

Dr. David M. Howard, Jr.  
Bethel Theological Seminary  
Fall 2000 - WF 1:00-2:30 pm

Office Hours: T 9-3, WF 11-12 am, 3-4 pm  
*or by special appt*  
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## **PROMISE AND COVENANT** *(OT 101)*

### **Catalogue Description**

“An investigation into the literature dealing with the origins of the nation of Israel, including the Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and Joshua through Ruth. Students will be introduced to the nature of Hebrew narrative, and to scholarly approaches to this material. The primary emphasis will be on God’s promises and covenants with His people: their nature and their significance in history and theology. Recommended prerequisite BT 101/BI101. *Four hours.*”

Emphasis also will be placed on legitimate ways of reading the Bible. This involves understanding the particular literary qualities of Hebrew narrative and developing a valid hermeneutic for interpreting this material.

### **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.
- 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%)

Nine worksheets are to be completed and handed in at class time on the dates indicated. These should be typed (when possible), 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. They will cover the Bible reading, textbook readings, worksheets, and class lectures and discussions.

## 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.

<b>COURSE SCHEDULE (OT 101)</b>
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Sept 27	A	Course Introduction	
	B	Introduction to the Old Testament	
Sept 29	A	Introduction to the Old Testament	
	B	Introduction to Genesis	<b>READ:</b> Genesis 1-50
Oct 4	A	Genesis 1	<b>WORKSHEET:</b> Genesis 1
	B	Genesis 2-3	
Oct 6	A	Genesis 4-11	<b>WORKSHEET:</b> Genesis 6-9
	B	Reading OT Narrative - I	<b>READ:</b> "The Student, the Fish, & Agassiz"; Alter, chaps. 1-2
Oct 11	A	Genesis 12	<b>WORKSHEET:</b> Genesis 12
	B	Genesis 13-50	
Oct 13		NO CLASS: TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCH CONFERENCE	
Oct 18	A	Exodus 1-3	<b>READ:</b> Exodus 1-40
	B	Exodus 4-12	<b>WORKSHEET:</b> Exodus 3
Oct 20	A	Exodus 13-19	<b>WORKSHEET:</b> Commentaries
	B	Exodus 20-40	
Oct 25	A	Leviticus	<b>READ:</b> Leviticus 1-27
	B	Numbers	<b>READ:</b> Numbers 1-36
Oct 27		MIDTERM EXAM	
Nov 1	A	Reading OT Narrative – II	<b>READ:</b> Alter, chaps. 3-5
	B	Reading OT Narrative – II	
Nov 3	A	Interpreting OT Law	
	B	Interpreting OT Law	<b>READ:</b> Deuteronomy 1-34
Nov 8	A	Deuteronomy 1-11	<b>WORKSHEET:</b> Ten Commandments
	B	Deuteronomy 12-34	
Nov 10	A	Joshua	<b>READ:</b> Joshua 1-24
	B	Joshua	<b>WORKSHEET:</b> Joshua Outline

Nov 15 NO CLASS: ETS / IBR / SBL MEETINGS

Nov 17 NO CLASS: ETS / IBR / SBL MEETINGS

Nov 22 A Joshua **WORKSHEET: Joshua 3**  
B Joshua

Nov 24 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING

Nov 29 A Joshua  
B Joshua

Dec 1 A Judges **READ: Judges 1-21; Ruth 1-4**  
B Ruth **WORKSHEET: Kingship in Judges-Ruth**

Dec 6 A Reading OT Narrative – III **READ: Alter, chaps. 6-8**  
B Reading OT Narrative – III

Dec 8 FINAL EXAM

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

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed reading Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chaps. \_\_\_\_\_.

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) \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

This was done

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

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