

Dr. David M. Howard, Jr. Bethel Seminary Winter 2005 OT 102: Thurs 1:00-4:15 pm	Office Hours: M 1:00-3:00 pm W 1:00-2:00 pm F 11:00-noon or by special appt Office: A-207 Telephone: 651-638-6197 / P.O. Box 7016 E-mail: dhoward@bethel.edu Web site: www.bethel.edu/~dhoward
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1 SAMUEL – SONG OF SONGS

(OT 102)

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

1. Reading (20%)

- A. The entire contents of the books of 1 Samuel to Song of Songs 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 each textbook are to be read on the days the Biblical books are covered.

Note: All readings must be completed by the beginning of the class period in which they are assigned. They will 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, 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.

3. Exams (40%)

Two unit exams (non-cumulative) will be given, according to the schedule below. These will be out-of-class exams, and procedures will be announced in class for taking them. They will cover the Bible reading, textbook readings, worksheets, and class lectures and discussions. Study guides for these exams are posted on the "Classes" page of the professor's Web site.

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 two class periods 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE (OT 102)

Jan 6	A	Course Introduction	
	B	Introduction to Old Testament Historical Narrative	
		<i>Read:</i> Howard, chap. 1	
Jan 13	A	1-2 Samuel	
	B	1-2 Samuel	
		<i>Read:</i> Howard, chap. 5	
		“The Student, the Fish, & Agassiz” (on the class Web site)	
		<i>Due:</i> Worksheet 1	
Jan 20	A	1-2 Kings	
	B	1-2 Kings	
		<i>Read:</i> Howard, chaps. 6-7	
		<i>Due:</i> Worksheet 2	
Jan 27	A	1-2 Chronicles	
	B	1-2 Chronicles	
		<i>Read:</i> Howard, chap. 8	
		<i>Due:</i> Worksheet 3	
Feb 3, 10		NO CLASS: Winter Study Break	
Feb 17	A	Ezra-Nehemiah-Esther	
	B	Introduction to Hebrew Poetry	
		<i>Read:</i> Howard, chaps. 9, 10 (Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther)	

EXAM I	Due: February 21 (Exam I covers 1 Samuel to Esther)
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- Feb 24 A Psalms 1 and 2
B Introduction to the Psalter - I
Read: Psalms 1-72
Due: Worksheet 4
- Mar 3 A Introduction to the Psalter - II
B Psalms: Praises
Read: Psalms 73-150
Bullock, chap. 4; G. Wilson, "The Shape of the Book of Psalms," *Interpretation* 46 (1992), 129-42.
Due: Worksheet 5
- Mar 10 A Psalms: Lament
Read: S. Carney, "God Damn God: A Reflection on Expressing Anger in Prayer," *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (Oct 1983), 116-20.
Due: Worksheet 6
Post: Comments (worksheet 6); instructions given in class.
B Introduction to Wisdom Literature
Wisdom in the Ancient Near East
Read: "A Man and His God" (*ANET*, 589-91); "The Babylonian Theodicy" (*ANET*, 601-4)
Due: Worksheet 7
- Mar 17 A Proverbs
Read: Bullock, chap. 5
B Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs
Read: Bullock, chaps. 6, 7
Due: Worksheet 8
Job
Read: Bullock, chap. 3

EXAM II	Due: March 22
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OT 102: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 FORM (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 FORM (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 FORM (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 FORM (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 FORM (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 FORM (BIBLE AND TEXTBOOKS)

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 _____
