INSTRUCTOR
Miles V. Van Pelt
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this seminar, we will study and participate in the academic discipline commonly referred to as “Biblical Theology.” We will study the history of the discipline, its methodology, and the contribution it is making to both exegetical and systematic theology. In addition to issues of history and methodology, we will also participate in the quest to identify the “center” of biblical theology. Finally, we will conduct our own biblical theological studies in the following two categories: (1) a single canonical book and (2) a single biblical-theological theme.

COURSE PROTOCOLS
1. Grading Schedule. The letter grading scale is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-96%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>91-93%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>88-90%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>86-87%</td>
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<td>83-85%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>80-82%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>78-79%</td>
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<td>75-77%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>72-74%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-71%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-69%</td>
<td>F</td>
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2. Attendance and Late Assignments. Attendance is a requirement. Due to the seminar nature of the course offering, unexcused absence is not permitted. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.

3. Special Needs. In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

4. Computers. The use of a computer in class is not recommended. They may be used, if necessary, for note taking purposes. The playing of games, the use of the Internet, or work unrelated to the course is prohibited. A first offence will result in the loss of a letter grade. A second offence will result in course failure.

5. Disclaimer. This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the semester.
TEXTBOOKS

Required

Hebrew Bible (preferably *Biblia Sacra*)

Hebrew Lexicon (KB/HALOT)


Recommended


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Hebrew Translation.** At the very core of OT Biblical Theology is the text of the Hebrew Bible. In order to develop our skills in this area, we will be reading through the Elijah narratives of 1 Kings 17–2 Kings 2 (260 verses). The first 30-45 minutes of each class will be devoted to reading the Hebrew text. For this task, only a clean Hebrew Bible is permitted (no computer printouts!). See the reading schedule below – 20% of course grade.

2. **Weekly Reading.** Weekly reading assignments must be completed before the assigned class in order to ensure full and quality interaction of seminar participants. See reading schedule below – 20% of course grade.

3. **Seminar Presentations and Papers.** Each student will prepare two 30 minute seminar presentations to be delivered, according to schedule, between March 29 and May 3. At the time of presentation, students will hand out a one page outline of the presentation to all seminar participants. Subsequent to delivery and class interaction, each presentation will be formalized and submitted as two 10 page papers. Due May 10, 2005.
   
   a. **Presentation 1 – Biblical Theological Themes.** Select a biblical-theological theme (e.g. creation, divine presence, God as Warrior, covenant, curse, etc.), trace that theme through the OT, identify its development and use in the NT, survey the scholarly literature on the topic, and present your findings to the seminar – 30% of course grade.
   
   b. **Presentation 2 – Biblical Theology of OT Books.** Select one of the books of the OT and describe the biblical theological contribution of that book in terms of canon and covenant, redemptive history, the center of biblical theology, and its development of major biblical-theological themes – 30% of course grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>Introduction and Syllabus</th>
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<td>7</td>
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| 14       | History of the Discipline: Who is Driving this Train?  
  **Required Reading:** Childs, pp. 1-51; House, pp. 11-57, 539-559  
  **Recommended Reading:** Scobie, pp. 3-45; *NDBT*, pp. 11-20 |
| 21       | Methodology: How Do We Do It?  
  **Required Reading:** Childs, pp. 55-106; Hafemann, pp. 195-211.  
  **Recommended Reading:** Scobie, pp. 46-80, Vos, pp. 3-26. |
| 28       | Recent Attempts: What are They Doing Now?  
  **Required Reading:** Hafemann, pp. 15-24; 83-99  
  **Recommended Reading:** Scobie, pp. 81-104 |
March 7 The Quest for a Center: What are We Aiming At?
   Required Reading: Hafemann, 267-286; Dempster, pp. 45-51, 231-234.

14 Spring Break

21 Canon and Covenant: The Questions Answered!
   Required Reading: Hafemann, pp. 25-37; 66-82; 111-128; Dempster, pp. 15-43; Kline, 1-110; Steinmann, all.

28 Seminar Presentations:

April 4 Seminar Presentations:
11 Seminar Presentations:
18 Seminar Presentations:
25 Seminar Presentations:

May 2 Seminar Presentations:
9 Final Seminar Papers Due

HEBREW READING SCHEDULE

February 7 Introduction and Resources
   14 1 Kings 17:1-24
   21 1 Kings 18:1-24
   28 1 Kings 18:25-46

March 7 1 Kings 19:1-21
   14 Spring Break
   21 1 Kings 20:1-22
   28 1 Kings 20:23-43

April 4 1 Kings 21:1-29
   11 1 Kings 22:1-23
   18 1 Kings 22:24-54
   25 2 Kings 1:1-18

May 2 2 Kings 2:1-25
9 Final Seminar Papers Due