1 SAMUEL – SONG OF SONGS

(OT 112)

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. Students will build on their Hebrew knowledge and exegetical skills. Prerequisites: BT101/BI101, OT111, and Hebrew language sequence. 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.
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

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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 112)

Jan 5  Course Introduction
      Introduction to Old Testament Historical Narrative - I

Jan 7  Introduction to Old Testament Historical Narrative - II
      Read: Howard, chap. 1

Jan 12  1-2 Samuel
       Read: 1-2 Samuel
       Due: Worksheet 1

Jan 14  1-2 Samuel
       Read: Howard, chap. 5

Jan 19  1-2 Kings
       Read: 1-2 Kings
       Howard, chaps. 6-7

Jan 21  1-2 Kings
       Due: Worksheet 2

Jan 26  1-2 Chronicles
       Read: 1-2 Chronicles

Jan 28  1-2 Chronicles
       Read: Howard, chap. 8
       Due: Worksheet 3

Feb 2, 4, 9, 11 NO CLASS: Study Break
Assignment: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
Read: Howard, chaps. 9, 10

EXAM 1 Due: Feb 16

Feb 16  Introduction to Hebrew Poetry
       Read: Bullock, chap. 4
       “The Student, the Fish, & Agassiz” (on the class Web site)

Feb 18  Introduction to the Psalter - I
       Read: Psalms 1-72

Feb 23  Psalms 1 and 2
       Due: Worksheet 4
Feb 25  Introduction to the Psalter - II
  Read: Psalms 73-150
  Due: Worksheet 5

Mar 2  Psalms: Praises

Mar 4  Psalms: Lament
  Due: Worksheet 6

Mar 9  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 11 Proverbs
  Read: Proverbs
  Due: Worksheet 8
  Read: Bullock, chap. 5

Mar 16 Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs; Job
  Read: Bullock, chaps. 6, 7, 3

Mar 18 Exam 2 due

EXAM 2  Due: March 18
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 _____

**ECCLESIASTES; SONG OF SONGS**

This was done

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

**PROVERBS**

This was done

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

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 _____

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 _____
1-2 CHRONICLES

This was done

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

1-2 KINGS

This was done

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

1-2 SAMUEL

This was done

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