



Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

OT 102
Introduction to the Old Testament II*
George M. Schwab, Ph.D.
Spring 2009
Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00pm

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http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/schwab/sb_02_old_testament_2.htm

I. Course Description: This course traces the history and examines the literature of the Israelite people from the division of the kingdom through the development of Judaism. Topics treated include canon, criticism, content, interpretation, and unity of the Old Testament.

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 Bible in various contexts must be taught. These contexts include the Bible’s ancient Near Eastern cultural setting, the immediate context of the literary unit in question, the context of the book of the Bible at issue or the OT as a whole, its canonical context admitting the light of the NT that points to Christ, and the context of the whole counsel of God that includes the implications of the Word today. This course will seek to raise the students’ awareness of how to read the OT in these various contexts.

* 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.*

B. Goals of this Course

1. This course will expose the student to the history and geography of the OT. Many of the names and places should become clear, and the timeline of events should crystallize the student's understanding of the progress of redemption. Along the way, insights from comparative studies will be discovered.
2. At appropriate points in the study of the material, the questions that generations of modern scholars have asked of the text will be raised and their answers supplied and critiqued. The strengths and weaknesses of these approaches will be considered, including the "grammatical-historical" method of interpretation.
3. The student will gain adeptness at relating the OT revelation to its fulfillment in Christ's person and work. How the NT influences our reading of the Old is an important consideration in this course. The "grammatical-historical" method is not the all-in-all of interpretation. The centrality of the gospel and the culmination of all the OT motifs and themes in Jesus will be discussed.
4. Finally, the importance of the OT in the formation of our contemporary theology, character, and wisdom will be placed before the student.

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

1. Identify the major geographical features and national entities of the ancient Near East over the course of Israel's history.
2. Outline the major events of Israel's history.
3. Describe the various approaches to the OT, their results and the reigning paradigms for present-day study of the Hebrew Bible.
4. Describe the contents and theology of each book from 1 Kings through Malachi.
5. Reflect meaningfully upon the biblical theology of one prophetic book.

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

A. Course Textbooks

1. LaSor, Hubbard, and Bush. *Old Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
2. May, Herbert G. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.

B. Articles

1. George Schwab. "The Proverbs and the Art of Persuasion." *JBC* 14 no. 1 (1995): 6-17.
2. _____. "Ecclesiastes and Counsel Under the Sun." *JBC* 15 no. 2 (1997): 7 - 16.
3. _____. "The Book of Job and Counsel in the Whirlwind." *JBC* 17 no. 1 (1998): 31 - 43.

C. The text of the Old Testament from 2 Kings through Malachi

IV. Exams and Assignments

A. Exams 55% total

1. 20% The History exam will cover all material presented in class or assigned to be read up pertaining to the historical books.
2. 20% The Prophecy exam will cover all material presented in class or assigned to be read up pertaining to the prophetic books
3. 15% The Poets exam will cover all material presented in class or assigned to be read up pertaining to the poetical books.

B. Papers 40% total

1. Reflection Paper 20%

- a) There is a 4 – 8 page Reflection Paper due the last class meeting of the semester, one week before the Final Exam.
- b) The student will lose one percentage point for each day it is late.

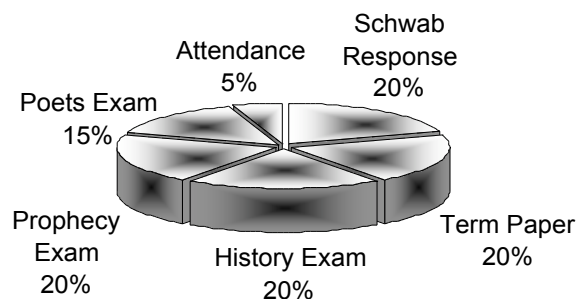
2. Response paper 20%

- a) A 4 – 6 page response paper on the Schwab articles is due in conjunction with the presentation of the poetical books
- b) The student will lose one percentage point for each day it is late.

C. Class Attendance and Participation 5%

1. 5% of your grade will be class participation, attendance, and punctuality with assignments.
2. You will be held responsible for all material presented in class.
3. Attendance: the student is required to attend all classes. If the student misses a class, he or she will be required to do work equivalent to the number of class hours missed. It is contingent on the student to seek out the professor for this compensative work to avoid losing credit for those hours.
4. If you miss more than 3 class periods, you will be given a failing mark for the course.

Requirements



V. Grading

A. The grading policy is 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-	86-87	2.7			0.0
C+	84-85	2.3	F	0-69	0.0
C	80-83	2.0			

B. 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).

C. E-mailed assignments will be graded, but I will not print them. Therefore, no comments or feedback will be given, so it is no fair complaining about your grade if you e-mail it. ***Please put your name, the course, and the assignment in the subject line.***

D. 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.”*

VI. Seminary Policies

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.

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."

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").

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.

Chapel Attendance Policy (

All morning and afternoon on-campus classes (except for Friday and Saturday courses) carry a chapel attendance requirement. Consult the catalog or registration booklet for the specifics of the chapel attendance policy. There is a per chapel fee if you attend fewer chapels than required.

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.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted

by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

Other Course Policies

A. Attendance: the student is required to attend all classes. If the student misses more than 3 classes, an F will automatically be assigned. Sleeping in class = an absence.

B. 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.

C. Intolerance: There are no favorites at Erskine. Publicly rejecting this ethos with the result of making fellow students feel unwelcome will be considered unethical behavior, and is grounds for course failure on the level of cheating and plagiarism.

D. Office hours: Tuesday afternoons. You can always reach me by email.

VII. Reflection Paper Description

Pick a text from a prophetic book. Write a 4 – 8 page paper describing the following:


1. What is the text chosen?
2. What role does the text serve in its book?
3. Provide an outline of the prophetic book that highlights the place of your text.
4. What does the text teach about God?
5. How does the text point to Christ?
6. To what does the text call Christians today?

What 4-8 pages means

1. The length of your paper does *not* count the following material:
 - a. Any quotations, from the Bible or from your readings
 - b. Footnotes or endnotes
 - c. Bibliography, cover pages, or outlines
 - d. Blank spaces, including the blank space after your last period on the last page of content.

2. You must adhere to the following:
 - a. One inch margins all around
 - b. 12 point typeface
 - c. Double spacing
3. What I will do when you turn in your paper
 - a. I will take a ruler to it and measure the amount of actual content
 - b. If it is short, you will be *severely* penalized in your grade, and probably will be given an F.
 - c. You will *not* be given the opportunity to make up for the lack of content.
4. 4-8 pages of *content* means content original to you
 - a. *Say things in your own words*
 - b. Every year I catch students plagiarizing by typing what they have read straight out of a commentary. *It is obvious when the student uses language that is more sophisticated than the level at which the student is able to converse.*

IX. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
2/4	Introduction	
2/11	Kings I	LaSor ch. 14-15, read 1-2 Kings
2/18	Kings II	LaSor ch. 41, 49, read 1-2 Chronicles
2/25	Chronicles I	LaSor ch. 42, Atlas, pp. 74-9, read Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
3/4	Chronicles II	LaSor ch. 16-17, read Isaiah Your text for your reflection paper is due.
3/11	History Exam Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	History Exam LaSor ch. 21-22, Atlas, pp. 70-1, read Jeremiah
3/18	The Prophetic Office	LaSor ch. 25, 43, Read Daniel
3/25	Interpretation of Prophecy	LaSor ch. 24, Read Ezekiel
4/1	Ecstasy, Covenant Lawsuit	LaSor ch. 18-20, Read Hosea-Micah
4/8	No class spring break 	
4/15	Selected Motifs	LaSor ch. 23, 26-30, Read Nahum-Malachi The outline of your reflection paper is due.

4/22	<i>Class will be held in chapel</i>	LaSor ch. 31, Read Psalms
4/29	Prophecy Exam Wisdom Books	Prophecy Exam LaSor ch. 32, Read Proverbs Response paper on Schwab articles.
5/6	Psalms	LaSor ch. 33-37, Read Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs Reflection Paper Due
TBA	Final Exam	Final Exam

VIII. Supplemental Reading

- Cohen, N. "An 'Enthusiastic' Prophetic Formula." *ZAW* 99 (1987): 219 – 232.
- Dillard, Ray. "The Reign of Asa (II Chronicles 14-16)." *JETS* 23 (1980): 207-218.
- Kline, Meredith. *Images of the Spirit*. Gordon-Conwell Seminary, 1986.
- Payne, "Validity of Numbers in Chronicles." *BibSac* 136 (1976): 109-128.
- Poythress, Vern S. *Symphonic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Academic, 1987.
- Rad, G. Von. "The Deuteronomic Theology of History in I and II Kings," in *The Problem of the Hexateuch and Other Essays*, 205-221.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *Dispensationalism Today*. Chicago: Moody, 1981.
- Theile, E. *Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*.
- VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*. Grand Rapids: Academic, 1988.
- Wenham, "Large Numbers in the Old Testament." *TynBul* 18 (1967): 19-53.
- Wilson, Robert R. *Prophecy and Society in Ancient Israel*. Phila.: Fortress, 1980.