



Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

OT739

The Elijah/Elisha Narratives*

George M. Schwab, Ph.D.

Summer 2009

Saturdays, 6/6, 7/4, 8/1, 8/22

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Due West, SC 29639

I. 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.

II. Course Goals

A. General Mission of Erskine Seminary

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service 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.

B. By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify polemics against Baal in light of the Baal cycle, and to see the Baal Cycle as a unifying principle in the narratives.
2. Articulate how the narratives both shape and are shaped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Teach from the narratives.
4. Relate the message of the narratives to our own contemporary setting.

* Note: A colorful syllabus cover can be downloaded from my website. This is worth 1% of extra credit; 2% if printed on photo-quality paper. The cover is NOT the webpage picture. Right-click on the link that says “Syllabus Cover,” download (Save Target As), then print from Microsoft Paint or some such program. *Make sure the whole image prints on one page.*

5. Discuss the message and theology of the narratives.

III. Required Reading (Required textbooks may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Online Bookstore at [http://www.ecampus.com/erskine.](http://www.ecampus.com/erskine))

A. 1 Kings 16:23 – 2 Kings 13:21

1. This assignment is to be done with one or more of the following versions: RSV, NRSV, KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV
2. You must *not* read the Elijah and Elisha Narratives in the NIV or any paraphrased or dynamic equivalent version

B. Dillard, Raymond. *Faith in an Age of Apostasy*. P&R, 1998.

C. Coogan, Michael. *Stories from Ancient Canaan*. Westminster, 1978.

IV. Exams and Assignments

A. Exams 40% total

1. The first exam is worth 10% of your grade, and will cover material presented in class or assigned to be read up to the exam date.
2. The second exam is worth 10% of your grade, and will cover material presented in class or assigned to be read up to the exam date.
3. The third exam is worth 10% of your grade, and will cover material presented in class or assigned to be read up to the exam date.
4. The fourth exam is worth 10% of your grade, and is to be done at home, open book.

B. Outline 10%

1. Hand in an outline of the Elijah/Elisha Narratives 5%
2. Include with your outline an analysis of the two major battles not covered in class. Try to find a template. 5%
3. Review 1K 22 in context and discover why Yahweh sending a lying spirit into the prophets to destroy Ahab is poetic justice.
4. This is due the second week of class, *it will not be accepted late*

C. Response paper on Ugaritic materials 10%

1. Hand in a paper that identifies as many connections as you can find between the Elijah/Elisha Narratives and the Ugaritic materials including the Baal Cycle
2. This is also due the second week of class, *it will not be accepted late*

D. Analysis of Luke 10%

1. Read through Luke 4 – 10, and write down all of the connections with the Elijah and Elisha Narratives that you could find, with some description of exactly what the connection is
2. This is due the third week of class, *it will not be accepted late*

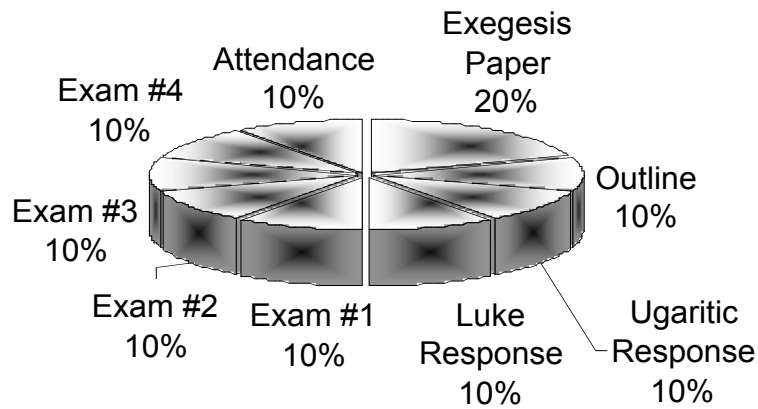
E. Exegetical Paper 20%.

1. There is an exegetical paper due on the fourth day of class.
2. This paper should reflect all aspects of the Elijah/Elisha covered in class or in assigned readings through the first three weeks.

F. Class Attendance and Participation 10%

1. 10% of your grade will be class participation, attendance, and punctuality with assignments. You are not permitted to miss more than 3 hours of the course. Missing a full day will require makeup work. Missing more than a day automatically triggers an “F”, so in that event you should drop the course.
2. Every day the exegesis paper or the final exam is late, 1% will be taken off the grade.
3. You will be held responsible for all material presented in class.

Requirements



V. Grading

A. The grade 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
C+	84-85	2.3	F	0-69	0.0
C	80-83	2.0			

B. The final numerical value for each student will be adjusted after all of the requirements are met by all of the students (i.e. you will be graded on a curve).

VI. Seminary Policie

A. Drop/Add/Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

B. Incompletes

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

C. 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”).

D. 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.

E. Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class

meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

F. Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

G. Portfolio

The exegesis paper can be used in your Professional Assessment portfolio as a graduation requirement for all students who began seminary in the Fall of 2002 or afterwards. It is the student’s responsibility to turn in a clean, corrected copy of their paper to the seminary office for inclusion in your portfolio. Failure to do so will delay your graduation. Portfolio requirements are listed on the back of the academic worksheet of all degree programs.

H. Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment. I can always be reached by email.

- I.** To tape a lecture the student must acquire my signature on the proper form. Before I sign it, please write this out on the form, *“I agree that the recordings are for me alone. I will not make them available to church courts, e-mail them, or give them away. I will give them upon request to Dr. Schwab for copies.”*

J. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
6/6	Introduction to the Elijah and Elisha Narratives	Read the assigned portion of Scripture.
7/4	The Baal Cycle and Elijah	Exam. Outline of Narratives. Analysis of parallel battles. Why is 1 Kings 22 poetic justice? Analysis of Ugaritic Materials.
8/1	Jesus and the Elijah and Elisha Narratives	Exam. Analysis of the Gospels.
8/22	Selected pericopies	Exam. Final Paper Due.
8/29	No class	Final Exam due.

K. Bibliography, see web page