

Dr. David M. Howard, Jr. Bethel Theological Seminary Spring 2004 InMinistry – St. Paul (intensive)	Office: A 203 / P.O. Box 7016 Telephone: 651-638-6197 E-mail: dhoward@bethel.edu Web site: www.bethel.edu/~dhoward T.A.: Mrs. Becky Neve: beckyneve@earthlink.net
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GENESIS TO RUTH

(OT 101)

Catalogue Description

“An examination of the books of Genesis through Ruth, including the contents, major themes, and theological messages of each. Special emphasis is placed on the nature and significance of God’s promises and covenants with His people. Special attention also is given to legitimate ways of reading the Bible. This involves understanding the particular qualities of narrative literature and of Old Testament law, and developing a valid hermeneutic for interpreting them. Prerequisite or concurrent enrollment: BT 101/BI101. Four hours.”

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to demonstrate

1. A thorough knowledge of the contents of Genesis through Ruth.
2. A grasp of the major themes of these books, and how these fit the larger themes of the Old and New Testaments.
3. Basic skills of Biblical exegesis based on the English Bible, including knowledge of the special nature of Hebrew narrative.
4. A knowledge of relevant extra-Biblical materials, including a knowledge of their roles in exegesis and apologetics.

In addition, a goal of this course is to stimulate a love and appreciation for these portions of the Old Testament, and their use in Christian ministry.

Required Textbooks

1. *The Bible*. Any modern version is acceptable.
2. Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman, III, *An Introduction to the Old Testament (D&L)*. Zondervan, 1994.
3. Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. Basic Books, 1981.

Course Requirements

NOTE: Weekly submissions are due by 4:00 p.m. (St. Paul time) on Fridays of the given week, unless otherwise specified.

1. Reading (20%)

- A. The entire contents of the books of Genesis through Ruth are to be read, in any version desired. International students may read the Bible in their own language. *Each book must be read at one sitting. This is an essential part of the course experience and may not be waived.*
- B. The corresponding chapters in the Dillard and Longman (D&L) textbook (chaps. 2-9) are to be read on the days the Biblical books are covered.
- C. The textbook by Alter is to be read in Week 2.

All Bible and textbook readings must be done by the week indicated below. They must be accounted for using the forms at the end of the syllabus. ***Please e-mail all reading forms directly to the professor's T.A., Mrs. Becky Neve, at beckyneve@earthlink.net.***

2. Forums (----)

Two discussion forums are scheduled, in Weeks 1 and 2.

- (1) For the first, post 100-150 words of your own reactions to your reading of Genesis. This can be at either or both of two levels:
(a) Your reaction to reading an entire book like Genesis at one sitting. What was the experience like? (b) Things that you noticed in Genesis this time that you'd never seen (or appreciated) before. ***Due: April 2.***
- (2) For the second, there are two requirements:
(A) Post an 800-1000 word reaction paper to your reading of Robert Alter's book. Please go beyond general comments such as "I liked it" or "He's too liberal" to specifics. Focus on ways in which his reading of the Bible can be helpful, and areas where you have concerns with his approach. ***Due: April 9.***
(B) Post a 100-150 word reaction to "The Student, the Fish, and Agassiz." ***Due: April 9.***

These discussion forums will not be graded, but they must be completed. Any inferior (or incomplete) work on the forums will be reflected in your

reading grade (above). The intent of these forums is to encourage class interaction, so please be creative, stimulating, trenchant, and wise in your comments!

3. Worksheets (40%)

Eight worksheets are to be completed and handed in (via e-mail) according to the schedule below. These should be typed, double-spaced, with ragged right margins, no larger than 12-point type. These usually will be on important passages, and most will cover a different aspect of the exegetical task (grammatical, literary, theological, practical, etc.). Because these worksheets will be discussed in class, late submissions are not accepted. (Circumstances that a congregation would accept for a pastor's missing a Sunday sermon may allow for rare exceptions.) The lowest worksheet (or one missed) will be dropped (i.e., only seven worksheets will count in the final grading). *Please e-mail all worksheets directly to Dr. Howard (dhoward@bethel.edu).*

4. Exams (40%)

Two unit exams (non-cumulative) will be given. They will cover the Bible reading, textbook readings, worksheets, and class lectures and discussions. Study guides for these exams are available on the professor's Web site. The exams are take-home exams. Instructions for taking these will be given during the term.

Grading Summary

Reading and Forums	20%
Worksheets	40%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Grading Scale

93-100%	A
86-92%	B
78-85%	C
70-77%	D
0 - 69%	F

COURSE SCHEDULE (OT 101)

NOTE 1: Weekly submissions are due by 4:00 p.m. (St. Paul time) on Fridays of the given week, unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 2: Every effort has been made to even out the work load week by week, but some weeks' work loads will of necessity be heavier than those of other weeks. You are encouraged to work ahead during weeks that the load is especially light (e.g., Week 3). Please note that there are some reading assignments during the intensive week, so you will probably want to do these early (Week 3?), or else be prepared to complete them during that week.

NOTE 3: Since the exams are based on the class lectures and discussions, as well as the other components (Bible and textbook readings, worksheets), Exam 1, which is on Genesis – Numbers, will not be due until *after* the intensive week, on **Tuesday, May 11.**

Week 1: Mar 29-Apr 2 **Read:** Genesis 1-50; D&L chap. 2

Due: Worksheet 1

Forum 1: Reports on Genesis reading

Week 2: Apr 5-9

Read: Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chaps. 1-8; "The Student, the Fish, & Agassiz" (on the professor's Web site); OT Narrative Lecture (on Web site)

Forum 2: Reports on Alter and "Agassiz" readings.

Week 3: Apr 12-16

Due: Worksheets 2 and 3

Week 4: Apr 19-23

Read: Exodus 1-40; D&L chap. 3

Due: Worksheets 4 and 5

Week 5: Apr 26-30

NO ASSIGNMENTS: Intensive Week 1

Week 6: May 3-7

INTENSIVE WEEK

Read: Leviticus 1-27 (by 5/5); Numbers 1-36 (by 5/5); D&L chaps. 4, 5; OT Law Lecture (on Web site; by 5/6)

EXAM 1 (covers Genesis – Numbers): Due by Tuesday, May 11

Week 7: May 10-14

Read: Deuteronomy 1-34; D&L chap. 6

Due: Worksheet 6

Week 8: May 17-21

Read: Joshua 1-24; D&L chap. 7; Joshua Intro (on Web site)

Due: Worksheet 7

Week 9: May 24-28

Read: Judges 1-21; Ruth 1-4; D&L chaps. 8, 9

Due: Worksheet 8

Week 10: May 31-Jun 4 **No assignments**

EXAM 2 (covers Deuteronomy – Ruth): Due by Friday, June 4

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND D&L)

Name (printed) _____ Date: _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

RUTH

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND D&L)

Name (printed) _____ Date: _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

JUDGES

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND D&L)

Name (printed) _____ Date: _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

JOSHUA

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *D&L*)

Name (printed) _____ **Date:** _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

DEUTERONOMY

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *D&L*)

Name (printed) _____ **Date:** _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

NUMBERS

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *D&L*)

Name (printed) _____ **Date:** _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

LEVITICUS

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *D&L*)

Name (printed) _____ **Date:** _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

EXODUS

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____

OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *D&L*)

Name (printed) _____ **Date:** _____

I have completed the Bible and *IOT* readings for the following book:

GENESIS

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____
