

The Story of Israel
OT 3310—Course Syllabus, Fall 2009
Austin Graduate School of Theology

Dr. R. Mark Shipp
11912 Rosethorn Dr.
Austin, TX 78758
(512) 837-6714
shipp@austingrad.edu

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed. 1:00–4:00 P.M., Thurs. 10:00–12:00 A.M.

Class Meeting Time: Mon, Wed. 9:00–10:30 P.M.

Course Goals:

- 1) The student will demonstrate familiarity with significant persons and events in the biblical story of Israel, recorded in Genesis-Esther.
- 2) The student will be able to articulate important perspectives involved in the study of Old Testament theological themes.
- 3) The student will manifest awareness of the characteristics of some of the genres of Old Testament literature (law, covenant, narrative, etc.).

Course Objectives:

- 1) The student will acquire knowledge of the theological themes in the first 12–15 books of the Old Testament.
- 2) The student will be able to locate in Israel's history names, dates, and events important to a grasp of the text and significance of these books.
- 3) The student will be able to distinguish between various literary genres of the Pentateuch and Historical Books and be able to articulate important distinctives of each.
- 4) The student will be able to relate the themes of the Pentateuch and Historical Books to the life of faith and practical ministry today.

Nature and Scope of the Course:

In this course we will be concerned primarily with the books of Genesis through 2 Kings, commonly referred to as the "Torah" or "Pentateuch" (Genesis-Deuteronomy) and the "Historical Books" (Joshua–2 Kings). As time allows, we will try to also look at Chronicles–Esther, classified as "Historical Books" in our English Bibles. The literature and theology of these books will be the primary focus of the course, but we will also be looking at historical questions and concerns as we move through the course.

Required Texts:

The New Oxford Annotated Bible of the New Revised Standard Version, or another good study Bible. Wenham, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Vol. One. Downer's Grove: IVP, 2003.

Satterthwaite, Philip, and J. Gordon McConville. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books*. Vol. Two. Downer's Grove: IVP, 2007.

Database and Internet Resources:

There are several internet and database resources which Austin Graduate School of Theology provides which are especially helpful for students in the preparation of papers and book reviews. All students in OT 3310 are expected to become familiar with these resources and utilize them especially in the book review:

Online Periodicals: Through EBSCO, Austin Graduate School has access to hundreds of full-text journals on the web. See the librarian for access.

ATLA Database: The American Theological Library Association maintains a massive bibliographic database of theological journals and books. Please use this resource for identifying important books and articles for writing the exegesis paper. See the librarian for training and access to this database.

Course Requirements and Means of Assessment:

Regular class attendance and participation is required. All students should come prepared to discuss the particular section of scripture assigned for the day. This involves reading the relevant sections in the textbook and the Bible. Students should be in class and ready to begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Tardiness and absences will lower your letter grade for the course. See student handbook for unexcused absences/tardiness policy.

Exams: There will be three exams in the course of the semester: one after a survey of the Pentateuch (Genesis-Numbers or Deuteronomy), one after 2 Samuel, and the final exam after 2 Kings (or Esther, depending on how far we get).

Book Review: Each student will read and prepare a 3 page critical book review of an important book dealing with Old Testament studies. These reviews are due no later than November 30. The following are a few samples, but you may wish to do a review of another book. You will need to clear alternative suggestions through me.

Achtemeier, Elizabeth and Paul. *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith*. Revised ed. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994.

Clines, David. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. Second ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1997.

Fretheim, Terence. *Deuteronomistic History*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1983.

Heschel, Abraham. *The Prophets*. Volume One. New York: Harper and Row, 1962.

Kidner, Derek. *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes*. Downer's Grove: IVP, 1985.

Mann, Thomas. *The Book of the Torah*. Louisville: W/JKP, 1988.

You will need to find one or two published reviews on the *ATLA* database and refer to these in your own book review (see above on *ATLA* database).

Also, see "Guide for Written Work" under section III, "The Book Review" On the

www.austingrad.edu/academics_student_resource.html website. You will follow the format indicated in the preparation of your review.

Three Exams: 75% (25% each)
Book Review: 25%

See the student handbook or course catalog for the grading scale.

Schedule of Classes.

8/26: Introduction and Genesis: the Primeval History.

8/31 and 9/2: Genesis: the Primeval History and the Patriarchs (cont.).

Readings:

Genesis 1–26.

Wenham, 1–34.

9/9: Genesis: the Patriarchs (cont.).

Readings:

Genesis 27–50.

Wenham, 35–56.

9/14 and 16: Exodus.

Readings:

Exodus 1–24.

Wenham, 57–80.

9/21 and 9/23: I will be at ACU.

9/28 and 9/30: Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers.

Readings:

Leviticus 1–18 and Numbers 11–25.

Wenham, 81–121.

10/5 and 10/7: Deuteronomy; Exam #1.

Readings:

Deuteronomy 1–11, 26–34.

Wenham, 123–144.

10/12 and 10/14: Joshua.

Readings:

Joshua.

Satterthwaite, 1–72.

10/19 and 10/21: Joshua (cont.) and Judges.

Readings:

Judges.

Satterthwaite, 73–104.

10/26 and 10/28: The Rise of the Monarchy.

Readings:

1 Samuel.

Satterthwaite, 105–121.

11/2 and 11/4: The United Kingdom of David and Solomon.

Readings:

2 Samuel–1 Kings 11.

Satterthwaite, 122–153.

11/9 and 11/11: Exam #2; The Divided Kingdom.

Readings:

1 Kings 12–2 Kings 10.

Satterthwaite, 154–164.

11/16 and 11/18: The Divided Kingdom and Judah Alone.

Readings:

2 Kings 11–25.

Satterthwaite, 165–198.

11/23 and 11/25: Ezra, Nehemiah, Ruth, and Esther (if time allows).

Readings:

Ezra; Nehemiah; Ruth; Esther.

Satterthwaite, 220–265.

Book Reviews due.

11/26 and 27: Thanksgiving.

11/30 and 12/2: Ezra-Nehemiah, Ruth, Esther (cont.); 1–2 Chronicles.

Readings:

1 Chronicles 10–29; 2 Chronicles.

Satterthwaite, 266–290.

12/7: Exam. #3.