



To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

BI 512 Motifs in Biblical Theology

Fall, 2018

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SCHEDULE: Thursdays, 6:30—9:30 PM

CREDITS: 3 [90 hours of work outside of class time]

DESCRIPTION:

A study, through the use of motific and thematic analysis, of God's progressive self-revelation in the Scriptures.

TARGET STATEMENTS:

- A. Knowledge – Students will:
- Perceive the unity of Scripture in the midst of its diversity.
 - Gain an appreciation for the biblical-theological, redemptive-historical approach to the understanding of Scripture.
 - Acquire a more biblically informed and shaped approach to preaching and teaching.
- B. Character – Students will:
- Know the God who is always like himself, and yet at the same time, cannot be boxed in and is beyond our finite conceptions.
 - Experience the burning heart of those who see Christ in all of Scripture.
- C. Ability – Students will:
- Be able to trace God's progressive self-revelation in the Scriptures.
 - Acquire an ability to critique hermeneutical theories and theological systems from the perspective of the whole canon of Scripture.

TEXTBOOK(S):

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014.

ISBN-10: 0801049563
ISBN-13: 978-0801049569

Also available on Kindle

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1961, 1979. Repr., Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2002.

ISBN-10: 0875521452

ISBN-13: 978-0875521459

Longman, Tremper III, and Daniel G. Reid. *God Is a Warrior*. Studies in Old Testament Biblical Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995. Repr., Eugene, Ore., Wipf & Stock, 2003.

ISBN-10: 0310494613

ISBN-13: 978-0310494614

Also available on Kindle

Poythress, Vern S. *Symphonic Theology: The Validity of Multiple Perspectives in Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. Repr., Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2001. You may also access this book free online at <http://www.frame-poythress.org/ebooks/symphonic-theology-by-vern-poythress/>.

ISBN-10: 0875525172

ISBN-13: 978-0875525174

Strom, Mark. *The Symphony of Scripture: Making Sense of the Bible's Many Themes*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1990. Repr., Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R, 2001.

ISBN-10: 0875521924

ISBN-13: 978-0875521923

The student must also have a copy of the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*. This is available online on the seminary web site, as well on the Moodle site for the course.

OTHER RECOMMENDED REFERENCE WORKS:

Alexander, T. Desmond, Brian S. Rosner, D. A. Carson, and Graeme Goldsworthy, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

Beale, G. K., and D. A. Carson, eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class attendance and contribution based on thoughtful consideration of the assigned readings.
2. The reading of assigned books and articles. No percentage is attached to this requirement, but failure to do the assigned reading could lower your grade. (40 hours)
3. Completion of selected assignments from the Strom text. (10%; 8 hours)
4. A critical reaction paper to the Poythress text, 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced. (10%; 5 hours)
5. A review of the Longman and Reid text, 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced. (10%; 5 hours)
6. A biblical-theological evaluation of two sermons in light of the readings in the Clowney and Strom texts, 7-8 pages, typed, double-spaced. (15%; 5 hours)
7. Class presentation of your work on a particular biblical motif or theme. The length of the presentations will be determined by the number of students in the class. The presentations will be critiqued by your professor and classmates. (20%; 10 hours)
8. Evaluations of the other class members' presentations. Due one week after each presentation. (5%; 2 hours)
9. Final paper on the same motif or theme as that of your class presentation, incorporating the suggestions of your previously mentioned critics. The paper should be approximately 15 pages, typed, double-spaced, and done according to the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*. (30%; 25 hours)

EVALUATION:

Assignment 1	00%
Assignment 2	00%
Assignment 3	10%
Assignment 4	10%
Assignment 5	10%
Assignment 6	15%
Assignment 7	20%
Assignment 8	05%
Assignment 9	30%

All written assignments are due by the beginning of class on the assigned dates (but submitted electronically). Unless there is a valid excuse, late assignments will be charged a penalty of 5% per regular school day.

The work on all the assignments must be your own. For the sermon evaluations, critical reaction paper, and book review, in particular, this means that: (1) you must not simply quote whole sentences or paragraphs from the sermons or book, but carefully and concisely summarize the material; (2) you must react to, or interact with, the author's content and/or argument in not just your own words, but also your own thinking; and (3) if you choose to utilize words or ideas from other pertinent material that you have read, you must carefully document such assistance.

The final paper is not a research paper as such, but rather an opportunity to demonstrate your skill in understanding and tracing a motif or theme in the light of the entire canon of Scripture. It is possible to write the paper without consulting commentaries or other helps. You will find, however, that you will probably need to consult them. If so, be careful to document any assistance you receive from such sources.

It is my desire to be as helpful to you as possible. Please feel free to call me at any time (within reason), or email me with questions or problems that you may be having. I will pray for you and request that you do the same for me. Let us be sure to encourage one another as together we grow in the knowledge of our great God and prepare for service in his Church.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Excessive, unexcused absences and lack of participation may adversely affect your grade

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. MOODLE

Taylor Seminary's Moodle is located on a shared platform with our partner seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access: <https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is the first initial of your first name and your last name - all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log-in as jcalvin

The default enrolment key is the course code (all in lowercase, with no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number.

For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca

2. COURSE WRITING

Formatting

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

Research Language.

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to "man" generically or to "mankind," "men," "he"; rather use "humankind," "humanity," "person," etc.)

Plagiarism.

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: "To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work" (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive**

a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee.

3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a "W" will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an "F" will be recorded on the student's transcript.

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ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

- Sep 6 First class
- Sep 13 Strom, pp. 1-30, exercise 1 on p. 30
- Sep 20 Strom, pp. 31-38, exercise 1 on p. 38
- Sep 27 Strom, pp. 39-48, exercise 2 on p. 48
- Oct 4 Strom, pp. 49-58, exercise 2 on p. 57 (the rest of the Strom text may be read at any point during the semester)
- Oct 11 Discussion on Clowney's *Preaching and Biblical Theology*
- Oct 18 Modular Week – No Class
- Oct 25 Critical reaction paper on Poythress's *Symphonic Theology*
- Nov 1 Book review of Longman and Reid's *God Is a Warrior*
- Nov 8 Presentations
- Nov 15 Presentations
- Nov 22 (Presentations?) Discussion on Bartholomew and Goheen's *Drama of Scripture*
- Nov 29 Critical sermon evaluations due
- Dec 6 Papers Due

COURSE OUTLINE:

- 1 What is Biblical Theology?
 - 1.1 Contrast with Systematic Theology
 - 1.2 Relationship with Hermeneutics and Exegesis
- 2 A History of Biblical Theology
 - 2.1 Less conservative approaches to Biblical Theology
 - 2.2 More conservative approaches to Biblical Theology
 - 2.2.1 Dispensationalism
 - 2.2.2 Covenant Theology
- 3 Examination of Various Biblical-Theological Motifs
 - 3.1 Divine Warrior
 - 3.2 Creation and Consummation
 - 3.3 Sea/Monster/Waters
 - 3.4 Temple/Glory
 - 3.5 Gentile Contribution to the Temple
 - 3.6 Dining
 - 3.7 Younger/Elder Brother
 - 3.8 Temptation
 - 3.9 Exodus
 - 3.10 Moses // Jesus, Israel // Jesus
 - 3.11 Remnant
 - 3.12 Fig Tree
 - 3.13 Elijah/Elisha // Jesus/John the Baptist
 - 3.14 Servant of the Lord
 - 3.15 Jesus // Peter, Peter // Paul, Jesus // Paul

More as time allows
- 4 Class Presentations
- 5 Conclusion and Evaluation