



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

OT500 | Exploring the Old Testament

Course Developer and Instructor: Rev. Dr. Donna Petter

Spring 2021 (February 9th – May 17th)

Required Web Class Meetings:

Tuesday, February 9th (7-7:30 PM ET / 4-4:30 PM PT)

Tuesday, March 9th (7-8 PM ET / 4-5PM PT)

Tuesday, April 13th (7-8 PM ET / 4-5 PM PT)

Tuesday, May 11th (7-8 PM ET / 4-5 PM PT)

“Surely your goodness and relational loyalty will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!” – Psalm 23:6

Contacts

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Donna Petter, dpetter@gordonconwell.edu

Flourish: registrar@flourishmovement.org

Course Description

This course highlights the big picture of the Old Testament through the lens of relationship. Book by book it plots God’s relentless pursuit of a *people* (with whom he might relate), a *place* (for the relationship to unfold), and a *presence* (God’s presence that reveals his character). Through this tri-fold emphasis of a people, a place, and a presence (PPP) we will see how each book fits into the overarching story of the Old Testament and how the unfolding narrative points forward to the New Testament.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the main themes and content of each of the OT books from the primary source itself!

- Discuss the general literary, historical, and theological underpinnings of the OT.
- See the crucial link between the OT and NT!

Course Modality

This course is offered online at flourishmovement.org. This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for occasional web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. More information will be available within the course site.

Students taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

Course Schedule

This fourteen-week course is organized into thirteen content weeks (Lessons), and one holiday week. Lesson-weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week	Dates	Lesson Title
1	Feb. 9-15	<u>Setting the Framework</u> : A People, Place, Presence (PPP)
2	Feb. 16-22	Genesis, Exodus
3	Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
4	Mar. 2-8	Joshua, Judges, Ruth
5	Mar. 9-15	1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings
6	Mar. 16-22	<u>Setting the Framework</u> : Prophets and PPP
7	Mar. 23-29	The 9 th & 8 th Centuries
8	Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	Holy Week – No Coursework Due
9	Apr. 6-12	The 7 th Century
10	Apr. 13-19	The 6 th Century
11	Apr. 20-26	The 5 th Century
12	Apr. 27 – May 3	<u>Setting the Framework</u> : Wisdom and PPP. Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes

13	May 4-10	<u>Setting the Framework</u> : Poetry and PPP. Song of Songs and Psalms
14	May 11-17	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

Course Requirements

I. Reading

Required Reading

The Old Testament. *ESV*

- Students will read through each book of the OT twice (some exceptions will apply). Weekly assignments and instructions for reading effectively will be posted in the course site.
- Students are required to complete the OT reading to pass the course.

Suggestions for reading Proverbs and Psalms. In weeks 12 and 13, you are required to complete the readings of these books (1x only). Two options: read them in one week per the assignment OR spread out the readings. You could read two Psalms a day, five days a week for 14 weeks and cover them all! Likewise, you could do a Proverb a day and be done in a month. Have fun with it but be sure you read all the Psalms and Proverbs!

Richard Nordquist, *A Guide to Deep Reading*

www.thoughtco.com/what-is-deep-reading

John D. Currid and David P. Barrett. *ESV Bible Atlas* (Crossway: 2010).

ISBN-13: 9781433501920

- Students should purchase this atlas for reference throughout the course.

Recommended Reading

Mortimer, Adler & Charles Doren. *How to Read a Book* (Touchstone: 2014).

ISBN-13: 978-0060891541

Zissner, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*

ISBN-13: 978-0060891541

- This book is recommended, but is not required for purchase:

II. Weekly Book Summaries

Students will prepare book summaries for most of the 39 OT books. The summaries will be due at the end of the lesson week (Monday by 8:00 p.m. ET / 5:00 p.m. PT) after you have read **twice** the individual books assigned for that week. Students will prepare NO formal papers for this course, but instead will concentrate on learning the content of the OT.

- Each week, along with their book summaries, students will submit a statement verifying reading completion.
- Please see the following to help with writing a good summary: [How To Write A GOOD Book Summary - YouTube](#)

III. Lectures

Students will watch weekly lecture videos covering course content. These videos will be available in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course.

- At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of lecture viewing and class video session attendance.

IV. Class Web-Meetings with Course Instructor

Students will meet with the Course Instructor as a class to discuss course content, questions, and insights. Dates and times are specified at the top of this syllabus. Information on how to connect will be available in the course site. Attendance is required to pass the course.

- At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of lecture viewing and class video session attendance.

V. Small Groups

Students will meet three times with a small group. In the assigned weeks, students will arrange a mutually agreeable time to meet. Details will be in Canvas.

VI. Class Presentations

There will be one short final presentation at the end of the course on a thematic topic. Details will be available on Canvas.

Assignment Formatting and Submission

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname_AssignmentName_MMDDYY
example: JSmith_ResearchPaper_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font.

Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Reading and Book Summaries	60%
Small Groups and Class Presentations	30%
Lectures and Web Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Course Report: Verifies completion of lectures, small group attendance, engagement in web sessions or alternate assignment	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for the pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu.

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact registrar@flourishmovement.org for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7th week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7th week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be March 30th.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- February 19th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 100% refund
- March 5th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 80% refund
- March 19th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 50% refund
- May 14th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) with no refund

Once May 14th passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an “incomplete” for the course.

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishmovement.org no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at registrar@flourishmovement.org with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.