

Dr. David M. Howard, Jr.
Bethel Theological Seminary
Spring 2004
OT 102 InMin - Distance

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1 SAMUEL – SONG OF SONGS

(OT 102 – InMin Distance)

Catalogue Description

“An examination of the books of 1 Samuel through Song of Songs, including the contents, major themes, and theological messages of each. Special emphasis is placed on the human and divine dimensions of the Kingdom of God, as well as continuity of themes with earlier Scriptures. Special attention also is given to legitimate ways of reading the Bible. This involves understanding the particular qualities of Hebrew poetic and wisdom texts, and developing a valid hermeneutic for interpreting them. Exposure to proper methods of interpreting Old Testament narrative texts is presupposed. Prerequisites: BT101/BI101 and OT101. *St. Paul only. 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 1 Samuel through Song of Songs.
2. A grasp of the major themes of these books, and how these fit the larger themes of the Old and New Testaments.
3. The basic skills of Biblical exegesis, including the special nature of Hebrew poetic texts.
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. David M. Howard, Jr., *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books*. Chicago: Moody, 1993.
3. C. Hassell Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*. 2nd ed. Chicago: Moody, 1988.

Course Requirements

Forums	5%	86-92%	B
Worksheets	35%	78-85%	C
Exam I	20%	70-77%	D
Exam II	<u>20%</u>	0 - 69%	F
	100%		

COURSE SCHEDULE (OT 102)

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: The course format depends heavily on your doing most of the work *ahead of time*. Please work at getting into a rhythm whereby you *complete* one week's work by Friday, and *begin* the next week's work by the next day (Saturday) or Monday, at the latest. 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.

NOTE 3: The work is listed below each week in roughly the order in which it should be done. Normally, you should read the Bible and textbook readings *before* watching the corresponding lectures. The worksheets *must* be done before watching the audio-video discussions on these.

NOTE 4: Audio-video of the devotionals and discussion of the worksheets is available only in a streaming video format. Click on the links below to access these. Since the worksheets are to be done *before* the discussions of them (available on streaming video), normally these discussions will not be available until 4:00 p.m. (St. Paul time) on the Friday of the week due. If you finish any given worksheet early and would like access to the discussion early, please submit the worksheet to Dr. Howard and ask for access; he will ask the course Webmaster to open it for you.

Week 1 (March 29-April 2):

Topic: Introduction to Old Testament Historical Literature

A-V (1): Watch the two introductory video clips on the CD, which introduce the course.

A-V (2): Watch the introductory devotional for this week – Streaming video

Forum: By Tuesday, March 30, post an introduction to yourself, including

- where you live (and where you are from originally, if this is different)
- something about your family
- what type of ministry you are in
- how far along in Bethel's program you are
- an interesting "factoid" about yourself that would not come out in most everyday conversations.

Read: Howard, chap. 1

A-V (3): Watch the introductory lecture on OT historical literature (CD)

Submit: Reading Report 1

Week 2 (April 5-9):

Topic: 1-2 Samuel

- Read:** 1-2 Samuel
Howard, chap. 5
“The Student, the Fish, & Agassiz” (on the class Web site)
- Do:** Worksheet 1
- Forum:**
- (1) By Wednesday, April 7, post 100-150 words of your own reactions to your reading of 1-2 Samuel. This can be at either or both of two levels: (a) Your reaction to reading entire books like 1-2 Samuel at one sitting. What was the experience like? (b) Things that you noticed in 1-2 Samuel this time that you’d never seen (or appreciated) before.
 - (2) By Thursday, April 8, post a 50-100 word reaction to the exercise of outlining 1-2 Samuel. Comment on any aspect of the task that you care to.
 - (3) By Friday, April 9, post a 100-150 word reaction to “The Student, the Fish, and Agassiz.”
- A-V:** Watch the devotional for this week.
Watch all the lectures on 1-2 Samuel
- Submit:** Reading Report 2
Worksheet 1

Week 3 (April 12-16):

Topic: 1-2 Kings

- Read:** 1-2 Kings
Howard, chaps. 6-7
- Do:** Worksheet 2
- Forum:** By Wednesday, April 14, Post any questions or comments that you like about 1-2 Kings in 50-100 words. (You must post something.)
- A-V:** Watch the devotional for this week..
Watch all the lectures on 1-2 Kings
- Submit:** Reading Report 3
Worksheet 2

Week 4 (April 19-23):

Topic: 1-2 Chronicles

- Read:** 1-2 Chronicles
Howard, chap. 8
- Do:** Worksheet 3

- Forum:** By Wednesday, April 21, post any questions or comments that you like about 1-2 Chronicles in 50-100 words. (You must post something.)
- A-V:** Watch the devotional for this week.
Watch all the lectures on 1-2 Chronicles
- Submit:** Reading Report 4
Worksheet 3

Week 5 (April 26-30):

Topic: Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

- Read:** Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther
Howard, chaps. 9-10
- Do:** -----
- Forum:** By Wednesday, April 28, post any questions or comments that you like about Ezra, Nehemiah, and/or Esther in 50-100 words. (You must post something.)
- A-V:** Watch the devotional for this week.
Watch all the lectures on Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther
- Take:** Exam 1 by May 3
- Submit:** Reading Report 5
Exam 1 (postmarked by May 3)

EXAM I	Due: May 3 (postmarked on or before May 3)
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Week 6 (May 3-7):

Topic: Hebrew Poetry

- A-V (1):** Watch the lecture on Hebrew Poetry
Do: Worksheet 4 (by Thursday, May 6)
Submit: Worksheet 4 (by Thursday, May 6)
A-V (2): Watch the lecture on Psalm 1. Watch this only *after* submitting Worksheet 4.
Forum: By Friday, May 7, post any reactions you have to your experience of studying Psalm 1.

Week 7 (May 10-14):

Topic: Introduction to the Psalter

- Read:** Psalms 1-72, 73-150 (two sittings)
G. Wilson, "The Shape of the Book of Psalms," *Interpretation* 46 (1992), 129-42.
Do: Worksheet 5
Forum: By Thursday, May 13, post the answer to your *first* question on Worksheet 5. (You should submit the entire Worksheet 5 to Dr. Howard separately.)
A-V: Watch the devotional for this week.
Watch the lectures on "Introduction to the Psalter – I & II"
Submit: Reading Reports 6 and 7
Worksheet 5

Week 8 (May 17-21):

Topic: Psalm Types: Praises and Laments

- Read (1):** Bullock, chap. 4
A-V (1): Watch the all lectures/discussions on praise & thanksgiving psalms
Read: S. Carney, "God Damn God: A Reflection on Expressing Anger in Prayer," *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (Oct 1983), 116-20.
Do: Worksheet 6
Forum: (1) By Wednesday, May 19, post your work on Worksheet 6 (both questions). Please also e-mail Worksheet 6 to Dr. Howard separately.
(2) By Friday, May 21, post responses to any two of your fellow students' postings.
A-V (2): Watch the devotional for this week.
Watch all the lectures/discussions on lament psalms
Submit: Worksheet 6

Week 9 (May 24-28):

Topic: Introduction to Wisdom Literature, and Proverbs

Read (1): "A Man and His God" (*ANET*, 589-91); "The Babylonian Theodicy" (*ANET*, 601-4)

Do: Worksheet 7

A-V (1): Watch the devotional for this week.
Watch the lecture on "Introduction to Wisdom Literature"

Read (2): Proverbs
Bullock, chap. 5

A-V (2): Watch the lecture on Proverbs

Submit: Reading Report 8
Worksheet 7

Week 10 (May 31 – June 4):

Topic: Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Job

Read: Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Job
Bullock, chaps 6, 7, 3

Do: Worksheet 8

A-V: Watch the devotional for this week.
Watch all the lectures on Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Job

Submit: Reading Reports 9, 10
Worksheet 8

Take: Exam II (postmarked by June 7)

EXAM II Due: June 7 (postmarked on or before June 7)
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OT 102: READING REPORT 10

Name (printed) _____ Date: _____

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

JOB

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT 9

Name (printed) _____ Date: _____

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

ECCLESIASTES; SONG OF SONGS

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT 8

Name (printed) _____ Date: _____

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

PROVERBS

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT 7

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

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

PSALMS 73-150

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT FORM 6

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

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

PSALMS 1-72

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT 5

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

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

EZRA-NEHEMIAH-ESTHER

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT FORM 4

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

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

1-2 CHRONICLES

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT 3

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

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

1-2 KINGS

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT 2

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

I have completed the assigned Bible and textbook readings for the following book(s):

1-2 SAMUEL

This was done

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

OT 102: READING REPORT 1

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

I have completed the assigned textbook reading for this week:

Howard, chap. 1

This was done

Completely and on time _____

Completely, but late _____

Partially and on time _____

Partially, and late _____
