

BETHEL SEMINARY



1 SAMUEL - SONG OF SONGS  
OT102

Syllabus

WINTER 2005

Paul W. Ferris, Jr.

Office A201; 651/638-6175

Home office: 651/636-6369

email: pferris@bethel.edu

Website: <http://blackboard.bethel.edu>

*The passion of Bethel Seminary is to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ among all people in culturally sensitive ways. As a Spirit-empowered, biblically grounded community of learning, Bethel strives to develop and equip whole and holy persons to serve and lead so that churches and ministry agencies can become all they are called to be and do in the world for the glory of God.*

The objectives and assignments of 1 SAMUEL - SONG OF SONGS are designed in light of this mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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An investigation into the literature and culture of the Israelite monarchy, with special emphasis on the human and divine dimensions of the Kingdom of God. Students will be introduced to characteristics of Hebrew historiography, poetry, and wisdom literature, as these are reflected in Samuel/Kings-Chronicles and Job-Song of Songs. Attention is given to the application of these biblical texts to current issues in society and your personal life.

COURSE CONTENT

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The 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C. were amazing times in Israel. Amazingly complex. Amazing in richness of the history and in the development of the national culture as the Promise & Covenant continue to be unfolded in terms of Kingdom. The 9<sup>th</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> centuries were tragic as the covenant community deteriorated. They were amazing in demonstrating God's faithfulness to His Promise and Covenant. They were sobering in portraying the possibility of forfeiture of the Covenant and Promise through unbelief.

This course is intended to give you a "bird's eye view" of the Former Prophets and Chronicles and of Wisdom Literature and Hebrew Poetry so that you can better understand the details "on the ground" you will be studying later.

COURSE BENEFITS

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Upon completion of this course you should be able to

- ✓ state the basic facts with respect to each book's setting, theme, summarize its content and recount the "story line" of the narrative and themes of the poetry. This is essential to the reflection required for teaching and preaching the "whole counsel of God."
- ✓ explain and synthesize core theological themes. A good facility in biblical theology is essential to "doing" theology in contemporary settings.
- ✓ locate the historical/geographical/cultural setting of main events recorded in this portion of the Hebrew Bible. Whether in the pulpit, study group, or counsellor's office, clear exposition requires an understanding of the context of revelation.
- ✓ describe the key characteristics of the main literary genres and show how such understanding affects your understanding of the text;
- ✓ describe and assess modern critical theories regarding the composition of these texts. These are issues that educated layfolk grapple with and, therefore, pastors and teachers must be familiar with.

- ✓ demonstrate greater skill in interpreting the Scripture. This will benefit both you and all those to whom you minister.
- ✓ more effectively and faithfully apply the 77% of Scripture we call the Old Testament in life and ministry. This is critical because the whole Bible really is the Christ-follower's Bible.

## COURSE LITERATURE

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### Primary literature:

Bible. (Whichever translation you are comfortable with. International students may use a translation in their mother-tongue)

Pritchard, J.B. *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts & Pictures*. Vol. 1 & 2 Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1958, 1976. (Not required to purchase. Available through bookstore or library. Selected texts linked to "Historical Synopsis" on webpage)

### Secondary literature:

Dillard, Raymond and Tremper Longman. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. **Required**. (Abbreviated *IOT* in assignments)

### Supplemental texts: (not required to purchase)

Crockett, William. *Harmony of the Books of Samuel, Kings & Chronicles*. Grand Rapids: Baker 1951.

Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: Moody, 1988. (Abbreviated *IOTPB* in assignments)

Endres, John, et al. *Chronicles and its Synoptic Parallels in Samuel, Kings and Related Biblical Texts*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1998.

Howard, David. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books*. Chicago: Moody, 1993. (Abbreviated *IOTHB* in assignments)

Rasmussen, Carl. *NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989. (Abbreviated *NAB* in assignments)

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

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### Assignment Checklist:

- ✓ READINGS (10%): You get to dig into primary sources. Read the entire text of each book in one sitting. Be looking for how an ancient Israeli believer saw the world. This will be supplemented with readings in selected secondary literature. You are responsible to keep a record of completing your reading assignments on-time which will be reported at the end of the term.

**Tips on reading assignments:** click "Assignments" then "Resources for reading assignments" on the Glory of the Kingdom website [http://www.bethel.edu/seminary\\_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkreading.html](http://www.bethel.edu/seminary_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkreading.html)

- ✓ INTERACTIVE REVIEWS & WORKSHEETS (15%): You get an opportunity to develop life-long learning skills through interaction with others on issues related to the material you are studying. As you read, analyze the perspective the writers bring to the issue, their philosophical and theological presuppositions, evaluate their handling of the evidence, and respond to the conclusions they offer. Results of this interaction will be preserved in the form of interactive reviews and worksheet reports. Due as assigned

#### *Worksheets:*

1. Synoptics
2. Hebrew Poetry
3. Hebrew Laments
4. Hebrew Wisdom

#### *Interactive Reviews:*

- IOTHB*, 23-58  
*IOTPB*, 22-68

**Tips on Interactive Review assignments:** click “Assignments” then “Resources for research and writing” on the Glory of the Kingdom website  
[http://www.bethel.edu/seminary\\_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkresources.html](http://www.bethel.edu/seminary_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkresources.html)

- ✓ **PERSONAL APPLICATIONS (15%):** You get to enhance your spiritual development under the discipline of the Word of God through Personal Application assignments. In addition to being mini-exegetical exercises, these are intended to *facilitate personal reflection on the texts* we are working with. Is the text treating an issue related to biblical theology, to personal and spiritual formation, and to transformational leadership? Apply hermeneutical principles and exegetical method to identify the “big idea” of the passage (one sentence, stated as a timeless principle). Be sure to demonstrate the exegetical basis (2-6 sentences). Then develop an application that is specific, personal, and practical for you (2-4 sentences). This exercise may provide a series of “sermon starters” you can use in ministry.

Assigned passages are:

1 Sam. 8:4-9                  2 Sam. 12:7-14                  1Kings 19:9-18                  1 Chron. 29:10-22                  Neh. 8:1-12

Job 42:1-6                  Psalm 95:1-11                  Psalm 139:1-12                  Prov. 1:8-19                  Eccl. 5:1-7

Due as assigned (see Agenda).

**Tips on Personal Application assignments:** click “Assignments” then “Resources for research and writing” on the Glory of the Kingdom website  
[http://www.bethel.edu/seminary\\_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkresources.html](http://www.bethel.edu/seminary_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkresources.html)

- ✓ **INVESTIGATION (25%):** You get to “dig in” to the texts you are working with, analyzing and synthesizing the data and reflecting on the significance for your life and ministry. The vehicle will be your weekly written discussion of issues raised in the Discussion Guide. You get to continue developing your exegetical skills learned in hermeneutics and language courses by doing a series of mini-exegetical exercises called Personal Applications (see below). You also get to engage in a more detailed research in preparing an exegetical study of 1 Chronicles 28:9-29:22 (2000 words, plus syntactical layout, homiletical outline & bibliography).

**Tips on Exegesis assignments:** click “Assignments” then “Resources for research and writing” on the Glory of the Kingdom website [http://www.bethel.edu/seminary\\_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkresources.html](http://www.bethel.edu/seminary_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkresources.html)

- ✓ **ASSESSMENT (25%):** Based on the learning approaches mentioned above, assessment of your progress in the course is multi-faceted. It includes successful completion of the assigned written and group work, and two exams.

**Tips on preparing for the exam:** click “Assignments” then “Resources for research and writing” on the Glory of the Kingdom website  
[http://www.bethel.edu/seminary\\_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkreviewguide1.html](http://www.bethel.edu/seminary_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkreviewguide1.html) and  
[gkhomework.html](http://www.bethel.edu/seminary_academics/gensem/pferris/ot102/gkreviewguide2.html)

The Seminary expects that you will attend class regularly. It is assumed that for an average student to earn an average grade s/he will invest approximately 120 hours of work. It is expected that all assignments will be completed on time. Normally late work will not be accepted. (Circumstances that a congregation would accept for postponing a Sunday sermon may be considered)

Remember 1 Chronicles 28:20!

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

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The course grade will be earned on the basis of the following factors:

Class preparation (reading, discussion group, participation)	
Reading assignment completed on time .....	10%
Class preparation & participation .....	10%
Written assignments	
Personal Applications .....	15%
Interactive Reviews & Worksheets .....	15%
Exegetical paper .....	25%
Exam .....	25%

## GRADING RUBRIC

### Worksheets

A "A" worksheet will satisfy the following criteria:

1. Responsive to the discussion question/issue.
2. Demonstrates thoughtful analysis of the evidence.
3. Synthesis gives evidence of clear connection with the data.

A worksheet that does not satisfy the above criteria will earn a B or less.

### Interactive Reviews

A "B" Interactive Review will satisfy the following criteria:

#### Summary

1. Concise (½ page).
2. The message or burden of the book, chapter, or article is clearly presented.

#### Evaluation

1. Concise (½ page)
2. Points of strength clearly presented.
3. Points of weakness clearly presented.

#### Reflection

1. Concise (up to 1 page).
2. The learnings from this author clearly described.
3. Ways your views confirmed or challenged are explained.

#### Form

1. Form and style is appropriate to graduate writing.

An "A" Interactive Review will satisfy all of the above, plus:

#### Evaluation

1. Philosophical/theological presuppositions identified.
2. Why these strengths and/or weaknesses are important is explained.

#### Reflection

1. Discusses implications this reading has for your church or parachurch ministry.

A review that does not satisfy the above criteria will earn a C+ or less.

### Research Paper

Each research paper will be evaluated on thesis, argument, content, and style. Your thesis statement expresses the main claim you will argue. It should indicate what you are going to develop about your topic. The body of your paper will adduce evidence in support of reasoning to a conclusion. It should reflect interaction with and critical evaluation of scholarly discussion. Content will be characterized by appropriateness, accuracy and adequacy of data. Form and style should be appropriate to graduate writing. Resources

will reflect graduate-level research.

A “B” paper will satisfy the following criteria:

Thesis

2. Appropriate to topic.
3. States the claim to be argued.
4. Is clear and adequately developed.

Argument

1. Demonstrates critical thought.
2. Develops the thesis.
3. Is supported by evidence that is appropriate, accurate and adequate
4. Demonstrates a logical flow

Style

1. Paragraphs are well organized and developed.
2. Writing is concise.
3. Writing is free from errors of syntax, grammar, spelling, etc.
4. Documentation is consistent with one of the accepted manuals of style.

Resources

1. Selection demonstrates graduate-level research (e.g., technical competence, currency, etc.)

An “A” paper will satisfy all of the above, plus:

Thesis

1. Thesis shows insight and originality.

Argument

1. Demonstrates critical appropriation of relevant research.
2. Case is persuasively made.

A paper that does not satisfy the above criteria will earn a C+ or less.

## Personal Applications

Personal application assignments (P.A.'s) will be evaluated on the “big idea,” exegetical treatment, application, and style.

A “B” P.A. will satisfy the following criteria:

Big Idea

1. Will be stated as a timeless principle.
2. Will reflect the main concern of the text.

Exegetical Treatment

1. Will demonstrate sound hermeneutics.
2. Will evidence facility in exegetical method

Application

1. Will appropriate the timeless principle to relevant modern situation
2. Will suggest practical examples.

Style

1. Will be clear and concise and free from grammatical, syntactical and spelling errors.

An “A” P.A. will satisfy all these criteria, plus

Exegetical treatment

1. Will offer fresh insight.

Application

1. Will be personal and specific.
2. Will treat, as appropriate, at least one of the seminary’s formation objectives (thinking, being, doing)

P.A.'s not meeting these criteria will earn a C+ or less.