

Preliminary Syllabus for BIBL 6120 (14/S1 Online); Please download the final syllabus when the course begins.

North Park Theological Seminary

©James Bruckner 2013. All rights reserved. Do not duplicate any course materials without permission.

OLD TESTAMENT I GENESIS – ESTHER BIBL 6120

Fall 2014 Online

Three Semester Hours A core requirement for all seminary degrees

Professor: **James Bruckner, Ph.D., Professor of Old Testament**
Phone: 773-244-5233
E-mail: jbruckner@northpark.edu
Office Hours: I will be active in this course on Monday and Thursday mornings.
Office Location: Nyvall Hall N-23

Introductory Comments/Course Description

Welcome to Old Testament I.

I look forward to our interaction with the texts of Genesis-Esther.

Old Testament I is a graduate-level seminary course on the basic theological literature of the Hebrew Bible. (We will use English translations).

This three hour graduate course requires a substantial amount of reading and writing.

Please read the syllabus thoroughly for details. It is your roadmap. You will need access to a good Old Testament library to do your research projects. If you do not have access, you will need at least two (2) Bible Dictionaries, two (2) Introductions to the Bible, and one (1) book for deeper historical background *in addition to your textbooks*. (See recommended list below.)

The power and passion of the narratives and law we will read are essential parts of the “Scripture” to which 2 Timothy 3:16 refers. You should begin by reading the primary biblical document from Genesis through Esther.

This course surveys the story of the people of God in the first twelve books of the Old Testament known as the Torah and the former prophets. It also includes the second Temple historical books, covering the return of the Jews from exile (Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther). It seeks to provide a beginning knowledge of the over-arching narrative content (events, characters, themes). Attention will be given to historical and cultural background, critical problems, and literary genres as they aid interpretation of specific texts. The goal is to prepare students to appreciate, interpret, and teach from these books in ministries of the Church.

Participant Learning Objectives

1. Comprehend fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
2. Develop specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.
3. Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Specific Course Objectives

- Grow in appreciation of the passion and the power of the narratives and law contained in the primary biblical documents.
- Develop a personal facility for interpreting Old Testament biblical texts in the context of the Christian Church.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate another person’s perspective fairly and accurately.
- Analyze, evaluate, and gain new perspectives on issues raised in reading difficult biblical texts.
- Evaluate the significance of specific books of scripture in their literary contexts.
- Explain the significance of individual texts in their historical context.
- Synthesize understanding of the content of the primary and secondary source reading with personal perspective on the subject matter.
- Master the use of the précis format for summarizing reading.

Required Textbooks

The books listed below can be found at many online bookseller sites (e.g., amazon.com, buy.com, half.com).

The Holy Bible. Any modern translation. Good advanced student study editions are *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* and the *Harper Collins Study Bible*.

Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005). paperback 9780687066766

Coogan, Michael D., editor. *The Oxford History of the Biblical World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001). paperback 0195139372

Provan, Long, and Longman III, *A Biblical History of Israel* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003). paperback 0664220908

Articles provided in Moodle: Much of the required reading comes from these articles. They will be important for your assignments, midterm, and final exam preparation.

Additional or Recommended Readings

D. N. Freeman editor. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. Please note that the ISBN is 0802824005. Everyone should want this one volume goldmine. It is a reliable resource that will serve you well for a lifetime. Also valuable for preparation for the midterm and final exams.

If you have not previously studied the Bible at the college level, a basic introduction should also be read in conjunction with lectures. The following text is very useful and accessible: Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1995 (3rd ed., 2003; 4th ed. March, 2008).

Course Teaching and Learning Methods

It is very important for students to keep up with readings, writing assignments, and student forum posting. Assignments will be posted by the course facilitator on the course site on a weekly basis. Forum discussions will center on the weekly readings and professor's postings. Responses need *not* be directed to the course facilitator but can and should be in response to the thoughts and ideas of other students as well.

Some student work will be posted online for class member review and comments. The professor expects that each student will provide constructive and timely feedback to other class members on assignments as required. While the professor may also provide online feedback on assignments, grades for each course assignment will be given privately.

Course Schedule

Every week the assigned readings, student forum responses, and other writing assignments will be posted in the weekly modules. Officially, the "Week" runs from Sunday at midnight to the next Sunday at midnight. Please begin your reading at the beginning of the week so that you have time to write well before Sunday night. It is expected that students in a three (3) hour master's level seminary course will spend nine (9) hours each week to accomplish the reading and the writing. *Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.*

Students in the past have often requested that the module content be made available a few days earlier (some students work ahead of schedule!). As a result of these requests, the week module will be made available on the Friday mornings before they "officially" begin (on Sunday). At the end of the official week, you will see that the forum is no longer available to you, so please stay current with this course.

Computer Requirements

In order to effectively participate in and successfully complete this course, each participant will need to have access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection. Please visit <http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Information-Technology/Network/Minimum-Requirements> for information on computer requirements.

Technical Skills Required

The online Moodle Orientation Course should teach you the skills that you need to successfully complete this course. In addition, you will need to have basic email skills, occasionally to send and receive Word documents.

Participant Responsibilities

1. Attendance, presence, and full participation are required for this class. *You cannot successfully complete this course without completing the weekly readings and assignments.* You are expected to begin your reading early enough in the week so that you have time to write well before Sunday night. The "Week" runs from Sunday at midnight to the next Sunday at midnight.
2. Some of your assignments will be posted on-line for others to see. You will be asked to comment and provide feedback to one another on your work.

3. Although I strongly suggest that all issues, questions, and problems be dealt with online, you can feel free to call or e-mail me regarding these issues at any time, noting the office hours I am available.
4. Use proper “netiquette” (see *A Guide to Netiquette* in Course Information resource).
5. I advise participants to plan on spending nine to twelve hours total on course responsibilities (e.g. reading, assignments, and online discussion).

Course Facilitator Responsibilities

1. The course is designed so that students have every opportunity to achieve the learning objectives.
2. The course facilitator will respond to all questions in order to clarify important ideas and concepts.
3. The course facilitator will provide updated information on relevant resources for the various topics of interest.
4. The course facilitator will read and critically assess students’ assignments and provide feedback weekly throughout the course.
5. The course facilitator will respond to all student e-mails within 48 hours of receipt.

Course Outline

Week 1: (Monday to Sunday)

Introduction to Old Testament I : Hermeneutics part I

Student Learning Objectives:

- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.

Required Readings

+Read the Syllabus and mark your calendar to set aside at least nine (9) hours to work on this class weekly.

+ Resource Article #1: Blenkinsopp, "Introduction to the Pentateuch" in *New Interpreters' Bible, vol. 1*, 305-18.

Find all Resource Articles as pdf. files in the weekly modules under "Resources."

+Professor's Week 1.1 Posting: Introduction to the Course (MP3 and written text)

+Professor's Week 1.2 Posting: The World *behind* the Text (MP3 and written text)

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal (Word.doc, please) that will be up-loaded (with the entries from following weeks) only at mid-term and at term end. See grading rubrics below.

Week 2: (Monday to Sunday)

Hermeneutics: part II

Student Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.
- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

Required Readings

Reading Assignments

+Chapters 1-2 of Genesis

+ Resource Article #2: Anderson, Bruckner, and Snodgrass, "The Centrality of the Word of God"

+Professor's Week 2.1 Posting: The World *of* the Text

+Professor's Week 2.2 Posting: The Reader *in front of* the Text

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.
2. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter). *Hand in your written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.* See grading rubrics below.

Writing Assignment Due: In 500 words or less, explain what each of the significant words and phrases of the following affirmation mean: "We believe in the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the Word of God, and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct." You may use the Evangelical Covenant Church perspective article above ("The Centrality") as background, but do not quote or attempt to summarize it. Explain the meanings of each phrase of the quotation in your own words. If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Week 3:

Genesis 1—2

Student Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.
- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

Required Readings

+Genesis 3-25

+Textbook: chapters 1 and 2 in Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005).

+ Textbook: pp. 3-24, "In the Beginning: The Earliest History" in Coogan, Michael D. editor. *The Oxford History of the Biblical World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

+Resource Article #3: Exum "A Mother in Israel"
(Bandstra 77-112, Bright 45-104)

+Professor's Week 3.1 Posting: Genesis 1

+Professor's Week 3.2 Posting: Genesis 2

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at mid-term and at term end.
3. Write a short paper in the strict form of a précis (pronounced pray' see), on Cheryl Exum's article in the assigned reading. Detailed instruction for writing the précis is at the end of this syllabus. If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email. *Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.*

Week 4:

Genesis 3—11

Student Learning Objectives:

- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.
- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.

Required Readings

+Genesis 26-50

+Textbook: Chapter 3 "Promises Made, Threatened, and Fulfilled" in Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen.

+Textbook: pp. 107-124 "Before the Land" in Provan, Long, and Longman III, *A Biblical History of Israel* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003).

+Textbook: pp. 25-57 "Before Israel" (Pitard) in Coogan, Michael D. editor.

+Resource Article#4: Friedman, "Deception for Deception"

+Professor's Week 4.1 Posting: Genesis 3

+Professor's Week 4.2 Posting: Genesis 4-11

Assignments Due: *Forum Responses and Written Work*

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.
2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at mid-term and at term end.
3. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter). *Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.*

Writing Assignment Due: Tell the entire story of Genesis on one single-spaced page (no more than 600 words). This should be something you could use in teaching or preaching. For the best score, focus on the major characters, plot, and theological significance of chapters 1-50 and attend to the balance of your word count in relation to *all* the chapters of the biblical text.

Alternate assignment: translate Gen. 32:24-31 from Hebrew to English (parse all verbs and show your work). If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Week 5:

Genesis 12—50; Exodus 1—6

Student Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.
- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

Required Readings

+Exodus 1-18

+Textbook: Chapter 4 "Bondage, Exodus, Wilderness" in Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen.

+Textbook: pp. 125-137 "Moses" in Provan, Long, and Longman.

+Read three of the following social location perspectives on Exodus: Pixley, (Latin American); Ela, (Black African); and Moon, (Korean); Asian Feminists; Warrior (Native American); and Ateek (Palestinian). From *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. Edited by R.S. Sugirtharajah. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1995. (This edition is out of print.)

+Professor's Week 5.1 Posting: Genesis 12-50

+Professor's Week 5.2 Posting: Exodus 1-6

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at mid-term and at term end.

3. *Writing Assignment Due:* Write a short paper, in the strict form of a *précis*, on **one of the following articles that you read** for this week: Pixley, Ela, Moon, Asian Feminists, Warrior, *or* Ateek. Instruction for writing the *précis* is at the end of this syllabus. *Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.* If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Week 6:

Exodus 7—40

Student Learning Objectives:

- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.

Required Readings

+Exodus 19-40

+Textbook: chapter 5 “The Structures of Covenant Life” in Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen.

+Textbook: pp. 58-89 “Bitter Lives” (Carol Redmount) in Coogan, Michael D. editor.

+Professor’s Week 6.1 Posting: Exodus 7-18

+Professor’s Week 6.2 Posting: Exodus 19-40

Assignments Due: *Forum Responses and Written Work*

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor’s weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor’s weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in your journal.

3. Upload the journal that you have been keeping weekly of your responses to the reading during the first six weeks as a Word.doc *by Sunday at midnight.*

4. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter).

Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.

If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Writing Assignment Due: In 400 words, describe three themes from Exodus that you would highlight in teaching or preaching. Include chapter and verses that are most relevant to your themes; **or** translate Ex. 20.1-8 from Hebrew to English (parse all verbs and show your work).

Alternate assignment: Translate Gen. 32.24-31 from Hebrew to English (parse all verbs and show your work).

Week 7:

Mid-term Examination Week (Hermeneutics, Genesis, and Exodus)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Create an answer key to the study guide by reviewing the readings and postings in the first half of the semester.
- Explain the significance of key terms in biblical interpretation
- Identify the sequence of key action in the biblical narrative
- Summarize the significance concepts listed in the Study Guide
- Recall and recognize key terms, dates, and concepts relevant to interpreting Genesis and Exodus.
- Demonstrate your capacity for interpreting the ancient text of scripture.

Assignments Due

Complete the Mid-term Exam before 11:55 p.m. on October 13. It will be available all week. Prepare using the Study Guide, provided in the Resources tab. Contact the professor with any questions about your preparation. See grading rubrics below.

[OCTOBER x is READING WEEK ; NO CLASS REQUIREMENTS]

Week 8:

Leviticus and Numbers

Student Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.
- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

Required Readings

+Book of Leviticus; Book of Numbers

+Resource Article#6: Mary Douglas, *Leviticus as Literature*, chs. 1, 3 (pp. 1-12, 41-65)

+Resource Article#7: Paul Hansen, "The Theological Significance of Contradiction in the Covenant" (Bandstra 147-164)

+Resource Article#8: Dozeman, "Introduction to the Book of Numbers" *NIB vol 2*, 3-23.

+Professor's Week 8.1 Posting: Leviticus

+Professor's Week 8.2 Posting: Numbers

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at term end.

3. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter). *Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.*
If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Writing Assignment Due: After surveying the book of Numbers, write a one page guide (600 words) of key teaching points for the Church from its *content*. Cite biblical texts in referring to the themes for full credit.

Alternate assignment: Translate Numbers 22:27-33 from Hebrew to English (parse all verbs and show your work).

Week 9:

Deuteronomy and the deuteronomistic history (DtH)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.
- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.

Required Readings

- +Book of Deuteronomy
- +Resource Article#9: Gonzales, "Reading the Bible in Spanish"
- +Resource Article#10: Clements "Introduction to the Book of Deuteronomy" *NIB vol. 2*, 271-289
- +Textbook: pp. 3-74 and 98-106; "The Death of Biblical History?"; "Knowing and Believing"; "Knowing about the History of Israel"; "A Biblical History" in Provan, Long, and Longman.

+Professor's Week 9.1 Posting: Deuteronomy

+Professor's Week 9.2 Posting: The Deuteronomistic History

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at term end.

3. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter). *Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.*

If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Writing Assignment Due: According to your required reading in Provan, What is historiography?, Why does it matter? (500 words).

Alternate assignment: Translate Deut. 26:4-11 from Hebrew to English (parse all verbs and show your work).

Week 10:

Joshua and Judges

Student Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.

- Apply the professor’s weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

Required Readings

- +Book of Joshua; Book of Judges
- +Textbook: Chapter 6 “The People of the Land” in Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen.
- +Textbook: pp. 138-192 “The Settlement in the Land” in Provan, Long, and Longman.

+Professor’s Week 10.1 Posting: Joshua

+Professor’s Week 10.2 Posting: Judges

Assignments Due: *Forum Responses and Written Work*

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor’s weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor’s weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at term end.

3. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter).

Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.

If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Writing Assignment Due: What are the primary historical and theological questions surrounding the taking of the promised land? What issues are at stake? (500 words).

Week 11:

Ruth and I Samuel

Student Learning Objectives:

- Apply the professor’s weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.
- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.

Required Readings

Book of Ruth; First Samuel

+Resource Article#11: Boling, “The Book of Judges” in *ABD vol. 3*, pp. 1106-17

+Resource Article#12: Tribble, “The Book of Ruth” in *ABD vol. 5*, pp. 842-47

+Resource Article#13: Tribble, “A Human Comedy”

+Textbook: pp. 132-205 “There Was No King in Israel” (Jo Ann Hackett) in Coogan, Michael D. editor.

+Professor’s Week 11.1 Posting: Ruth

+Professor’s Week 11.2 Posting: First Samuel

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.
2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at term end.
3. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter). *Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.*
If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Writing Assignment Due: What is the canonical and theological significance of the book of Ruth? (500 words; Cite all your sources, as always.)

Alternate assignment: Translate Ruth 1:15-18 and 4:18-21 from Hebrew (parse all verbs and show your work).

Week 12:

II Samuel and Themes in the Book of Kings

Student Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.
- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

Required Readings

+II Samuel; First Kings

+Textbook: chapter 7 "The Rise of the Monarchy" in Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen.

+Textbook: pp. 193-238 "The Early Monarchy" in Provan, Long, and Longman.

+Professor's Week 12.1 Posting: Second Samuel

+Professor's Week 12.2 Posting: The Books of the Kings: Introduction

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.
2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the

reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at term end.

3. Write a short paper on the assigned topic below. Be sure to analyze the questions/prompts and the form carefully as you organize your work. Synthesize your perspective in the writing (rather than simply *reacting* to the subject matter).

Hand in written work by uploading your Word.doc on Moodle by Sunday at midnight.

If you are unsure, please ask for further clarification of this assignment by email.

Writing Assignment Due: Write a one page paper (500 words) which accounts for the honest portrayal of the kings in the deuteronomic history (especially the books of Samuel and Kings). Why is it so honest? How would this honesty have helped the implied historical exilic audience?

Alternate assignment: Translate I Kings 19:11-14 from Hebrew to English (parse all verbs and show your work).

Week 13:

Book of Kings:

King Solomon (I Kings 1-11) and the Divided Kingdom (I Kings 12—II Kings 17)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.
- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.

Required Readings

+ First Kings 12— Second Kings 17

+Textbook: Chapter 8 "Kings and Prophets in the Divided Kingdom" in Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen.

+Textbook: pp. 239-84 "The Later Monarchy" in Provan, Long, and Longman.

+Resource Article#14: Graham "A Solomonic Model of Peace"

+Resource Article#15: C. H. Felder "Racial Motifs in the Biblical Narratives"

+Professor's Week 13.1 Posting: First Kings: Solomon

+Professor's Week 13.2 Posting: Kings and the Divided Kingdom

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in your journal.

3. Upload the reading responses that you have been writing during the second half of the semester in a journal before Sunday at midnight *this week* (as a Word.doc please). *There is no additional writing assignment this week.*

Week 14:

Judah's Exile:

In Babylon (II Kings 18-25), Persian Diaspora (Esther), and Return to the Land (Cyrus, Ezra-Nehemiah)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and organize the short writing assignment.
- Evaluate the relevance of the required reading in a short journal entry.
- Synthesize your understanding of the content of the reading with your perspective on the subject matter in your writing.
- Apply the professor's weekly posting (pod-cast and corresponding manuscript) to your present working situation.

Required Readings

Second Kings 18—25 (special attention to II Kings 18-20 and compare Isaiah 36-39)
Ezra—Nehemiah and Esther

+Professor's Week 14.1 Posting: Second Kings 18-25: Judah and Exile

+Professor's Week 14.2 Posting: Second Temple Period: Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther

Assignments Due: Forum Responses and Written Work

Forum responses and written assignments are due before Sunday at midnight at the end of each module-week.

1. Listen/read the professor's weekly postings provided to you as audio files and their corresponding full lecture manuscripts. *Then respond* to the professor's weekly postings by writing 100-200 words, *applying* them (two per week) to your present situation. Simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Post your responses in the Forum for the week by Sunday at midnight. See grading rubrics below. If you have questions, you can e-mail the instructor.

2. Prepare for final exam using the study guide provided. If you are unsure about the preparation, please ask for further clarification by email. *No additional writing assignment is due this week.*

Week 15:

Final Exam (covering the second half of the course)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Create an answer key to the study guide by reviewing the readings and postings in the second half of the semester.
- Explain the significance of key terms in biblical interpretation.
- Summarize the significance concepts listed in the Study Guide.
- Recall and recognize key terms, dates, and concepts relevant to interpreting Genesis and Exodus.
- Demonstrate your capacity for interpreting the ancient text of Scripture.

Assignments Due

Complete the final exam before 11:55 p.m. on December 15. It will be available all week. Prepare using the Study Guide, provided in the Resources tab. Contact the professor with any question

Assignment Grading

Assignment Grading based on 100 percentage points

A final grade for this course will be computed according to your successful completion of the following assignments:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Forum Response to Professor’s Weekly Posting | 10 percentage points maximum |
| 2. | Journal Responses to Required Reading | 10 percentage points maximum |
| 3. | Writing Assignments | 20 percentage points maximum |
| 4. | Mid-term Exam | 30 percentage points maximum |
| 5. | Final Exam | 30 percentage points maximum |

More Detail on Assignment Grading

1. Response Forum for Professor’s Weekly Posting

Every week of the semester, except weeks #7 and #15 (exam weeks), you will respond to the Professor’s postings in a forum. Instructions for these responses may be found in the weekly modules and in the syllabus.

You will receive up to a maximum of ten percentage points for your participation in the forums. A grading rubric is also found below.

Your posts will be graded on a weekly basis according to the following criteria:

Grading Rubric for Forum Response to the Professor’s Weekly Posting

CATEGORY	2 points - Meets Standards	1 point - Approaches Standards
Statements that Further and/or Clarify	Reply includes 2 statements that further, apply, or clarify the discussion such as: -summarizing an aspect of the post - applying the post to personal experience - making additional tie-ins to course material	Reply includes 1 statement that furthers, applies, or clarifies the discussion such as: - summarizing an aspect of the post - applying the post to personal experience - making additional tie-ins to course material

2. Journal Responses to Required Reading

Every week (except exam weeks) you will read and respond to required reading in your textbooks or in articles provided to you. Your “journal” of your responses will be uploaded twice during the semester (as a Word.doc, please). Write them, but please do not send them every week!

Instructions for these responses may be found in the weekly modules and in the syllabus.

Required Reading Journal Due Dates:

First submission of journal: October 7th before midnight

End of term submission of journal: December 2nd before midnight.

2. Read the assigned texts, evaluating them according to your perspective on the rubrics listed below. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points (for future reference in exam preparation). In a couple of sentences summarize the focus of the reading; then simply state what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening. Please include the bibliographic reference. Keep your responses short (200 words) and in a journal that will be uploaded at term end.

Your responses will be graded on a weekly basis according to the following criteria:

Rubric for Journal Entries about Required Reading

CATEGORY	10 Points --Wow	9 Points –Very Good	8 Points –O.K.	1-7 Points—Whoops.
Statements that clarify the content and/or significance of the reading	<p>Reply must include all required reading.</p> <p>Reply must include bibliographic references. Reply also includes 2 statements that clarifies the content and/or significance, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -summarizes the focus of the author - summarizes the subject matter of the reading - clarifies the significance of the reading - states what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening 	<p>Reply must include 90% of all required reading.</p> <p>Reply must include bibliographic references. Reply also includes 2 statements that clarifies the content and/or significance, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -summarizes the focus of the author - summarizes the subject matter of the reading - clarifies the significance of the reading - states what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening 	<p>Reply must include 80% of all required reading.</p> <p>Reply must include bibliographic references. Reply also includes 2 statements that clarifies the content and/or significance, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -summarizes the focus of the author - summarizes the subject matter of the reading - clarifies the significance of the reading - states what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening 	<p>Reply must include 10-70% of all required reading.</p> <p>Reply must include bibliographic references. Reply also includes 2 statements that clarifies the content and/or significance, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -summarizes the focus of the author - summarizes the subject matter of the reading - clarifies the significance of the reading - states what you found most engaging, troubling, or enlightening

3. Skill Building Writing Assignments

Almost every week you will be writing a short paper on an assigned topic. Overall written assignment will account for a maximum of 20 percentage points of your grade. Instructions for completing these assignments can be found in weeks #2-6 and #8-12.

Your writing will be graded on a weekly basis according to the following criteria:

Grading Rubric for Writing Assignments

CATEGORY	10 Points --Wow	9 Points –Very Good	8 Points –O.K.	1-7 Points—Whoops.
Key Principles	Discussion is substantive and demonstrates a keen understanding of the key principles of the assignment	Discussion is substantive and relates to key principles of the assignment	Reference made to key principles but the paper could be better integrated	Inadequate or no reference to key principles; evident that student misunderstood the principles. The professor will comment.
Examples	Examples are well-integrated effectively into response	Examples are well-integrated effectively into response	Examples are either not present or do not support the key principles of the assignment.	
Writing Style	Syntax is appropriate, terminology used accurately and appropriately, language is understandable and concise, organization is logical, sources are properly cited	Many of these are present - Syntax is appropriate, terminology used accurately and appropriately, language is understandable and concise, organization is logical, sources are properly cited	Only 2 or fewer are present: Syntax is appropriate, terminology used accurately and appropriately, language is understandable and concise, organization is logical, and sources are properly cited	

Please be aware that your instructor will accept late submissions of any papers, projects, assignments, or other forms of assessment, however, late submissions will be discounted by 2% each day.

4. and 5. Skill Building Exams

Twice during the course you will prepare a study guide for an exam and memorize the seminal information in it. Subsequently, you will take the mid-term and final exams, from memory.

- Midterm Exam– 30 percentage points possible
- Final Exam – 30 percentage points possible
 - Instructions for completing these assignments can be found in weeks #7 and #15.

4. Grading Rubric for Mid-term Exam

Your Midterm Exam will be graded according to the following criteria:

Section I. **(20 points possible)** The first part will ask you to put ten major people, places, and events described in Genesis and Exodus in sequential order.

Section II. **(30 points possible)** The second section will ask you **to identify and give the significance in Genesis or Exodus of each of ten of the people and places listed. Three points maximum for each item. To earn the third point, you must identify the location of places and include one of the following for each item: *significance* of the person or place in the narrative or chapter reference of the person or place.**

Section III. **(50 points)** The third section will ask you to **describe and give the significance of ten of the themes and ideas listed in the study guide. Five points each.** The themes come from the interpretation of Genesis and Exodus presented in the assigned readings and the class lectures. Be prepared to give a minimum of five points of information for each theme or idea. **To earn the fifth point, your answers must include actual examples** from the biblical text, the readings, or lectures.

5. Grading Rubric for Final Exam

Your Final Exam will be graded according to the following criteria:

Section I. (40 points) **Identify and give the significance of** ten dates and terms from the list provided on the study guide. Include at least four relevant bullet points of information for each item in your answer. For the dates, answer questions such as “**What** happened? **Who** was involved? **How** were they involved? **Where** did it happen and **why**?” For the questions about people, for the fourth point, you must include approximate **dates** or relevant **biblical** book(s); places must include the approximate location.

Section II. **(60 points)** Longer answers for three questions (20 points each) will be drawn from major themes of the Biblical texts, lectures, and the Helen Graham article. Be prepared to give ten items of information for each subject. For full credit be sure to include examples.

Course Grading

At the completion of this course, you will receive a letter grade reflecting your performance in this course. Letter grades (from A – F) will be awarded according to the existing policies of North Park Theological Seminary. The final course grade will be computed according to the total number of percentage points earned for all assignments as shown below:

Total Points Earned: _____ Final Grade:

98-100

A+

95-97	A
93-94	A-
91-92	B+
88-90	B
86-87	B-
84-85	C+
81-83	C
78-80	C-
76-77	D+
73-75	D
70-72	D-

Academic Honesty

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion.

Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination or using resources during examination of your memory.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University’s online catalog.

Support Services

Please see the Course Information resource for the Student Support content if you need assistance during your course.

Disabilities Accommodations

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact their program's office: Seminary: (773) 244-5619

Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. If needed, appointments can be relocated. The link for Disability Services is: <http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Disability-Resources>.

Instructions for Writing a Précis (See Class Schedule for weeks when this may be an option.)

Précis means “a brief summary of essential points” or “a precise abstract”.

Format: The précis should be on one page, single spaced, block-style paragraphs, about 500 words. Do not quote more than a phrase or two.

In 3/4ths of the page (3-4 paragraphs) answer these questions:

- a. What is the author’s interest? What question or problem is she addressing?
- b. What is the main point of the author’s “answer” to that question.
- c. How does the author build her argument? What warrants (proof or logic) does she offer?
- d. Briefly summarize the main argument, step by step.

In 1/4th of the page offer your “critique” of the arguments:

- a. What’s missing?
- b. What assumptions do you question?

- c. Is the author's "interest" a helpful approach?
- d. What did you learn? What questions remain?