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OT 619 Exegesis of 1-2 Samuel

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This is a preliminary version of the syllabus for OT 619. The final copy will be available on the first day of class in the course center.

OT 619: Exegesis of 1-2 Samuel

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Introduction

Welcome to OT 619 - Exegesis of 1-2 Samuel. During our exploration of this part of the Old Testament, you will reinforce your knowledge of the material in these books, understand their literary structure, place them in their historical context, and sharpen your interpretive skills. With plenty of help from the instructor, you will have the opportunity to enhance your abilities in translating the Hebrew text and using it for exegesis.

Finally, you will also reflect on the importance of 1-2 Samuel for the life of the church. While I'm helping to guide you through this material, I will also be continuing my work as pastor of a United Methodist congregation in North Dakota, interpreting Scripture and preaching and teaching it to my congregation, just as some of you may be doing wherever you are.

Welcome again, and I hope you enjoy the course!

Course Description

This course explores selected exegetical issues in the Books of Samuel and provides students with opportunities to apply original-language tools to the books' strategic passages.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students should be able to:

1. confirm and refine by recourse to the Hebrew text of 1-2 Samuel literary analysis of longer units previously studied in translation.

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2. assess the textual integrity of shorter passages of Scripture employing the Hebrew text and apparatus and basic text-critical methodology.
3. analyze the significance of the grammar and sentence structure of brief pericopes using primarily the Hebrew text.
4. present the significance of key terms in a given passage by using basic original language word-study tools and techniques.
5. identify the function of a given, brief passage of 1-2 Samuel in the framework of its immediate context, its function in the literary flow of the book and in the section of the canon within which it appears.
6. situate the thematic emphases of specific passages of 1-2 Samuel in the context of the Old Testament's unfolding message and in the context of the Bible as a whole.
7. demonstrate the impact of representative exegetical methods on the study of 1-2 Samuel, employing relevant scholarly literature, and situating one's own interpretation in the ongoing discussion of biblical interpretation.
8. illustrate the contribution of exegetical study of the Hebrew text to biblical exposition, instruction, theological reflection, and spiritual formation in order to construct an appropriation of the passage that is integrative and coherent.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Participation in class discussion in the discussion center - 15%
Regular participation is expected. Evaluation will be based on consistency and quality of responses, rather than on quantity. Discussion questions will be posted as part of each module.
2. Three exegetical papers - 10%, 15%, 15%
Each student will write three brief exegetical papers of 3-4 pages. These papers should make use of the exegetical methodologies taught during the course. Due dates for the papers are noted below in the course schedule.
3. Brief assignments - 15%
Many of the modules will call for the completion of brief assignments such as reflection papers or grammatical analysis of several verses of Hebrew text.
4. Final paper - 30%
The final paper will be a 10 page exegetical paper, integrating the various interpretive methods used in the course. It should also include a sermon or Bible study outline. Students should start planning early enough so that research materials can be secured from the library.

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Note the catalogue descriptions of letter grades:

- A: Exceptional work; surpassing, remarkably outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- B: Good work. Strong, significant achievement of course objectives
- C: Acceptable work. Basic, essential achievement of course objectives
- D: Marginal work. Inadequate minimal achievement of course objectives
- F: Unacceptable work. Failure to achieve course objectives

Specific instructions and more specific grading criteria for the exegetical papers, brief assignments and final paper will be posted in the modules.

How To Submit Work

Please submit the exegetical papers, brief assignments and the final papers as Rich Text Format or MS Word attachments to the "Office" icon in the course center. All items are due at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the due date.

Responses to discussion questions should be posted to the discussion center.

You are, of course, encouraged to use Greek and Hebrew in your course work. To make this possible, please use the following fonts. Also, these are the fonts that I will use in the discussion center.

Hebrew: Use "**bwhebb**" Instructions for downloading the font are available in the Resource Center, which is on the OT619 desktop next to the "Course Center", "Office", "Archive Center" and "Chat Center" icons. The keyboard map for this font is available at <http://www.bibleworks.com/fonts.html>.

Greek: Use "**bwgrkl**" which is available in the same location. Keyboard map is on the same website as the Hebrew font.

Required Reading

Anderson , A. A. *2 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary 11. Dallas: Word, 1989.

Brueggemann, Walter. *First and Second Samuel*. Interpretation Commentaries. Louisville: John Knox, 1990.

Klein, Ralph W. *1 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary 10. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983.

McKenzie, Steven. *King David: A Biography*. New York: Oxford University, 2001.

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Expectations

of students.

- 1) All assignments must be completed and turned into the "Office" by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized by a 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late.
- 2) Students are expected to participate regularly in class discussion in the discussion center. Each module will include discussion questions calling for a response. Also, please reply to the responses of your fellow students. This portion of the grade will be calculated based on quality and regularity of responses, not quantity. Brief responses such as "Right on" or "I agree" don't count. Rather, posts should show evidence of thought and reasoning
- 3) Be polite and courteous in all of your communications.

of professor

- 1) I will check the discussion center and office regularly for questions and concerns and respond as well as possible.
- 2) I will return all work within one week

Course Schedule

Module 1 – Introductory Material – Due September 15

Topics:

- 1) Introductions to the course and to each other
- 2) Review of exegetical procedures and methods
- 3) Introduction to and overview of 1-2 Samuel

Assignments

- 1) Brief assignment #1: Prepare an outline of all 1-2 Samuel
- 2) Read "Samuel, Book of 1-2," section entitled "Text, Composition, and Content" in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, vol. 5, pp. 957-965
- 3) Read the introductions in the commentaries
- 4) Participation in on-line discussion of questions posted in Module 1 assignment.

Module 2 – 1 Samuel 1-7 Due September 22

Topics:

- 1) Review of Hebrew nouns and verbs
- 2) Review of deuteronomistic history; place of the Samuel story in dtr.
- 3) Introduction to redactional issues in 1 Samuel

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- 4) Ark narrative

Assignments

- 1) Read 1 Samuel 1-7 and corresponding sections in the commentary
- 2) Brief assignment #2: Do grammatical analysis of the passage assigned in module 2.
- 3) Respond to the discussion questions posted in module 2 (pertaining to the portrayal of Samuel) and respond to at least two of your classmates' postings on the questions.

Module 3 – 1 Samuel 8-15 **Due October 6**

Topics

- 1) Rise of the monarchy
- 2) Different views of monarchy reflected in 1 Samuel
- 3) Relationship between prophet and king in ancient Israel as reflected in 1 Samuel

Assignments

- 1) Brief assignment #4 : Do a grammatical analysis of the passage assigned for module 3.
- 2) Read 1 Samuel 8-15 and corresponding sections in commentaries
- 3) Respond to the discussion questions posted in module 3 (pertaining to 1 Samuel's portrayal of the rise of the monarchy)
- 4) Write first exegetical paper

Module 4 – 1 Sam. 16-31 **Due October 13**

Topics

- 1) Textual criticism
- 2) Relationship between Samuel and Saul
- 3) David the mercenary
- 4) David and the Nob priesthood

Assignments

- 1) Read 1 Sam. 16-31 and the relevant material in the commentaries
- 2) Brief assignment #5: Text criticism. Summarize the variants for the phrase given in the module 4 assignment. What are the arguments for each variant, and how do the variants affect the interpretation of the passage?
- 3) Participate in responding to the discussion questions for module 4.

Module 5 - 2 Samuel 1-7 **Due November 3**

Topics

- 1) Civil war following the death of Saul

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- 2) God's promise to David

Assignments

- 1) Read 1 Sam. 1-7 and relevant material in the commentaries
- 2) Read Psalms 89 and 132.
- 3) Brief assignment #6: Write a brief essay on the nature of the promise/covenant to/with David in 2 Sam. 7, Ps. 132, Ps. 89
- 4) Write second exegetical paper on passage from 2 Sam. 7
- 5) Respond to discussion questions for module 5.

Module 6 - 2 Samuel 8-12 **Due November 17**

Topics

- 1) David and Bathsheba
- 2) "Biography" of King David

Assignments

- 1) Read 2 Sam. 8-12 and the relevant sections of the commentary
- 2) Write third exegetical paper
- 3) Begin reading McKenzie, "King David: A Biography"
- 4) Respond to discussion questions

Module 7 - 2 Samuel 13-20 **Due December 1**

Topics

- 1) Rape of Tamar
- 2) Revolt of Absalom

Assignments

- 1) Finish reading McKenzie book and complete book review
- 2) Discussion: After you have posted your book review, respond to one other person's review
- 3) Begin work on final paper

Module 8 - Wrap-up and final paper **Due December 14**

Assignment

- 1) Write final paper

ExL Contact Information

For **general questions regarding the ExL program**, email
ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

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For **technical support**, email ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

Library/Information Commons Resources

Link: <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/library>

General Questions: information_commons@asburyseminary.edu Toll-free 1-866-454-2733

This is the best place to start when you have questions about library resources. Help is available Monday-Thursday from 8AM-7PM and Friday and Saturday from 8AM-5:45PM. If the people at the desk can not answer your questions, they will direct you to the person or department who can.

Materials Requests: library_loan@asburyseminary.edu Or call toll-free 1-866-454-2733

ExL Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the library loan office for information on costs and instructions on how to make requests.

ExL students are also encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

Research Questions: Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu

Or call the toll-free number and ask to be transferred to Hannah (x2189).

ExL students are encouraged to contact Hannah Kirsch for research assistance including help choosing a paper topic, determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

Online Databases:

To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to www.asburyseminary.edu/library and enter your 10 digit student id number in the login box. Your student id is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a ten digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id). If you have questions, contact the information commons desk.

Windows and Icons

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules (No interaction takes place here. This is where the prof. posts course materials only).

The Discussion Center will be used for all public, class communication. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else which would be of interest to your classmates and the professor, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The OT619XL Office is for private correspondence between you and the professor. This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates, including assignments, papers, projects, and personal

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correspondence. This should not be used to ask general course-related questions.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. *Remember:* None of the conversations carried on in this location are ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, chapel services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio Player.

The Joys and Concerns Center is for you to share your joys, concerns, prayer requests, and other personal information with your classmates.