

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning
ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OT 502A OLD TESTAMENT 2, AUGUSTA
Spring 2009

THURSDAYS 6:00-9:00 P.M., BEGINNING FEBRUARY 5

NOTE: The meeting night for this course is now Thursday evening. There may be some minor changes in the syllabus as a result. Please check this syllabus location early in January 2009 for updates.

Professor Robert I. Vasholz, Ph. D.

Email: vasholri@comcast.net

Telephone:

Office Hours may be scheduled at my church office on a personal basis.

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. In this, the Hebrew poetic and wisdom literature of the Old Testament is studied along with such other topics as the content, interpretation, and the unity of the Old Testament.

This course is a continuation of the first semester course that dealt with the Old Testament Canon and the Pentateuch. That course began a study of the Old Testament Kingdom of God as revealed in the Pentateuch. Particular aspects of that kingdom were highlighted through the various epochs of biblical history. This course continues this pursuit beyond the united kingdom and advances it from there via the Old Testament prophets.

Students should complete OT 501 Old Testament I prior to taking this course.

Required for M.Div., M.A.C.M., M.A.P.M., and M.A.T.S. students. Three hours.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is “to prepare students for service in the Christian Church.” As a part of that mission, one goal is that, “Graduates will understand the Bible’s message in light of its own literary, historical, and theological settings.” A second goal is that, “Graduates will be prepared to communicate the Bible’s message through preaching and evangelism, so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today.” This course addresses both of these goals.

In addition, the instructor’s goals of the course are:

1. To trace and explore the progress of the Kingdom of God as it pertains to the people, administration, character and nature of that kingdom to the divided kingdom era. Testament and
2. To understand the role of the Old Testament prophets in relationship to the Kingdom of God, the exile, and the future.
3. To increase knowledge of the Old Testament context.
4. To add to the spiritual development of the student preparing for ministry. The instructor is very much interested in this goal and the course is developed to aid that goal. All classes will begin with both a private and corporate prayer.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

NOTE: Required textbooks may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary virtual bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine.

Required Textbooks

LaSor, Hubbard and Bush. Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Supplemental Reading

Use the link below to access the article “Does the Bible Exaggerate King Solomon’s Golden Wealth?”

<http://www.basarchive.org/bswbBrowse.asp?PubID=BSBA&Volume=15&Issue=3&ArticleID=1&UserID=3428>

Other articles will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE OF STUDY

This first survey course followed two lines of thought. First, it explored the establishment of the Old Testament canon, including a critique of higher critical approaches. Particular attention was given to the rationale behind the Pentateuch acceptance into the Old Testament canon. This included discussions on individual passages in the Pentateuch related to these issues such as the dating of the Exodus. The student was expected to achieve and articulate a rationale defense of the Old Testament canon.

The second phase of the course deals with a study of the Kingdom of God beginning with the Pentateuch as it progresses through various epochs of biblical history. Particular aspects of the Kingdom are addressed as they pertain to the people, administration, character and nature of the kingdom. Some attention will be given to the messianic hope.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Quizzes.** The students are expected to be graded on quizzes from the assigned reading in the textbook and articles distributed at the beginning of the semester. This includes reading the biblical texts that correspond to the assigned reading. Since the class only meets once a week, students should expect a quiz each class meeting. (See below.)
2. **Reading Assignments.** The assignments are to prepare the students for interaction in class over the issues brought up by the quizzes. This is intended to allow the students to explore the various issues in class with the professor. Students should come prepared to interact.
3. **Pictorial Representation.** Formulate a pictorial representation of one of the books of the major prophets.
4. **Final Exam.** The final exam is on chapter content of the major prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel 1-39.

READING ASSIGNMENTS (Note that each date represents a quiz day.)

February 12	LHB on Joshua, Judges and Ruth, and related articles. Read the biblical texts.
February 19	LHB on Birth of the Monarch: Israel’s Golden Age, and related articles. Read 1 Samuel.
February 26	LHB on the Divided Monarchy and Judah Alone. Read 1 Kings and related articles.
March 5	LHB on Prophets and Prophecy and Background of Isaiah. Read Isaiah and

	related articles.
March 12	LHB Isaiah's Message and related articles.
March 19	LHB on Hosea and Micah. Read Hosea and Micah and related articles.
March 26	LHB on Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk. Read the biblical texts and related articles.
April 2	LHB Obadiah and Joel. Read biblical texts and article.
April 9	Holy Week, no class meeting
April 16	LHB on Jeremiah. Read Jeremiah and related articles.
April 23	LHB on Wisdom and Proverbs. Read Proverbs and related articles.
April 30	Final examination over biblical content.

GRADING

Grading Values. The quizzes will count 75% of the grade. The pictorial representation of a prophet and the final exam will count 25% of the grade. Quiz grades are not determined only by performance on written quizzes. Students can enhance their grade by a responsible grasp of the issues in classroom interchange. Since there is a small enrollment, this will give each student ample opportunity. This is particularly important for preparation for the ministry since verbal communication will be their primary communication.

Grading Scale

The standard Erskine Theological Seminary grading scale will be used:

A 95-100	C- 78-79
A- 93-94	D+ 76-77
B+ 91-92	D 72-75
B 88-90	D- 70-71
C+ 84-85	F 0-69
C 80-83	I Incomplete

SEMINARY POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

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.

Office Hours

Office hours may be scheduled at my church office on a personal basis. 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.

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.

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, Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning 5
 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.

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