INSTRUCTOR
Miles V. Van Pelt
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Wednesday, 8:00–10:00 AM
Classroom: BS2
601-923-1695

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a biblical-theological study of the historical books of the Old Testament. It covers the historical period spanning Israel’s entrance into the land of Canaan (Joshua), the period of the judges (Judges, Ruth), the rise and fall of the Monarchy, (Samuel, Kings, Chronicles), and the exilic and post-exilic eras (Kings, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles). Special emphasis is placed upon the canonical position of each book and its theological message. Additionally, class lectures will devote significant time to the life of David and the Elijah-Elisha narratives.

COURSE PROTOCOLS

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

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>94-96%</td>
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<td>91-93%</td>
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<td>86-87%</td>
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<td>83-85%</td>
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<td>80-82%</td>
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<td>78-79%</td>
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2. Attendance and Late Assignments. Attendance is a requirement. Unexcused absence is not permitted. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are reduced 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

1. **English Bible Students.**

   English Bible (NIV will be used for class lectures)


2. **Hebrew Bible Students.**

   Hebrew Bible (preferably *Biblia Sacra*)

   Hebrew Lexicon (KB/HALOT)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **English Bible Students.**

   (a) **Required Reading** – 25%.

   (1) Joshua–Esther in an English Bible.

   (2) Kline, *The Structure of Biblical Authority*, 21–110.

   (3) House, *Old Testament Theology*, 197-271 (Joshua-Kings); 455-462 (Ruth), 490-496 (Esther); 512-547 (Ezra-Chronicles).


   (b) **Required Writing**.

   (1) According to Kline (*The Structure of Biblical Authority*), how does the covenantal nature of OT biblical literature relate to the formation of the OT canon? How do the historical books fit into a covenantal scheme? Five (5) double-spaced pages – 10%.

   (2) With the help of Provan, Long, and Longman, develop a chronological summary chart of Israelite history from Abraham to Ezra/Nehemiah. In this chart, you must include major biblical figures, institutions, dates, and the books of the Bible that record these details. Your summary chart should be as detailed as possible – 15%

   (c) **Final Exam.** A final exam will be given during the final exam week. The exam will cover class lectures and the required reading – 50%.

2. **Hebrew Bible Students.**

   (a) **Hebrew Reading.** 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 2 (260 verses). See schedule below –40%.

   (b) **Required Writing.** Select one passage from the Elisha narratives found in 2 Kings 3–13 and write a 10-15 page exegesis paper on this passage. See page 4 of this syllabus for the format and the required components of this paper –20%.

   (c) **Final Exam.** A final exam will be given during the final exam week. The exam will cover class lectures and the required Hebrew reading –40%. 
COURSE SCHEDULE

February
2 Introduction and Syllabus
9 Lecture: Canon and Covenant
16 Lecture: Theology of History and Historiography
23 Lecture: Introduction to the Genre of Historical Narrative

March
2 Historical Books in the Writings: Part 1 (Kline Papers Due)
9 Historical Books in the Writings: Part 2
16 Joshua
23 Spring Break
30 Judges

April
6 Introduction to Samuel and Kings: Life of David
13 Life of David (Chronological Summary Charts Due)
20 Life of David
27 Solomon and the Divided Monarchy

May
4 Elijah and Elisha (Hebrew Exegesis Papers Due)
11 Elijah and Elisha
16-19 Final Exam Week

HEBREW READING SCHEDULE

February
2 None
9 1 Kings 17:1-24
16 1 Kings 18:1-24
23 1 Kings 18:25-46

March
2 1 Kings 19:1-21
9 1 Kings 20:1-22
16 1 Kings 20:23-43
23 Spring Break
30 1 Kings 21:1-29

April
6 1 Kings 22:1-23
13 1 Kings 22:24-54
20 2 Kings 1:1-18
27 2 Kings 2:1-25

May
4 Review 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 2 (no meeting)
11 Review 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 2 (no meeting)
16-19 Final Exam Week
EXEGESIS PAPER FORMAT

Before you begin, you must select a passage for study from 2 Kings 3-13 and then get my approval of that passage for your paper. Your exegesis paper must include the following eight components:

1. **Title Page**

2. **Hebrew Text.** The first step is to import the Hebrew text into your word processing application. At this point, footnote and discuss any relevant text critical issues that appear in the textual apparatus or secondary literature.

3. **English Translation.** Provide your own idiomatic translation of the Hebrew text into English. Footnote any relevant information that relates to your translation. For example, you may comment on how your translation differs from one or more of the standard English translations.

4. **Introduction and Outline.** Give a basic introduction to the content and structure of your passage. In other words, give me the big picture before you begin the verse by verse commentary. Your outline must stem from the Hebrew text and you must be able to defend your outline based upon the (narrative) syntax of the passage.

5. **Verse by Verse Commentary.** Describe the basic contents of each verse. Detailed analysis of grammar and syntax, word studies, the discussion of historical or social issues, and the contribution that the individual verse makes to the whole are possible categories for discussion.

6. **Theological Summary and Conclusions.** Tie it all together! This is the “so what?” section of the paper. What is the biblical-theological contribution of this passage to the larger narrative complex (Elijah-Elisha narratives) or to the whole of scripture? How does your passage contribute to the development of systematic theology? What does your passage teach us about Christian living? Ultimately, we must determine and describe the presentation of the Gospel in the passage.

7. **Sermon Outline.** Create a one page sermon outline from which you could preach.

8. **Bibliography.** Provide a complete listing of all secondary literature cited in your paper. Entries may include Hebrew grammars, lexicons, word study books, monographs, dissertations, journal articles, or commentaries. Note that one’s consultation of commentaries should be restricted to the final stages of preparation and study. At this stage in your training, it is more important that you develop your own exegetical skill rather than rely upon the work of others with similar training.

* Your final paper will be approximately 10-15 pages in length. Do not try to be exhaustive in your research. This is impossible! You will want to research and prepare enough material for a single, thirty minute sermon. Be focused, precise, and clear. For additional help in this area, see Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis*, 3rd ed. (Louisville: WJK, 2001), pp. 5-32.
DON’T TEASE A BALD MAN!
2 KINGS 2:23-25

A Paper
Presented to
Miles V. Van Pelt
Reformed Theological Seminary
Jackson, Mississippi

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Joshua–Esther (OT 510)

by
Joe Student
RTS Box 8675309
May 10, 2005