Samuel: GB 5153-01
(provisional syllabus)

On-Line Fall 2014    Instructor: John D. Fortner, Ph.D.

I. Course Description (from the Graduate Catalog on Scripture courses):

The Scripture courses offer serious, in depth study of a Bible book(s). Based on the English text, attention is given to backgrounds, critical issues, and original language insights. Critical issues of the individual books are reviewed in relation to the wider issues of the surrounding biblical material. Characteristic of each course is a careful reading of the specific book, a study of the general contents, and the integrating of the book into Bible history.

II. Objectives of this Textual Course:

- Learn the narrative time-line of significant Old Testament persons and events from ca. 2000-200 B.C.

- Become conversant with Deuteronomic theology and with the issues and theology of the Deuteronomistic History (encompassing the books of Deuteronomy-2 Kings).

- Learn the nature and nuances of Israelite historiography.

- Become conversant with the content, background, and theology of 1-2 Samuel.

- Recognize the theological significance of the Samuel narratives, and the Davidic traditions in particular, for subsequent Israelite society, religion, thought, and literature.

III. Required Course Texts:


• A Bible (Old and New Testaments). Students must have a Bible. I recommend (not require) either

   The NIV Study Bible, 2011 ed. or The New Oxford Annotated Bible, NRSV with the Apocrypha: An Ecumenical Study Bible, 4th ed., 2010

V. Course Requirements

1) Read & study the biblical books of 1-2 Samuel (+ 1 Kgs 1:1-2:12) along with assigned readings from the required textbooks.

2) Make select comparisons between the coverage of David in Samuel to corresponding coverage in 1 Chron 10-29.

3) Read and study the Psalms traditionally associated (by their caption) with events from the life of David.

4) Listen to the professor’s MP3 audio instruction.

5) Read & study the professor’s PDFs.

6) Participate in the Forum Enrichment Discussion (FED). When the professor posts a thread or threads for a certain week, course members will engage in a threaded discussion of the topic or topics. Each course member must respond first to the professor, then to the posts of at least two fellow course members.

   There will also be a Q and A Forum for the course through which course members can ask questions and carry on conversations with the professor and with one another about the content of the course. This Q and A Forum is a non-graded forum.

7) Take the scheduled seven (7) non-proctored (objective) quizzes over the variety of course materials most recently covered.

8) Taking a proctored comprehensive final exam over the semester’s work (see details below).

V. Grade Scale & Weight of Components

Grade Scale for the Course:

100-89.5% = A
89.4-79.5% = B
79.4-69.5% = C
69.4% and below = F
The Weights of the Course Components: *(subject to change)*:

- Forum Enrichment Discussion (FED) --------------------------------------------------- 20%
- Cumulative quizzes -------------------------------------------------------------------- 35%
- Proctored Comprehensive Final Exam --------------------------------------------------- 45%

VI. Intangibles Which Impact the Final Grade for the Course

Attitude
Individual progress & work ethic
Quality of meaningful participation in all course components

VII. Weekly Due Dates / Times for Course Components¹

**SUNDAY**

The professor will post all assignments for the week on Blackboard by **Sunday, 8 a.m.** of each course week, **beginning Sunday, August 17th**. Students may access these assignments at any time thereafter. Be sure to review all assignments as soon as they are posted. **This is especially important for the FED topic or topics for the week.**

**MONDAY / TUESDAY**

Each student should listen to the Prof’s **MP3** Blackboard lecture(s) *as early as possible* in the week, **but no later than Tuesday, 11:59 p.m.**

Each student should download, print, & study the Prof’s **PDF**s posted on Blackboard *as early as possible* in the week, **but no later than Tuesday, 11:59 p.m.** These **PDF**s supplement the MP3 lecture(s) and the weekly reading assignments.

**WEDNESDAY / THURSDAY**

Each student should read and study the assigned readings *as early as possible* in the week. Most of the assigned reading for the week should be completed **no later than Wednesday, 11:59 p.m.**

Each student must make a minimum of three (3) posts to each of the professor’s Forum Enrichment Discussion (FED) topic or topics (some weeks there may be more than one). The first post must be made to the professor **no later than Thursday, 11:59 p.m**

¹ As you can see, each course week runs from Sunday through Saturday.
FRIDAY

After responding to the professor’s topic (or topics) on the FED, each student must respond to at least two posts of his fellow course-members (for each of the professor’s topics for that week) no later than Friday, 11:59 p.m.

SATURDAY

For weeks in which a quiz is scheduled, the quiz will be available to students by Saturday, 8 a.m. Each student must submit the completed weekly quiz answer sheet no later than 11:59 p.m. the same day.

Progression through the Course at a Glance
(subject to change & supplementation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Weeks of the Course</th>
<th>On-Line Lecture Topics / Areas of Wisdom (subject to change)</th>
<th>Readings, Quizzes &amp; Final Exam (subject to change)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 1 Aug 17-23</td>
<td>The Old Testament Time-Line</td>
<td>DOTHB, #s 1, 2,</td>
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<td>The Former Prophets</td>
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<td>Israel in Canaan</td>
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<td>Wk 2 Aug 24-30</td>
<td>Deuteronomistic Theology</td>
<td>DOTHB, #s 3, 4, 5, 6 ABH, pp. 11-57 Qz # 1</td>
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<td>The Deuteronomistic History</td>
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<td>Wk 3 Aug 31-Sept 6</td>
<td>11th-century B.C. Israel</td>
<td>NIVAC, pp. 15-16; 21-40; 41-43 ABH, pp. 58-87</td>
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<td>Historiography vs. Theological History</td>
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<td>Wk 4 Sept 7-13</td>
<td>Eli and Samuel</td>
<td>Bible: 1 Sam 1-2 NIVAC DOTHB, #s 7, 8, 9 ABH, pp. 88-119 Qz # 2</td>
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<td>Hannah’s Prayer and Fulfillment</td>
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<td>Theology of Reversal</td>
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<td>Wk 5 Sept 14-20</td>
<td>Theology of the Tabernacle</td>
<td>Bible: 1 Sam 3-7 NIVAC DOTHB, # 10, 11</td>
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<td>Theology of the Ark of the Covenant</td>
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<td>Wk 6 Sept 21-27</td>
<td>Samuel, Man of Transition</td>
<td>Bible: 1 Sam 8-12 NIVAC DOTHB, # 12, 13 Qz # 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Theology of Kingship in Israel</td>
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<td>Saul: Judge, Prophet, or King?</td>
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| Wk 7  | Sept 28-Oct 4 | The Reign of Saul  
      David on the Horizon  
      The Double Rejection of Saul | Bible: 1 Sam 13-17  
      NIVAC  
      DOTHB, #s 14, 15, 16  
      ABH, pp. 120-49 |
|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wk 8  | Oct 5-11     | David’s Charisma  
      Saul in Pursuit of David  
      Death of Samuel | Bible: 1 Sam 18-26  
      NIVAC  
      ABH, pp. 149-68  
      Qz # 4 |
| Wk 9  | Oct 12-18    | David’s Shrewdness  
      Death of Saul | Bible: 1 Sam 27-31  
      NIVAC  
      DOTHB, # 17  
      ABH, pp. 169-94 |
| Wk 10 | Oct 19-25    | The Anointings of David  
      David’s Victory over Saul’s House  
      Abner and Joab | Bible: 2 Sam 1-6  
      NIVAC  
      DOTHB, # 18  
      ABH, pp. 194-200  
      Qz # 5 |
| Wk 11 | Oct 26-Nov 1 | God’s Eternal Covenant with David  
      Grave Sins and Great Grace | Bible: 2 Sam 7-12  
      NIVAC  
      DOTHB, # 19, 20 |
| Wk 12 | Nov 2-8      | David’s Sins and David’s Sons | Bible: 2 Sam 13-18  
      NIVAC  
      ABH, pp. 201-14  
      Qz # 6 |
| Wk 13 | Nov 9-15     | David and the Psalms | Bible: 2 Sam 19-24  
      NIVAC  
      ABH, pp. 214-23 |
| Wk 14 | Nov 16-22    | David: Life, Death, and Afterlife  
      David and Zion  
      The Integration of Biblical Covenants | Bible: 1 Kgs 1:1-2:12  
      NIVAC  
      ABH, pp. 224-30  
      Qz # 7 |
| Wk 15 | Nov 23-29    | Nov 23-29  
      THANKSGIVING  
      THANKSGIVING | Nov 23-29  
      THANKSGIVING  
      Proctored  
      Final Exam |
| Wk 16 | Nov 30-Dec 4 | Dec 5-8  
      Proctored  
      Final Exam |
Assigned Articles from *Dictionary of the Old Testament Historical Books* (*DOTHB*)
(numbered according to reading order)

# 1) “History of Israel 2: Premonarchic Israel,” Mark Chavalas, pp. 434-42
# 2) “History of Israel 3: United Monarchy,” Andrew E. Hill, pp. 442-52
# 4) “Historiography, Old Testament,” Steven L. McKenzie, pp. 418-25
# 5) “Deuteronomistic History,” Sandra L. Richter, pp. 219-30
# 6) “Narrative Art of Israel’s Historians,” Yairah Amit, pp. 708-15
# 7) “Prophets and Prophecy,” K. Möller, pp. 825-29
# 8) “Samuel, Books of,” Bill T. Arnold, pp. 866-77
# 9) “Samuel,” Mary J. Evans, pp. 863-66
# 10) “Philistines,” C. S. Ehrlich, pp. 782-92
# 11) “Ark of the Covenant,” Kenton L. Sparks, pp. 88-92
# 12) “Kings and Kingship,” K. M. Heim, pp. 610-23
# 14) “Saul and Saul’s Family,” Simcha Shalom Brooks
# 15) “Goliath,” Tarsee Li, pp. 356-59
# 16) “David,” P. E. Satterthwaite, pp. 198-206
# 17) “Magic and Divination,” A. Jeffers, pp. 670-74
# 18) “David’s Family,” Steven L. McKenzie, pp. 211-15
# 20) “Zion Traditions,” J. H. Hayes, pp. 1019-25
Securing Proctors for the Final Exam

Each student is required to secure a proctor for his or her Final Exam. All proctoring arrangements for the Final Exam must have been completed to the satisfaction of the professor of the course by the end of the 9th week of the Fall term, Saturday, October 18th.

The following guidelines for selecting proctors must be observed:

- the proctor must not be a family member or relative;
- the proctor must not be a work or colleague subordinate;
- the proctor must be able to receive and send documents and attachments in MS-Word;
- the proctor must have access to a printer and a scanner;
- no last minute proctor substitutions may be made.

PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATING & CONFIRMING A PROCTOR FOR THE FINAL EXAM

- no later than the end of the 6th week of the Fall term, Saturday, September 27th, the student must make e-mail contact with a preferred individual requesting that he / she serve as a proctor for the Final Exam;
- the student must convey in this e-mail all the responsibilities required of a proctor (cut and paste from the course syllabus).
- the student must inform his / her preferred proctor that he / she must notify the professor via e-mail (fortnerjohnd@gmail.com) that he / she has agreed to serve as proctor for the Final Exam. The proctor’s e-mail to the professor must contain the following contact information:
  - The proctor’s name;
  - The proctor’s physical home address;
  - The proctor’s home ground phone # and mobile phone # (if available);
  - The proctor's e-mail address.

When the professor receives this notification, he will confirm this arrangement with a return e-mail post to both the proctor and student. As stated above, all of these proctoring arrangements for the Final Exam must have been completed to the professor’s satisfaction by the end of the 9th week of the Fall term, Saturday, October 18th.
RESPONSIBILITIES SHARED BY THE PROCTOR AND THE STUDENT

- the proctor will receive the exam from the professor as an MS-Word e-mail attachment;
- the proctor will download and print a clear copy of the Final Exam (not stapling it);
- the proctor will present the exam to the student at the arranged place & time of the exam (no earlier than Friday, December 5th but no later than Monday, December 8th by 6 p.m. (CST).
- the proctor will clear the exam area of all student helps & aids;
- the proctor will be physically present during the exam (exam may extend up to 3 hrs);
- the proctor will scan the completed Final Exam as a PDF file and then submit it as an MS-Word e-mail attachment to the professor at fortnerjohnd@gmail.com on the day the exam is administered to the student (to be administered no earlier than Friday, December 5th and no later than Monday, December 8th by 6 p.m. (CST).
- the proctor will seal the hard copy of the Final Exam (with student’s name and proctors initials on each page in a pre-addressed, stamped 9” x 12” (or larger) brown envelope provided by the student), and write his / her (the proctor’s) name over the exterior sealed flap seam of the brown envelope;
- the proctor will mail the hard copy of the Final Exam on the same day that the exam has been administered (to be administered no earlier than Friday, December 5th and no later than Monday, December 8th by 6 p.m. (CST). The hard copy of the exam must be mailed to

John D. Fortner, Ph.D. / 10678 N. Milton Rd. / Milton, TN 37118
Miscellaneous Notes to Each Course Member

Technology

By registering for this on-line course, the student assumes full responsibility for acquiring and maintaining adequate high-speed internet service and appropriate computer hardware and software for making on-time progress toward the completion of all course components.

For successful progress through the course, students must be able to hear MP-3s and additional audio uploads. PDFs can only be read with Adobe Acrobat Reader which is available as a free download at http://www.adobereader.com.

Each course member should back up all of his or her submitted work and returned assignments on a disk, external hard drive, a flash drive, another computer, or through some off-site service. All course work should be backed-up in this way until the student receives a final grade in the course from the University. Hardware, software, or electronic transmission failures do not constitute an acceptable excuse for assignments which are not ultimately received by the professor.

Each course member is responsible for solving his or her own technical digital / electronic problems. Messages and assignments get "lost," servers go down, computers crash, operating systems fail. Thus, students should not wait until the last minute to attempt to access, work on, or submit assignments.

Missed Course Assignments

As a standing rule, a missed or omitted course assignment generates a grade of zero (0). The student is responsible for notifying the professor of an emergency that may result in missing a course assignment as soon as possible. It is at the professor’s discretion, depending upon the student’s circumstance (viz. illness or other family emergency), to allow a student additional time to complete missed course work.
Holidays & "No-Class" Days

Note that the Course Schedule makes appropriate allowance for the Thanksgiving Holidays, Nov 23-29, 2014. In the case of additional days for which the University stipulates “no classes,” there is sufficient flexibility in the Course Schedule to allow the course to move forward as usual without interruption or change in the established weekly regimen or course schedule. Thus, Sept 1 (Monday, Labor Day); Oct 17 (Friday, Fall Break), and Dec 4th (Thursday, Study Day) will not occasion any change in the weekly regimen or Course Schedule.

Academic Integrity

In keeping with our identity as a Christian University and our goal to help shape lifelong disciples of Christ, academic integrity will be taken very seriously in this class. Unless specific permission is given to collaborate on assignments with other students, each student's work shall be his / her own. Cheating on quizzes, exams, or assignments will result in penalties ranging from a significantly reduced grade on the assignment to failing the course. Instances of cheating may also be reported to appropriate members of the administration, depending on the situation. Decisions in these matters rest with the instructor. For information on Lipscomb’s policies and procedures see the “Academic Integrity” page on Lipscomb’s website.

Students with Disabilities

If any course member requires special accommodations for a documented disability, he or she should discuss specific circumstances with the professor immediately by phone (615)-273-4183 or by e-mail (fortherjohnd@gmail.com). Course members who are entitled to accommodations but who have not yet registered with the Academic Resources Center should contact that office immediately at (615)-966-6801.

Dropping the Course

A student’s decision to stop attending class does NOT constitute dropping the course. A drop / add form (available in the Registrar’s office) must be signed by the teacher and processed in the Registrar’s office before the drop is official. NOTE: If your name appears on the roster at grading time and you have not officially dropped the course, you will be assigned a grade based on the policies outlined in this syllabus.