GOAL:

This course is an exposition of the Historical Books or Former Prophets of the Old Testament. As such, it will focus on the historical periods of Israel’s establishment in the land of Canaan, the United and Divided Monarchies, and the Destruction and subsequent Exile of both Israel and Judah. Our approach will be both exegetical (historical-grammatical) and theological (the unfolding of redemptive history). In this manner, we will attempt to understand the import of the writings in their time as well as for today. Thus, the proper application of the historical literature to the church today will be prominent. An examination of Messianic prophecy and typology will be vital to our discussion. In this respect, the student should become aware of the many issues in the study of the historical literature of the Hebrews, and how these have been understood and interpreted. Ultimately, this course should provide a good foundation for the student to apply Scripture to all life.

TEXTBOOKS:

The following books are required for the course:


REQUIREMENTS:

One of two tracks may be taken in the course. The first track is for students who have had at least one year of Hebrew studies (Hebrew I and II). The second track pertains to students who have not yet studied the Hebrew language.
Track One:

1. The student is required to translate the following passages and parse all verbs in them: Judges 2:11-17; Ruth 4:13-22; II Samuel 7:8-14; Psalm 3; and Psalm 8. Complete translations and parsing are to be given to me by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27. For each day late, the assignment will be docked one letter grade. The student is not permitted to use any computer programs in translation; the student will sign a statement at the end of the translation that says he/she has not used computer programs in translation. 20% of the final grade.

2. Reading report. The student is required to complete the following reading: the historical books of Judges through Esther, the entire book by D. Ralph Davis, and Parts 5-15 (Period of the Judges through Persian Hegemony) in the Merrill book. This report is due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27. 10% of the final grade.

3. Final examination. 70% of the final grade.

Track Two:

1. The student is required to do a 4-5 page book review of one of the following expositional commentaries written by Ralph Davis: Joshua, Judges, I Samuel, or II Samuel. You may purchase the commentary in the bookstore or you may use one of them that is on reserve in the library. It is due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27. For each day late, the assignment will be docked one letter grade. 20% of the final grade.

2. Reading report. The student is required to complete the following reading: the historical books of Judges through Esther, the entire book by D. Ralph Davis, and Parts 5-15 (Period of the Judges through Persian Hegemony) in the Merrill book. This report is due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27. 10% of the final grade.

3. Final examination. 70% of the final grade.

In both tracks, class attendance, participation, and completing the assigned reading are expected.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

Topics

Friday, February 3
Syllabus/Introduction
Interpreting Narrative Literature: Literary, Historical, and Theological Perspectives
The Problem of Theodicy
Friday, February 10
  Introduction to Judges: Continuing Conflict
  Introduction to Idolatry

Friday, February 17
  Ehud: A Literary Study
  Deborah: Leader and Judge

Friday, February 24
  Jephthah: A Holocaust
  Samson: Religious Assimilation

Friday, March 2
  Judges 19 and Echo Literary Strategy
  The Book of Ruth: The Concept of Redemption

Friday, March 9
  Exodus Pattern in the Ark Episode
  Kingship in Israel

Friday, March 16
  Spring Break

Friday, March 23
  The Kingship of Saul

Friday, March 30
  The Kingship of David

Friday, April 6
  The Kingship of David

Friday, April 13
  The Reign of Solomon
  Division

Friday, April 20
  Life of Elijah

Friday, April 27
  Exile

Friday, May 4
  Final Examination