GENESIS TO RUTH
(OT 111)

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. Students will build upon their Hebrew knowledge and exegetical skills. Prerequisites: BT 101/BI101 and Hebrew language sequence (OT 108-110). 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. The basic skills of Biblical exegesis, including knowledge of the special nature of Hebrew narrative and the ability to use Hebrew in exegesis.
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.

It is assumed that students own the following tools; if not, these too must be purchased:


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. This is an essential part of the course experience and may not be waived.
   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. Late reading reports will not be accepted more than one week after they are due.

2. Worksheets (40%)
   Eight 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. They will cover the Bible reading, textbook readings, worksheets, and class lectures and discussions. Study guides for these exams are available on the professor’s Web site.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Summary</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>93-100% A</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>86-92% B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worksheets</td>
<td>78-85% C</td>
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<td>40%</td>
<td>70-77% D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>0 - 69% F</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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<td>100%</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 one week’s worth of classes 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>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Introduction to the Old Testament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 26</td>
<td>Introduction to Genesis</td>
<td>READ: Genesis 1-50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Genesis 1</td>
<td>WORKSHEET 1: Genesis 1</td>
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<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Genesis 2-11</td>
<td>READ: “The Student, the Fish, &amp; Agassiz”</td>
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<td>(available on professor’s Web site);</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alter, chaps. 1-2</td>
<td>WORKSHEET 2: Genesis 6-9</td>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Reading OT Narrative - I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>READ: “The Student, the Fish, &amp; Agassiz”</td>
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<td>(available on professor’s Web site);</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alter, chaps. 1-2</td>
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<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Genesis 12-50</td>
<td>WORKSHEET 3: Abrahamic Covenant</td>
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<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCH SERIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Exodus 1-12</td>
<td>READ: Exodus 1-40</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Exodus 13-40</td>
<td>WORKSHEET 4: Exodus 14-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20-31</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>FALL STUDY BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Leviticus-Numbers</td>
<td>READ: Leviticus 1-27; Numbers 1-36</td>
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<td>WORKSHEET 5: TBA</td>
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<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Deuteronomy 1-34</td>
<td>READ: Deuteronomy 1-34</td>
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<td>WORKSHEET 6: Deuteronomy 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>READ: Joshua 1-24</td>
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<td>Nov 19*</td>
<td>Interpreting OT Law</td>
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<td>Nov 21*</td>
<td>Reading OT Narrative – II</td>
<td>READ: Alter, chaps. 3-5</td>
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<td>*Note: The professor will be gone on these dates, so the class will not meet. These two lectures are available on the professor’s Web site.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>WORKSHEET 7: Joshua Outline</td>
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<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Judges-Ruth</td>
<td>READ: Judges 1-21; Ruth 1-4</td>
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<td>Reading OT Narrative – III</td>
<td>READ: Alter, chaps. 6-8</td>
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<td>WORKSHEET 8: Kingship in Judges-Ruth</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>EXAM II</td>
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OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (Alter)

Name (printed) ___________________________ Date: ________________

I have completed reading Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chaps. 6-8.

This was done

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

OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (Alter)

Name (printed) ___________________________ Date: ________________

I have completed reading Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, chaps. 3-5.

This was done

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

OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (Alter)

Name (printed) ___________________________ Date: ________________


This was done

- Completely and on time ____
- Completely, but late ____
- Partially and on time ____
- Partially, and late ____
OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ____________________________  Date: ________________

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

RUTH

This was done

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

OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ____________________________  Date: ________________

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

JUDGES

This was done

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

OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ____________________________  Date: ________________

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

JOSHUA

This was done

   Completely and on time _____
   Completely, but late _____
   Partially and on time _____
   Partially, and late _____
OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ___________________________  Date: __________________

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

DEUTERONOMY

This was done

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

OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ___________________________  Date: __________________

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

NUMBERS

This was done

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

OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ___________________________  Date: __________________

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

LEVITICUS

This was done

Completely and on time _____
Completely, but late _____
Partially and on time _____
Partially, and late _____
OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ___________________________ Date: __________

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

EXODUS

This was done

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

OT 111: READING REPORT FORM (BIBLE AND IOT)

Name (printed) ___________________________ Date: __________

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

GENESIS

This was done

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