

Elijah and Elisha
EDEN
OT 739Z

Instructor of record: [George M. Schwab](mailto:schwab@erskine.edu), Ph. D.
Three Credit Hours

Please be sure to read and familiarize yourself with ALL sections in this syllabus.

Welcome to the course, **Elijah and Elisha**. Although I cannot welcome you personally as in a face-to-face class, I am available to discuss any aspect of this course through whatever communication medium is most convenient for you. I wish you the best as you begin this journey through the Minor Prophets.



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the history, content, milieu, text, structure, and meaning of the Elijah/Elisha narratives in 1 – 2 Kings. Detailed attention is given to its historical setting (i.e. state-sanctioned Baal worship), and to how Jesus Christ is shown in the gospels as the fulfillment of the dominant motifs of the collection. Exegesis/Elective. 3 hours.

COURSE GOALS

1. A. General Mission of Erskine Seminary
2. The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for ministry in the Christian Church.” To achieve this mission, the ability to understand the Elijah/Elisha Narratives must be taught. How these stories point to Christ, and their implications for today, will be discovered.
3. B. By the end of the course, the student should be able to:
4. 1. Identify polemics against Baal in light of the Baal cycle, and to see the Baal Cycle as a unifying principle in the narratives.

5. 2. Articulate how the narratives both shape and are shaped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. 3. Teach from the narratives.
7. 4. Relate the message of the narratives to our own contemporary setting.
8. 5. Discuss the message and theology of the narratives.

RESOURCES

You may be able to use Erskine Seminary's Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine to order your textbooks for this course. Please click the "Shop by Course" link to see if the books required for this course are listed under the courses shown. If they are not available on ecampus, you may order them from other online book distributors.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

- 1 Kings 16:23 – 2 Kings 13:21
 - This assignment is to be done with one or more of the following versions: RSV, NRSV, KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV
 - You must *not* read the Elijah and Elisha Narratives in the NIV or any paraphrased or dynamic equivalent version
- Dillard, Raymond. *Faith in an Age of Apostasy*. P&R, 1998.
- Coogan, Michael. *Stories from Ancient Canaan*. Westminster, 1978.

COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials (except required texts and research items) are available to the student in the online classroom.

COURSE COMPONENTS

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through six learning components.

The first is the **Lecture Component**. The student will view the e-lectures, make detailed notes, and prepare from these notes to be examined.

The second is the **Reading Component**. The student will read the assigned materials, make detailed notes, and prepare from these notes to be examined.

The third is the **Collaborative Component**. The student will participate in guided online discussions. Each student is expected to actively participate in an online journal. 10% of your grade will be based on online participation.

To ensure completion of Lecture and Reading components, the student will prepare for the **Exam Component**, worth 40% of your total grade.

1. First Exam 10%. The Exam will cover material presented in e-lectures or assigned to be read.
2. Second Exam 10%. The Exam is not cumulative but will cover all material after the First Exam.
3. Third Exam 10%. The Final exam is not cumulative and will cover all material after the Second Exam.
4. Fourth Exam 10%. This is to be completed after the last lecture is viewed.

The fifth is the **Response Component**. This component will comprise 30% of your total grade. The student will produce the required lists and outlines.

The sixth is the **Reflective Component**. The Paper comprises 20% of your total grade.

The Paper is due on the scheduled date.

The student will lose one grade point for each day it is late.

Please note: Successful completion of this distance learning course will require that you set your own schedule and discipline yourself to stay on the schedule. I recommend that you begin the course by watching the e-lectures. The time constraints of this course are self-imposed to a large degree. However, if you are working toward degree completion, please keep in mind the Seminary's expected time frame for degree completion. Consult the most recent Seminary *Catalog* for specific time frames in your degree program. Each course assignment identifies the time required for completion, all things being equal. Some variation in time required to complete an assignment is to be expected due to a variety of factors.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA AND SCALE

- A Level Work = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.
- C Level Work = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.

D Level Work = Inadequate mastery of basic facts and information presented in the course; insufficient or inappropriate use of common terms and language indicating an inadequate grasp of the material; and an inferior ability to analyze and judge proposals, ideas or concepts.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Grade	Value	GPA	Grade	Value	GPA
A	95-100	4.0	C-	78-79	1.7
A-	93-94	3.7	D+	76-77	1.3
B+	91-92	3.3	D	72-75	1.0
B	88-90	3.0	D-	70-71	0.7
B-	86-97	2.7	F	0-69	0.0
C+	84-85	2.3			
C	80-83	2.0			

The actual assignment of a letter grade will take into consideration the performance of the class as a whole (i.e. you will be graded on a curve).

When a student fulfills the *minimum stated requirement*, the assigned letter grade will be a B. To achieve a higher grade, the student must perform at a higher level than the minimum stated requirement.

1. All assignments should be submitted electronically unless otherwise notified.
2. Please use Microsoft Word.
3. All assignments should be clearly marked with name, assignment number and date. Failure to include this information will result in a returned assignment.

COURSE PLATFORM

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, "Institutions shall ensure that distance education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program." It is with this stipulation that EDEN has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences. The learning platform is Moodle and according to their website, "Moodle is a course management system designed to help educators who want to create quality online courses . . . and create effective online learning communities." You will be provided with additional information concerning site information. In order to meet the online discussion component of this course, you will need:

- A computer (or access to a computer)
- High-speed access to the Internet

COURSE OVERVIEW

Assignment One: E-Lectures

Assignment Two: Readings

Assignment Three: Weekly online discussions

Assignment Four: Exams

Assignment Five: Lists and Outlines

Assignment Six: Paper

ASSIGNMENT ONE: E-Lectures

Overview:

The e-lectures will guide you through the course material in a systematic manner so that you can become more acquainted with the subject matter.

Objectives:

1. To become familiar with an literary approach to the Old Testament
2. To learn the content and theological message of the biblical books

Resources: Video lectures

Description:

Begin working your way through the e-lectures for the course. Begin with the first lecture. Take notes as you follow the video.

ASSIGNMENT TWO: Readings

Overview:

The readings will supply information important to the subject that will not be discussed in detail in the lectures. The readings are assigned according to the course schedule.

Objectives: To become familiar with important aspects of the course not covered in lectures.

Resources:

- 1 Kings 16:23 – 2 Kings 13:21
 - This assignment is to be done with one or more of the following versions: RSV, NRSV, KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV
 - You must *not* read the Elijah and Elisha Narratives in the NIV or any paraphrased or dynamic equivalent version
- Dillard, Raymond. *Faith in an Age of Apostasy*. P&R, 1998.
- Coogan, Michael. *Stories from Ancient Canaan*. Westminster, 1978.

Description:

Using the schedule, begin working through the various readings assigned to this course.

ASSIGNMENT THREE: Online journal

Overview:

There is evidence to suggest that students who actively engage with others in an online environment earn higher scores than other students. Online discussions and interaction provide a rich and stimulating environment of collaboration, interaction, and community building. Students participating in online discussions tend to provide more thought-provoking comments, richly detailed responses, and insightful observations.

Each student will post an entry to the online journal each **week**. As the student completes the required reading for this course, listens to the e-lectures, or thinks through course-related issues, he or she will post an entry relating significant insights, questions, or challenges for others.

In order to facilitate community building, fellow students will respond **each week** to the journal entries as a way of encouraging each other and adding to the observations posted by their classmates. Additionally, peer mentors and/or the course professor will respond **to selected entries**. Retroactive posting will not be accepted. The following rubric may serve as a guide to assisting you in online postings.

Please note:

- 10% of your grade depends on collaborative journaling

ASSIGNMENT FOUR: Exams

1. First Exam—see schedule
2. Second Exam—see schedule
3. Third Exam—see schedule
4. Fourth Exam—see schedule

ASSIGNMENT FIVE: Lists and Outlines

Overview: This ensures that the student reads through the Elijah/Elisha Narratives in detail, and have interacted with Coogan and the NT.

Resources:

1 – 2 Kings; Coogan; the Gospel of Luke

Description: There are three assignments in this category.

TO BE DONE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE FIRST EXAM:

1. **Create your own outline of the Elijah and Elisha Narratives. This assignment will NOT be accepted late. Once the second block of lectures is posted, opportunity for credit on this assignment will be closed. (5%)**
 - a. **Along with the outline, also write your thoughts (you won't be graded on this, but you must make an attempt) on why sending a lying spirit into the prophets in 1 Kings 22 was poetic justice for Ahab.**
 - b. **Also, along with the outline, identify the two other major battles that were not discussed in lecture, and seek to find a template, if possible, that fits them. This work should be modeled on my comparison of two battles in lecture. Thus, don't do the assignment until you have viewed the whole first block of lectures! (5%)**
2. **After reading through the Elijah/Elisha narratives to make your outline, read through Coogan. As you read, take note of every point of comparison and similarity that you can find. This assignment will not be accepted late. Once the second block of lectures is posted, the opportunity to hand in this assignment will be closed. (10%)**

TO BE DONE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE SECOND EXAM:

Read through Luke 4 – 10, and write down every point of comparison you can find between that and the Elijah/Elisha narratives. Make sure the point of your comparison is adequately explained so that any reader could “get it.” This assignment will not be accepted once the third block of lectures is posted. (10%)

ASSIGNMENT SIX: Paper

Overview: The student will pick one of the following texts and meditate upon it throughout the semester, producing an insightful paper as a result of this study. You must let me know early on what text you want to write on. Here are the choices:

1K 18:1 – 16 Obadiah
1K 19:1 – 8 Elijah flees
1K 19:9 – 18 Elijah at Mount Horeb
1K 19:19 – 21 Anointing Elisha
1K 20:26 – 34 War with Aram
1K 20:35 – 43 Prophetic oracle of judgment
1K 21 Naboth's vineyard (This is too long to do for exegesis credit)
1K 22 Death of Ahab (This is too long to do for exegesis credit)
2K 1:2 – 17 Fire from heaven
2K 2:7 – 14 Elijah's translation
2K 2:15 – 18 Searching for Elijah
2K 2:19 – 22 Healing the waters of Jericho
2K 2:23 – 24/5 Boys mauled by bears
2K 3 War with Moab (This is too long to do for exegesis credit)
2K 4:1 – 7 Widow's oil
2K 4:8 – 17 The Shunammite conceives
2K 4:18 – 37 The Shunammite's son raised
2K 4:38 – 41 Death in the Pot
2K 5:1 – 19 Naaman healed of leprosy (This is too long to do for exegesis credit)
2K 5:20 – 27 Gehazi's greed
2K 6:24 – 7:20 The siege (This is too long to do for exegesis credit)
2K 8:1 – 6 The Shunammite's land
2K 8:7 – 15 Hazael anointed
2K 9:1 – 13 Jehu anointed
2K 9:14 – 26 Joram assassinated
2K 9:27 – 37 Defenestration of Jezebel
2K 10:1 – 10 Seventy heads
2K 10:18 – 28 Baal eradicated
2K 11 Athaliah's rise and fall (This is too long to do for exegesis credit)
2K 13:14 – 19 Elisha and Joash
2K 13:20 – 21 Death of Elisha

Resources:

The Bible, Dillard, Coogan, and any other materials you will acquire through your research. Take a moment to look over the posted bibliography for the course.

Those of you doing an exegesis paper should avoid the lengthier texts. Do good, solid exegesis on what you picked, with sermon points and an introductory section and so on. But in addition, I want to see you analyze your text the way that is modeled the last block of lectures.

For those of you not doing this for exegesis credit, analyze the text the way that is modeled the last block of lectures.

Course Schedule

The course is divided into four modules. Each module has work due at the end of each time period.

Lateness on the term paper will carry a penalty of 1% for every day late. Exams will be open for 2 – 3 day period. If you cannot complete the exam during that time, you will need to take a grade of 0 for that test. Most written assignments will not be accepted late.

MODULE #1. All work for the first module is due four weeks from the start of the semester. The exam will be offered that date. Please make arrangements now for that date to be clear. The professor will contact you further regarding exam details.

Week	Assignments Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Alarming Arameans • View Lecture: Fact or Fiction? • Post comments 1%
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Justifying Jehosaphat • Post comments 1%
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Confusion • Post comments 1%
4	None. Use this week to complete the first module assignments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exam #1 (10%) 2. Outline (5%) 3. Battle template (5%) 4. Coogan comparison (10%)

Assignments due *by the end of the fourth week:*

1. 10% of your grade: The first exam.
2. 5% of your grade: Create your own outline of the Elijah and Elisha Narratives.
 - a. This assignment will NOT be accepted late. *Once the second block of lectures is posted, opportunity for credit on this assignment will be closed.*
 - a. *Along with the outline, also write your thoughts (you won't be graded on this, but you must make an attempt) on why*

sending a lying spirit into the prophets in 1 Kings 22 was poetic justice for Ahab.

3. 5% of your grade: Identify the two other major battles that were not discussed in lecture, and seek to find a template, if possible, that fits them. This work should be modeled on my comparison of two battles in lecture. Thus, don't do the assignment until you have viewed the whole first block of lectures!
4. 10% of your grade: After reading through the Elijah/Elisha narratives to make your outline, read through Coogan. As you read, take note of every point of comparison and similarity that you can find. This assignment will not be accepted late. *Once the second block of lectures is posted, the opportunity to hand in this assignment will be closed.*

MODULE #2. All work for the second module is due seven weeks from the start of the semester. Please make arrangements now for that date to be clear.

Week	Lectures to view
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Samaria Sacks Syria • View Lecture: Heilsgeschichte • Post comments 1%
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Ugarit • View Lecture: The Baal Cycle • View Lecture: The Unifying Principle • Post comments 1%
7	<p>None. Use this week to complete the second module assignments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exam #2 10% 2. Luke comparison 10%

Assignments due by the end of the seventh week:

1. 10% of your grade: Exam #2
2. 10% of your grade: Read through Luke 4 – 10, and write down every point of comparison you can find between that and the Elijah/Elisha narratives. Make sure the point of your comparison is adequately explained so that any reader could “get it.” *This assignment will not be accepted once the third block of lectures is posted.* Shoot for 20 – 30 thoughtful points of comparison.

MODULE #3. All work for the third module is due ten weeks from the start of the semester, including the exam and the reflection paper.

Week	Lectures to view
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Limping for Lightning • View Lecture: Baal Motifs • Post comments 1%
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: The Gospels • View Lecture: Ancient Templates • Post comments 1%
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Ravens Rain Rolls • Post comments 1%

Assignment due by the end of the tenth week: Exam #3, worth 10% of your grade.

MODULE #4. All work for the fourth module is due thirteen weeks from the start of the semester, including the exam and the reflection paper. The professor will contact you further regarding exam details.

Week	Lectures to view
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Widow's Wondrous Ware • View Lecture: Some Sidonians Sons • Post comments 1%
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Naboth's Nemesis • View Lecture: Bears • Post comments 1%
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Lecture: Namaan's Nadir • View Lecture: Elisha Expires

Assignments due by the end of the thirteenth week:

10% of your grade: Exam #4.

20% of your grade: exegesis paper.

Seminary Policies

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the *Catalog* for more information.

1. **Language about God and Humanity:** Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").
2. **Incompletes:** The grade of 'Incomplete' can be assigned as a final grade only when two conditions are met: 1) the student has completed the majority of the requirements for the course; 2) the student has been providentially hindered from completing the remaining requirements for the course. An 'Incomplete' granted for this course will automatically become an 'F' unless course requirements are fulfilled by the completion date.
3. **Drop/Add:** If you decide not to take this class, a "drop/add" form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply.

The style guide adopted by the seminary is that of Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.