

BI 233 Old Testament Historical Books
Syllabus and Course Outline (2nd draft, 13 Jan 2008)
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I. Syllabus

A. Important Due Dates on the Schedule

These are due dates for course work. Work must be submitted by the required method by class time on the assignment day. In case of essays, this means submission on this course's listing on www.TurnItIn.com.

1. *Enroll on TurnItIn for this course*

Tuesday, January 15th

* Go to www.TurnItIn.com

New Users: Follow the menu choices to add yourself as a student.

Previous Users: Log in using the e-mail and password already recorded with TurnItIn.

* Enroll for BI233 OT Historical Books Spring 2008

Course ID: 2140908

Course Password: BI233

2. *Project 1: Reading response essay on the biblical relation of history and theology*

Monday, January 21st

3. *Midterm Exam*

Tuesday, February 26th

4. *Project 2: Essay comparing and contrasting the treatment of a key person on event covered in both Samuel–Kings and Chronicles*

Friday, February 29th

5. *Project 3: TBA*

Monday, April 21st

6. *Final Exam*

Tuesday, April 29th (7:30–9:00)

B. Description

C. Overall Objectives

D. Resources

1. *Web Resources*

My web site is www.Bible-Resources.org, where I will post various resources for this course.

2. *Textbooks*

Howard, David M. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books*. Chicago: Moody, 2007.

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Illustrated by Maira Kalman. New York: Penguin, 2005.

E. Requirements

1. *Attend class regularly.*

I will enforce the CBC attendance policy.

2. *Read all of the textbook on schedule*

3. *Complete and submit all assignments on schedule.*

4. *Take the midterm and final exams on their scheduled dates.*

F. Grading

1. *Projects*

These will be worth 1/3 of your course grade.

2. *Midterm Exam*

This will be worth 1/3 of your course grade.

3. *Final Exam*

This will be worth 1/3 of your course grade.

II. Course Outline

This follows the outline of your textbook by Howard.

A. Introduction to Historical Narrative

1. Reading

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 1)
- b. Recommended

In various works, Long has provided the best evangelical treatments of the issue of biblical history (Long 1994), and this same work can be found in a compilation of works (Long and Silva 1996). A briefer treatment can be found in an Old Testament history to which he contributed (Provan, Long and Longman 2003). And see the nice collection of essays on the issue (Long, Baker and Wenham 2002). As to historical *narrative*, it's worth looking at the words by Alter, Berlin, and Pratt (Alter 1985; Berlin 1983; Pratt 1993). And on the necessity of reawakening our narrative skills, see Frei (Frei 1974). On harmonization (Crockett 1897), and on the use and limits of harmonization (Blomberg 1986). On archaeology and history (Hoerth 1998).

2. Lectures

- a. Historical Narrative as Prose: Contrast with Poetry
- b. Historical Narrative as History
- c. Modern Historical Study of Biblical History
- d. Historical Narrative as Literature

B. Joshua

1. Reading

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 2)
- b. Recommended

For the best commentaries on Joshua, see Longman 2007. On the historicity of the account (Harrison 1969); on "land" (Brueggemann 1977); on ANE warfare (Yadin 1963) and on the brutality of conquest (Kaiser 1983; Kaiser 1992; Craigie 1978); and on the dating of the exodus and conquest (Waltke 1972; Waltke 1990).

2. Lectures

C. Judges

1. Reading

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 3)
- b. Recommended

For the best commentaries on Judges, see Longman 2007. On general introduction to Judges (Harrison 1969); on archaeology of the time (Thompson 1982).

2. Lectures

D. Ruth

1. Reading

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 4)
- b. Recommended

For the best commentaries on Ruth, see Longman 2007. Also see (Childs 1979; Tribble 1978).

2. Lectures

E. 1 & 2 Samuel

1. Reading

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 5)
- b. Recommended

For the best commentaries on First and Second Samuel, see Longman 2007. On the canonical role of 1 and 2 Samuel (Dumbrell 1990); the Davidic covenant (Dumbrell 1980; Howard 1988; Howard 1990; Howard 1989).

2. Lectures

F. 1 & 2 Kings

1. Reading

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 6)
- b. Recommended
For the best commentaries on First and Second Kings, see Longman 2007. On dating the kings (Thiele 1977; Thiele 1983); Deuteronomic theology (McConville 1993; Cross 1973; von Rad 1966).

2. *Lectures*

G. 1 & 2 Chronicles

1. *Reading*

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 7)
- b. Recommended
For the best commentaries on First and Second Chronicles, see Longman 2007. On the purpose of Chronicles (Dumbrell 1984); kingship (Howard 1988); and retribution theology (Dillard 1984), with examples in the reigns of Solomon (Dillard 1981) and Asa (Dillard 1980).

2. *Lectures*

H. Ezra–Nehemia

1. *Reading*

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 9)
- b. Recommended
For the best commentaries on Ezra and Nehemiah, see Longman 2007. On the theology of Ezra and Nehemiah (Dumbrell 1986; McConville 1986); on “Persians,” see the various Bible dictionaries and (Wiseman 1973; Hoerth, Yamauchi and Millard 1994).

2. *Lectures*

I. Esther

1. *Reading*

- a. Required (Howard 2007, ch. 10)
- b. Recommended
For the best commentaries on Esther, see Longman 2007. On historicity of Esther (Wright 1970); on the theology of Esther (*NIDOTTE*, 1996); on “Persians,” see the various Bible dictionaries and (Wiseman 1973; Hoerth, et al. 1994).

2. *Lectures*

- a. Purim reading of Esther
Noise-makers required, masquerade costume optional.

III. Bibliography

Presently, this will be limited to works cited throughout the course syllabus.

WORKS CITED

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- Brueggemann, Walter A. *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise and Challenge in Biblical Faith*. Overtures to Biblical Theology. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1977. Three histories: (1) history of promise into the land, (2) history of management into exile, and (3) new history of promise beginning in exile and culminating in kingdom.
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- Harrison, Roland K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1969. A standard heavy-duty Introduction, to deal with authorship, date, unity, etc. from a conservative stance.
- Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1998.

- Hoerth, Alfred J., and Gerald L. Mattingly Yamauchi, eds., Alan R. Millard. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1994.
- Howard, David M., Jr. "The Case for Kingship in Deuteronomy and the Former Prophets." *Westminster Theological Journal* 52 (1990): 101–15.
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- Long, V. Philips. *The Art of Biblical History*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1994.
- Long, V. Philips, David W. Baker, and Gordon J. Wenham, eds. *Windows Into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument, and the Crisis of "Biblical Israel."* Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Co., 2002.
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