Covenants*. Publisher: Wheaton: Crossway. Year: 2015. ISBN: 9781433541919

Pate, C. Marvin, J. Scott Duvall, J. Daniel Hays, E. Randolph Richards, W. Dennis Tucker, Jr., and Preben Vang. *The Story of Israel*. Publisher: Downers Grove: IVP. Year: 2004. ISBN: 9780830827480

### Recommended Resources (Optional)

The following are optional resources for students interested in additional perspectives or reference material regarding course concepts. These are not required.

- Hafemann, Scott and Paul House, editors, *Central Themes in Biblical Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007), ISBN: 9780801034237
- Schreiner, Thomas, *The King in His Beauty* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013), ISBN: 0801039398
- Siekawitch, Larry, *The Uniqueness of the Bible* (Westbow Press, 2015), ISBN: 1490897909
- T. Desmond, Alexander, Brian Rosner, D.A. Carson, Graeme Goldworthy, editors, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2000), ISBN: 0830814388

## Required Tools

For this course, students will need access to Microsoft Office (available at no cost to students through the University of Northwestern-St. Paul), a PDF reader, and a standard internet browser. Please refer to the Tech Requirements found in the Technology Help section at the top of the course site for the full requirements.

In addition, students will need a video/audio recording device.

## GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Course Grade Explanation

Assignments	Grade Weight
Discussion Forums (8 x 3%)	24
“Type Two” Paper	10
Comparative Paper	13
OT-NT Analytical Paper	10
Pauline Doctrine Presentation	15
Peer Discussion	2
Personal Biblical Theology Position Paper	
Outline & Progress Report	2
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>24</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Grading Scale Percentages

A	≥ 93	B	≥ 83	C	≥ 73	D	≥ 63
A-	≥ 90	B-	≥ 80	C-	≥ 70	D-	≥ 60
B+	≥ 87	C+	≥ 77	D+	≥ 67	F	< 60

### Late Work

All assignments are due as described in the course syllabus. Students are responsible for meeting assignment deadlines. Late assignments will be deducted one full letter grade (e.g., A to B) per day; late assignments will not be accepted for a grade beyond 3 calendar days past the original deadline. Forum discussion activities must be completed on time; late forum posts will not receive any credit. Students should contact the instructor via e-mail if an extenuating circumstance exists.

### Feedback Expectations

Students should expect feedback for their submitted assignments within 5 days of the assignment due date or the time of their submission, whichever is later.

## **INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SERVICES**

### **Guidelines and Information**

Students are responsible for policies and procedures found in the Office of Adult & Graduate Studies Catalog located on theROCK. These policies include the following:

- Deadlines for dropping or withdrawing
- Attendance
- Class cancellations
- Plagiarism and cheating
- Grading System
- Complaints, exceptions, and appeals

Instructors may have course-related expectations that further detail the policies and procedures outlined in the catalog. Any such expectations must be provided to students in writing (e.g., handout, course site posting) prior to or at the beginning of the class.

Traditional undergraduate students enrolled in A&GS courses are subject to the traditional undergraduate student handbook for all non-course-specific policies and procedures.

### **Academic Integrity**

Members of the Northwestern community mutually commit to personal integrity and honesty. Students submitting work are expected to convey their own thoughts unless the source is cited appropriately. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty violate ethical and intellectual principles.

In every course, students are required to view the Understanding Plagiarism video and complete the Understanding Plagiarism Quiz prior to completing any of the course content. These items are part of the course orientation.

### **Academic Achievement**

UNW students requesting academic accommodations in association with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are directed to notify [Disability Services](#) to begin the application process. Academic Achievement also provides the following: [Writing Tutoring](#), [Subject Tutoring](#), advocating, transitional skill building, [Academic Coaching](#) (organization, time management, test taking, etc.).

Contact Academic Achievement for more information: [AcademicAchievement@unwsp.edu](mailto:AcademicAchievement@unwsp.edu) | 651-628-3316 | N4012 (Revised 07/22).

### **Support Services**

Links to support services are available found in the Student Services section at the top of the course site.

## **COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Email and Announcements**

Students are responsible to regularly check their Northwestern student email and the announcements in the course site in order to receive updates and information.

## **Attendance**

Due to the accelerated nature of the online curricula, students are expected to participate in all course activities. Students must contact the faculty member in advance or as soon as possible if unable to participate in all or part of the course activities for a given week because of a medical (which includes having to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 exposure or confirmed illness), family, or work-related emergency. Students should refer to their course syllabus and/or faculty member for specific requirements. Students who do not participate in course activities and fail to withdraw from the course will receive a failing “F” grade.

## **Submission Standards**

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, must be submitted on the course site in Microsoft Word document format (.doc or .docx). For all assignments, use a standard readable font, double-spaced, etc.

## **Critical Response to Alternate Viewpoints**

When students are reading or viewing course materials, they may encounter viewpoints, words, or images that their instructors would not use or endorse. Students should know that materials are chosen for their value in learning to read, write, and view critically, not because the materials are necessarily Christian.

## **Scholarly Research**

Quality participation in this course requires contribution of scholarly research to class interactions. Students can engage in external research via the Berntsen Library website by performing a search of the 60+ databases available to students. Also available on the library site are multiple tutorials to educate learners in effective search techniques. Other credible journals/articles are options as well.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

See the course site for complete details on the assignments. Next to each description of an assignment is the Course Outcome(s) (e.g., CO-1) that this assignment assesses.

### **Discussion Forums (CO-1, 2, 3, 5)**

Participate in weekly Discussion Forums to answer questions that will help you gain a better understanding of Biblical Theology through interaction with your classmates and instructor. In your posts, reflect on how concepts in the course have challenged you, surprised you, or led you to adjust or refine your thinking about systematic theology or other core beliefs or values.

Your first post should be a 500-word post. Respond to two of your classmates’ posts with substantive and well thought-out discussion. Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus or course site, post your initial responses by 11:59 p.m. CT on Day 4 of each week and respond to your classmates (at least 2 per forum) by 11:59 p.m. CT on Day 7 of each week.

For further grading information, see the Discussion Forum Rubric on the course site.

### **“Type Two” Paper (CO-1, 4)**

This assignment guides you to evaluate five different ways theologians understand Biblical theology.

Use your ideas during reading of the textbook *Understanding Biblical Theology* to produce a four-page paper thoroughly discussing “Type Two: Biblical Theology as History of Redemption.” Provide a detailed

summary of Type Two and how the other four types differ from Type Two. No other outside resources are necessary.

For further grading information, see the Completion Rubric on the course site.

### **Comparative Paper (CO-1, 3, 4, 5)**

This assignment helps you evaluate and critique two important systems of interpretation in Evangelical theology: Covenant Theology and Dispensationalism.

In a six-page essay, compare and contrast the essential beliefs and teachings of Dispensationalism and Covenant Theology. Use the two main sources *God's Kingdom through God's Covenant* and *Progressive Dispensationalism* as well as at least three other sources. Aim to do justice to a fair and full representation of each, especially regarding aspects with which you might disagree.

Describe how each system deals with the following themes of Biblical theology: covenant relationship, the kingdom of God, the people of God, redemption, and last days/the Day of the Lord. Focus on how the themes' interrelationship defends the unity of the Bible and fits the overarching purpose of the Bible.

Address strengths and weaknesses of each system, and conclude the assignment with a page describing your system of Bible interpretation and how it relates to Dispensationalism and/or Covenant Theology. Which system have you followed and/or to what degree have you followed each system?

For further grading information, see the Writing Rubric on the course site.

### **OT-NT Analytical Paper (CO-1, 5)**

Are the Old Testament and New Testament both valuable? Do both display an overall unity formed from both continuity and discontinuity? This assignment aims to challenge you to answer such questions with sophistication and grace.

Write a three-page analytical paper defending your position on the relationship between the Old Testament and New Testament. Use at least three resources and three footnotes per page on average. Among your other arguments, be sure to discuss the following:

1. Various thoughts on how the New Testament uses the Old Testament
2. What typology is and whether (or when) it is an appropriate way of understanding how the New Testament quotes or alludes to the Old Testament

For further grading information, see the Completion Rubric on the course site.

### **Pauline Doctrine Presentation (CO-1, 6)**

This assignment invites you to teach and learn from your peers as you all study the specific contributions of Paul.

Using whatever audio-visual recording tool you prefer (i.e. VoiceThread, Kaltura, Screencast-o-matic, etc.) produce and share a 9-minute narrated visual presentation on one of the following Pauline doctrines:

1. Justification
2. Law
3. Reconciliation
4. the Spirit
5. the flesh

6. spiritual warfare
7. marriage
8. Scripture
9. Resurrection
10. the coming of the Lord
11. *stoicheia*

Post a public sharing link to your presentation on a new discussion thread in the Presentation Showcase Forum. Make good use of visuals, narration, time, and citations and logical argument for support.

After posting your presentation, view at least two other classmates' presentation and provide constructive critique, feedback, and engagement. Include scholarly questions in your replies and, if appropriate, citations from Pauline writings or secondary sources.

For further grading information, see the Presentation Rubric on the course site.

## Personal Biblical Theology Position Paper (CO-1, 3, 5, 6)

### Outline & Progress Report

By Week 4, develop a ½- to 1-page draft outline of your Personal Biblical Theology Position Paper.

**Outline:** Collect potential main points, ideas, and supporting citations/quotations that relate to as many of the sections outlined above as possible. No drafting is necessary at this point, just outlining of ideas.

**Progress Report:** At the end of your outline, provide a 100-word progress report in which you reflect on the process of developing your biblical theology position for this assignment at the course's halfway mark. Consider the following questions to guide your reflective progress report:

1. What has been challenging about the process?
2. What has been beneficial about the process?
3. What are you proud of or excited about so far?
4. What has surprised you or leaves you with questions so far?

For further grading information, see the Completion Rubric on the course site.

### Final Paper

This assignment aims to help you construct your own Biblical theology, and defend a sophisticated position on how each part of the Bible fits into a big picture of God's plan and action.

Write a 7- to 11-page personal biblical theology discussing problems, themes, and the overarching purpose of the Bible. This is a position and opinion paper, so you may write in the first person and discuss your personal beliefs and interpretations. This is your personal Biblical theology, so write what you believe, but support your beliefs with Scripture and scholarly resources.

1. 1 page on introductory questions (i.e. What is Biblical Theology? What are your thoughts on dispensationalism vs. covenantalism?)
2. ½–1 page on **each** major section of the Bible and how they fit the overarching purpose:
  1. Pentateuch,
  2. Historical Books,
  3. Wisdom and Poetry Literature,

4. Prophetic Books,
  5. Gospels,
  6. Acts,
  7. Pauline Epistles,
  8. General Epistles,
  9. Revelation
3. 1-page conclusion

**Support:** This paper should make use of all the required readings as resources (books and articles) as well as other resources such as biblical theologies or commentaries; Internet resources are discouraged. Include seven sources minimum, with an average of 4 footnotes per page using SBL format. Include a cover page and bibliography (not included in the page count) and be double spaced, using a 12-point font.

For further grading information, see the Writing Rubric on the course site.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Format

This course is delivered in an online format that provides all learning activities online. The day the course starts is considered Day 1 of Week 1 for the course. For example, if a course begins on a Monday, then Day 1 is Monday, Day 4 is Thursday, and Day 7 is the following Sunday.

This course is an accelerated course. As a rule of thumb, students should expect to spend on average 17.5 hours on course work each week.

### Due Dates

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be submitted on the course site by class time or 11:59 p.m. CT on Day 7 of each week. Please see the following schedule for details on when an assignment is due.

For any questions regarding these assignments, contact the instructor.

### Orientation

- Read the Getting Started Page
- Participate in the Introductions Forum
- View and Complete Understanding Plagiarism Presentation and Quiz
- Complete Student Responsibilities Exercise

### Week 1: What is Biblical Theology?

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk1 Video
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapter 1
- Read *Understanding Biblical Theology* (whole book)

#### Due Day 4

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum



#### **Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Submit “Type Two” Paper
- Begin working ahead on Personal Biblical Theology Outline & Progress Report (Due Week 4)

### **Week 2: How does the Pentateuch fit the overarching purpose of the Bible?**

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk2 Video
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapter 2
- Read *God’s Kingdom through God’s Covenants*, Chapters 1–3
- Read *Progressive Dispensationalism*, Chapter 1 (skim Chapters 2–3)

#### **Due Day 4**

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum

#### **Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Continue working ahead on Personal Biblical Theology Outline & Progress Report (Due Week 4)

### **Week 3: How do the Historical Books and the Wisdom Literature and poetry fit the overarching purpose of the Bible?**

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk3 Video
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapters 3–4
- Read *God’s Kingdom through God’s Covenants*, Chapters 4–7
- Read *Progressive Dispensationalism*, Chapters 4–6

#### **Due Day 4**

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum

#### **Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Continue working ahead on Personal Biblical Theology Outline & Progress Report (Due Week 4)

### **Week 4: How do the Prophetic Books fit the overarching purpose of the Bible?**

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk4 Video
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapters 5–6
- Read *God’s Kingdom through God’s Covenants*, Chapters 8–9
- Read *Progressive Dispensationalism*, Chapters 7–8

#### **Due Day 4**

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum

#### **Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Submit Outline & Progress Report (CO-1, 3, 5, 6)
- Begin working ahead on research for Pauline Doctrine Presentation (Due Week 7)
- Continue working ahead on research for Personal Biblical Theology Position Paper (Due Week 8)

### **Week 5: How do the Synoptic Gospels fit the overarching purpose of the Bible?**

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk5 Video
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapter 7
- Read *God's Kingdom through God's Covenants*, Chapters 10–11
- Read *Progressive Dispensationalism*, skim Chapter 9

#### **Due Day 4**

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum

#### **Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Submit Comparative Paper

### **Week 6: How do John and Acts fit the overarching purpose of the Bible?**

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk6 Videos
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapters 8–9

#### **Due Day 4**

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum

#### **Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Submit OT-NT Analytical Paper

### **Week 7: How do the Pauline Epistles fit the overarching purpose of the Bible?**

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk7 Videos
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapter 10
- Read article: Siekawitch, Larry. "The New Perspective on Paul"

**Due Day 4**

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum

**Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Post Pauline Doctrine Presentation in the Presentation Showcase Forum
  - View and reply to at least 2 others' presentations

**Week 8: How do the General Epistles and the book of Revelation fit the overarching purpose of the Bible?**

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View Wk8 Videos
- Read *The Story of Israel*, Chapters 11–13
- Read article: Siekawitch, Larry. "Israel and the Church"

**Due Day 4**

- Participate initially in the weekly discussion forum

**Due Day 7**

- Complete participation in the weekly discussion forum
- Submit Personal Biblical Theology Position Paper