Dr. David M. Howard, Jr.
Bethel Theological Seminary
Winter 2003
OT 102 - Section 1: Thurs 7:00-10:00 pm

Office Hours: T 1:00-3:00 pm
W 1:00-2:00 pm
Th 3:00-4:00 pm or by special appt
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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.

**Suggested Textbook**

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Summary</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worksheets</td>
<td>86-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>78-85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>70-77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 - 69%</td>
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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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Read/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Introduction to OT</td>
<td>Howard, chap. 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Historical Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>1-2 Samuel</td>
<td>1-2 Samuel</td>
<td>Howard, chap. 5</td>
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<td>Worksheet 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>1-2 Kings</td>
<td>1-2 Kings</td>
<td>Howard, chap. 6-7</td>
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<td>Worksheet 2</td>
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<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>1-2 Chronicles</td>
<td>1-2 Chronicles</td>
<td>Howard, chap. 8</td>
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<td>Worksheet 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther</td>
<td>Introduction to Hebrew Poetry</td>
<td>Howard, chap. 9, 10</td>
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<td>“The Student, the Fish, &amp; Agassiz” (on the class Web site)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Psalms 1 and 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Psalter I</td>
<td>Howard, chap. 7-12</td>
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<td>Worksheet 4</td>
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<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Introduction to Psalter II</td>
<td>Psalms: Praises</td>
<td>Howard, chap. 73-150</td>
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<td>Worksheet 5</td>
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Feb 27  
A  Psalms: Lament  
B  Psalms: Lament  


*Worksheet 6*

Mar 6  
A  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)  

*Worksheet 7*

B  Proverbs  
   Read: D & L, chap. 17

Mar 13  
A  Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs  
   Read: D & L, chaps. 18, 19  

*Worksheet 8*

B  Job  
   Read: D & L, chap. 15

Mar 17  
EXAM II
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
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 _____

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 _____