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 estatement 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, February 6. 20% of final grade. For each day late, the assignment will be docked one letter grade.

   1. 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 4-8 (Period of the Judges through Persian Hegemony) in the Kaiser book. This report is due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6. 10% of the final grade.

2. A final examination will be given on the last day of the class. 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, February 6. 20% of final grade. For each day late, the assignment will be docked one letter 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 4-8 (Period of the Judges through Persian Hegemony) in the Kaiser book. This report is due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6. 10% of the final grade.

3. A final examination will be given on the last day of the class. 70% of the final grade.

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

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

Topics

Monday, January 12

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

1. Tuesday, January 13
   Ehud: A Literary Study
   Deborah: Leader and Judge
   Jephthah: A Holocaust
   Samson: Religious Assimilation
   Judges 19 and Echo Literary Strategy
   The Book of Ruth: The Concept of Redemption

Wednesday, January 14

   Exodus Pattern in the Ark Episode
   Kingship in Israel

   The Kingship of Saul
   The Kingship of David

Thursday, January 15

   The Reign of Solomon
   Division
   Life of Elijah

Friday, January 16

   Exile
   Final Examination