

Dr. David M. Howard, Jr. Bethel Theological Seminary Spring 2004 – OT 101 Sem PM – Mod Q-2 Mon 5:30-7:30 pm	Office: A 203 / P.O. Box 7016 Office Hours: M 4:00-5:00 pm T 9:30-11:00 am or by special appt Telephone: 651-638-6197 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dhoward@bethel.edu">dhoward@bethel.edu</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.bethel.edu/~dhoward">www.bethel.edu/~dhoward</a>
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## GENESIS - RUTH

(OT 101 – Mod Q-2)

### 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/BI 101. 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 (IOT)*. Zondervan, 1994.
3. Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. Basic Books, 1981.

## Course Requirements

### 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 *IOT* 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 on the dates indicated below.

All readings must be done by the beginning of the class period in which they are assigned. They must be accounted for using the forms at the end of the syllabus.

### 2. Worksheets (40%)

Eight worksheets are to be completed and handed in at class time on the dates indicated. These should be typed, double-spaced, with ragged right margins. 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.

### 3. Exams (40%)

Two unit exams (non-cumulative) will be given. They will cover the Bible reading, textbook readings, worksheets, and class lectures and discussions. These are out-of-class exams. Further instructions will be given in class. Study guides for the exams are available on the professor's Web site.

### 4. Forum (----)

One discussion forum is scheduled, the week of May 3. This will be done online, in Blackboard. Instructions for going online will be handed out in class. The postings are due by the end of the day on May 5.

(1) Post an 800-1000 word reaction paper to your reading of Robert Alter's book (chaps. 1-5). 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.

(2) Post a 100-150 word reaction to the "The Student, the Fish, and Agassiz."

This discussion forum will not be graded, but it must be completed. Any inferior (or incomplete) work on the forum will be reflected in your reading grade (above). The intent of the forum is to encourage class interaction, so please be creative, stimulating, trenchant, and wise in your comments!

**Grading Summary**

**Grading Scale**

Reading	20%	93-100%	A
Worksheets	40%	86-92%	B
Exam I	20%	78-85%	C
Exam II	<u>20%</u>	70-77%	D
	100%	0 - 69%	F

**Note:** Because of the obvious educational benefits to oneself, as well as common courtesy to others, regular and on-time class attendance are expected. Unexcused absences beyond one two-hour class period will result in a grade reduction. An average student should expect to invest ca. 120 hours in this class in order to achieve an average grade. Individual outcomes, of course, may vary.

<b>COURSE SCHEDULE (OT 101) – Mod Q-2</b>
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**SPECIAL NOTE: Note that this class requires a Saturday session (May 8)**

Mar 29	A B	Course Introduction Introduction to the Old Testament	
Apr 5	A B	Introduction to the Old Testament Introduction to Genesis	<b>READ:</b> Genesis 1-50
Apr 12	A B	Genesis 1 Genesis 2-3	<b>WORKSHEET 1:</b> Genesis 1
Apr 19	A B	Genesis 4-11 Genesis 12-50	<b>WORKSHEET 2:</b> Genesis 6-9 <b>WORKSHEET 3:</b> Genesis 12
Apr 26		<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>READ:</b> (a) Alter, chaps. 1-2; (b) “The Student, the Fish, & Agassiz”(on Web site); (c) OT Narrative Lecture (on Web site)
May 3		<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>READ:</b> (a) OT Law Lecture (on Web site); (b) Alter chaps. 3-5 <b>POST:</b> Reaction papers to Alter and “Agassiz” readings
May 8	A B C D	Reading OT Narrative Exodus 1-12 Exodus 13-18 Exodus 19-40	<b>READ:</b> Exodus 1-40 <b>WORKSHEET 4:</b> Exodus 14-15 <b>WORKSHEET 5:</b> Exodus 19
May 10	A B	Leviticus-Numbers Interpreting OT Law	<b>READ:</b> Leviticus 1-27; Numbers 1-36
May 17	A B	Deuteronomy 1-11 Deuteronomy 12-34	<b>READ:</b> Deuteronomy 1-34 <b>WORKSHEET 6:</b> Deuteronomy 5

<b>May 17: DUE: EXAM I (Covers Genesis – Numbers)</b>
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May 24	A B	Joshua Joshua	<b>READ:</b> Joshua 1-24; Joshua Intro (on Web site) <b>WORKSHEET 7:</b> Joshua Outline
May 31		<b>NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY</b>	
Jun 7	A B	Judges Ruth	<b>READ:</b> (a) Jud 1-21; Ruth 1-4 (b) Alter chs 6-8 <b>WORKSHEET 8:</b> Kingship in Judges-Ruth

<b>June 10: DUE: EXAM II (Covers Deuteronomy-Ruth)</b>
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Special Note: Although every effort has been expended to make each week’s workload roughly equivalent, this has not always been possible. Students are responsible for planning ahead in managing their workloads, including managing the workload during the two-week break.

**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (Alter)**

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed reading **Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chaps. 6-8.**

This was done

Completely and on time \_\_\_\_\_  
Completely, but late \_\_\_\_\_  
Partially and on time \_\_\_\_\_  
Partially, and late \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (Alter)**

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed reading **Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chaps. 3-5.**

This was done

Completely and on time \_\_\_\_\_  
Completely, but late \_\_\_\_\_  
Partially and on time \_\_\_\_\_  
Partially, and late \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (Alter)**

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed reading **Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chaps. 1-2.**

This was done

Completely and on time \_\_\_\_\_  
Completely, but late \_\_\_\_\_  
Partially and on time \_\_\_\_\_  
Partially, and late \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**OT 101: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND *IOT*)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Required Readings:**

J. B. Pritchard, ed., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts (ANET)*: 72-73, 93-97.

D. W. Thomas, ed., *Documents From OT Times*: 17-18.

U. Cassuto, *A Commentary on the Book of Exodus* (Jerusalem, 1967): 223-35

J. Durham, *Exodus* (Waco, 1987): 256-61, 266-74 [on Exod 19:1-2, 16-25]

W. H. Gispen, *Exodus* (Grand Rapids, 1982): 178-84

M. Noth, *Exodus* (Philadelphia, 1962): 151-60

C. H. Mackintosh, *Notes on the Book of Exodus* (New York, 1880): 247-54.