

## **Interpreting the Old Testament 2: 1 Kings to Song of Solomon**

BLS 501YM: 2 credit hours

**Instructor: Glen A. Snyder, D.Min.**

Adjunct Faculty

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### **SYLLABUS**

**Session A: May 4 – Jun 27**

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

May 6, 13, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17 (Wed., 5:45 - 9:55 p.m.)

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The books from Kings through the Song of Solomon are studied, with emphasis upon both biblical content and the application of hermeneutical methodology.

#### **COURSE GOALS**

Understanding the Old Testament is fundamental to both the life and ministry of every believer. To achieve this understanding, one must be able to avoid getting lost between Genesis and Revelation. Each book in the Bible makes its own contribution to God's unfolding revelation. Therefore, each book merits thoughtful consideration. To do this you must:

- Have a greater reverence for the Old Testament Scriptures.
- Understand what "the kingdom of God" means and be able to describe how the foundation for understanding this theme is established in the Pentateuch and the historical books.
- Integrate the teaching of the Old Testament into one's life "for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that you may be thoroughly equipped for every good deed."

The goal of this course is to lay the foundation and provide the basic skills for understanding the rich revelation in the Old Testament.

#### **COURSE CONTRIBUTION TO STATED DEGREE OUTCOMES**

The objectives of this course are tied directly to the desired outcomes constructed specifically for the four seminary degrees for which this course is a requirement. Below is an excerpt of the degree outcomes to which this course relates:

- 1) Be a person whose Christ-like character is worthy of being emulated, and whose integrity imparts credibility to his/her ministry
  - a) reflects biblical balance and skill in life management, appropriately fulfilling the roles and responsibilities mandated by God (MFM 500; SFS 501, 502; overarching)

- 2) Know the major themes and developments of God's redemptive activity revealed in Scripture
  - a) understands the basic framework of biblical history (BLS 501-3)
  - b) understands the major contribution of each book to the canon (BLS 501-3)
  - c) understands the basic argument of each book and its relevance for contemporary ministry (BLS 501-3)
  
- 3) Be able to think biblically and critically so that various truth claims can be effectively evaluated
  - a) has embraced a biblical world view (THS 501-3 overarching)
  - b) able to apply the basic elements of critical analysis and sound reasoning (MFM 500; overarching)
  - c) sensitive to cultural variations in styles of thinking (overarching)
  - d) reflects an appropriately humble and charitable spirit in applying biblical criteria for truth (overarching)
  
- 4) Be able to communicate God's truth clearly, accurately, and convincingly
  - a) able to communicate one's thoughts effectively in writing (MFM 500; overarching)
  
- 5) Be a true life-long learner, building upon his/her seminary training
  - a) committed to pursuing growth and learning in key areas of need (MFM 500; overarching)
  - b) able to access and manage information (including that available via computer/on-line resources) so that it is readily available when needed (overarching)

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the conclusion of this course the student should be able to:

- Synthesize each book studied by using the principles from "the kingdom of God."
- Recount the basic content of each book of the Old Testament.
- Know the major connection and contribution of each book to canon wide themes.
- Know the relevance of each book for present day living.
- Have a biblical foundation in terms of syntheses and analysis upon which to engage in future studies.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

*We are happy to announce that Western Sacramento is now an Amazon Associate. Any purchases (not just books) you make on Amazon using this link will mean that a minimum of 4% of the purchase price comes to Western. Please support your seminary by using this link for all your Amazon purchases.*

Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

## Required

LaSor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard and Fredric Wm. Bush. [Old Testament Survey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#). Grand Rapids: William B. Erdmans Publishing Company, 1996. (ISBN: 0-8028-3788-3)

Aharoni, Yohanan and Avi-Yonah, Micael. *The Carta Bible Atlas, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Carta, Jerusalem. 2002. (ISBN: 965-220-487-0)

## Recommended

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2000. (ISBN: 0-664220681)

Martens, Elmer A. *God's Design: a Focus on Old Testament Theology*. D. & F. Scott Publishing, 1997. (ISBN: 0-941037517)

Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Baker Academic, 1996. (ISBN: 0-801021030)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Reading (30 hours)

Required texts will be read as assigned in the course schedule at the mastery level. Reading at this level averages about 20 pages per hour and assumes careful reflective interaction with the ideas, note taking, and will lead to accountability in class. Each assignment should be completed before the class session so that you will be able to participate in and benefit from the class discussions.

- William LaSor, 201 pages (A ten question quiz will be given in class based upon the readings in both LaSor and Carta)
- Carta Bible Atlas, 45 pages
- Bible: Kings through Song of Solomon (read each one of the biblical books from a good modern translation by the time of the appropriate class session)

### Study Project

The student will be required to produce a significant OT research project in the form of survey which maps the **chronology** of a significant OT event (The rise of the United Monarchy, The Fall of Israel, The of Judah, Assyrian Empire, and Babylonian Empire).

Included in the project will be background studies on the cultural, historical, geographical, archaeological, literary, grammatical and linguistic issues.

Projects must cite a minimum of five secondary sources in an attached bibliography, two of which must be from a physical library. You are free to add visual aides to the paper: charts, graphs, pictures, and maps, art made by students to emphasize the message of one book or the other.

Time required: **(20 hours)**

## Examination (10 hours)

There will be one examination as per the class schedule. Complete this exam outside of class and turn it in on the assigned day. Please type your response and use any format that reflects graduate level work.

The test question will be the same for all exams, and will be as follows:

Relate the content of [Kings through Nehemiah] to the ongoing reconstruction of the Kingdom of God. First, list the basic elements of the broad concept of the kingdom. Second, discuss how the conventional components, which form the blueprint for the kingdom's reconstruction, relate to the books in question. Place the detail of the books into its immediate and broader contexts. Be systematic and orderly in your essay. Supply specific chapter references for your statements.

## CLASS POLICIES

**Cover page:** To safeguard confidentiality, please make use of a title page as a cover for all assignments. Include your student mailbox number in the upper right corner of the cover page.

**Attendance and Late Assignments:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Unexcused absences and tardiness will impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should discuss it in advance with the instructor. Any late work will incur a minimum reduction of one letter grade.

Students who miss three or more hours of instruction will not pass the course, unless they arrange with the instructor to complete additional assignments (1 page per hour missed).

**Incompletes:** **Session A extensions begin June 27.** Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the Sacramento class schedule. In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the instructor may, **if it is initiated by the student**, grant an extension. A 1-3 week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and in all cases the standard decrease of a full letter grade for late work applies. Extensions desired by student beyond 3 weeks, with prof support, must be approved by the Sacramento Academic Coordinator with 5 weeks after the end of the course being the longest possible extension for work being due to the prof (this allows a 6<sup>th</sup> week for the grading of work and a grade change request to be filed). A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. Under no circumstances may this six-week period be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee in Portland.

**The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary:** Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

**Enrichment Students:** Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

## **LIBRARY AND INTERNET RESEARCH**

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit [www.westernseminary.edu](http://www.westernseminary.edu) .
- Click the link “Sacramento Campus” in the left navigation pane.
- Click the link “Library Resources” in the left navigation pane.

### **Reserve Collection**

The library carries all required readings for this course.

### **Print Resources**

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Search the Library Collection Online”.

### **Periodical & Research Databases**

As you complete your assignments for this course, don't forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link “Research Databases” from the bottom menu.
- Click the link “Ebsco Host Research Databases”.
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link “EBSCOhost Web”.
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*.

To cite your information, consider the following MLA composers:

<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Western-Arcade Library offers a variety of ministry related software for student use including BibleWorks, Logos Bible Software, and SeminaryLibrary.

### **Course Packs (if applicable)**

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link ‘Course Packs’.

### **Reference and Research Contact Information**

David Holifield, M.A., M.L.S. / (916) 488-3720, ext. 7 / [dholifield@westernseminary.edu](mailto:dholifield@westernseminary.edu)

## **GRADING**

This course is graded as follows:

- Reading/Quizzes = 20%

- Exam = 40%
- Study Project = 40%

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
99-100%	95-98%	93-94%	91-92%	88-90%	86-87%	84-85%	81-83%	79-80%	77-78%	74-76%	70-73%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Subject	Assignment
May 6	Introduction Syllabus Introduction of Textbooks The Kingdom of God	
May 13	1 & 2 Kings LaSor, ch.13-15 Carta Atlas, pages 84-90	Reading Assignment Quiz
May 20	1 & 2 Chronicles LaSor, Ch. 41 Carta Atlas, pages 91-100	Reading Assignment Quiz
May 27	Ezra/Nehemiah/Esther LaSor, ch. 40, 42 Carta Atlas, pages 101-109	Reading Assignment Quiz
June 3	Job/Psalms LaSor, ch. 31, 32, 33, 35 Carta Atlas, pages 110-119	Reading Assignment Quiz
June 10	Proverbs LaSor, ch. 34 Carta Atlas, pages 120-127	Reading Assignment Quiz Exam Due
June 17	Ecclesiastes/Song of Solomon LaSor, ch. 36, 37 Carta Atlas, pages 128-129	Reading Assignment Quiz
June 27		Project Due (email)