

▼ ***Old Testament Historical Books: Chronicles***

Austin Graduate School of Theology

Fall 2016—OT 6303i

Course Syllabus

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*Office Hours:* Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:00 AM; Thurs. 1:00–3:00 PM; Fri. 9:00–11:00 A.M.

▼ **MATS Course Goal:**

- The student will interpret passages of the Old Testament in light of their literary, historical, and theological contexts.

▼ **Course Objectives:**

- 1) The student will acquire an in-depth knowledge of Chronicles in its literary, historical, and theological setting.
- 2) The student will acquire knowledge of and be able to discuss and debate the methods and arguments of the commentators listed in “required texts” below.
- 3) The student will learn how to write an exegesis paper on a passage from Chronicles, using appropriate library and technological resources.

▼ **Course Format:**

- We will be doing a close reading of the text of Chronicles this semester, especially 1 Chronicles 10-29, with some attention to 2 Chronicles as time allows. This course sets Chronicles in its literary, theological, and historical context and raises important questions and critical issues about it. The main text is, therefore, the Old Testament, but other books are also required secondary reading (see below). This course will 1) introduce the student to the text of Chronicles; 2) introduce the main theological concerns of Chronicles; 3) familiarize the student with some of the more important critical issues in Chronicles and the “Chronicler’s History”; and 4) show how Chronicles informs the life of faith today. The class format will be mostly lecture, but the students will deliver rough drafts of exegetical papers in class throughout the semester.

### ▼ Required Texts:

- All students are encouraged to make use of all relevant scholarly helps in their pursuit of the understanding of the text of Holy Scripture. The following are intended to orient you, but you may wish to consult other books and articles.
- *The New Oxford Annotated Bible of the New Revised Standard Version*, or another good study Bible.
- McKenzie, Steven. *1–2 Chronicles*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2004.
- Shipp, R. Mark. "1 Chronicles" and "2 Chronicles," in *The Transforming Word*. Mark Hamilton, gen. ed. Abilene: ACU Press, 2009. pp. 353–394.
- Tuell, Steven. *First and Second Chronicles*. Interpretation Commentary. Louisville: W/JKP, 2001.

### ▼ Recommended Texts:

- Japhet, Sara. *I and II Chronicles*. Old Testament Library. Louisville: W/JKP, 1993.
- Gorman, Michael. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2001.

### ▼ Bible Search Software:

- I will be using *Accordance* version 11 in this course. *Accordance* is a powerful Bible concordance and search engine, for the Mac or PC. If you do not already own Logos, BibleWorks, Olive Tree, or a previous version of *Accordance*, the purchase and download of *Accordance* onto your computer is required.

### ▼ Course Requirements:

- 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 at class time. Tardiness and absences will lower your letter grade for the course. See student handbook for unexcused absences/ tardiness policy.
- 1 1/2 hour midterm exam.
- 2-3 hour final exam.

- One seven to ten page, typed exegesis paper. No more than one person will be assigned per passage.
- One 5 page sermon.
- See the student handbook or course catalog for the grading scale.

#### ▼ Preparation of Exegesis Paper:

- Exegesis papers must use the proper research style as laid out in K. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers* (latest edition). For exegetical method, use Gorman's *Elements of Biblical Exegesis* and the Austin Grad. instructions on exegesis posted on the web. Exegesis papers should pay careful attention to the literary context (extended and immediate), use of important terminology, historical setting, theology, and application. You may wish to structure your paper along these lines. Most importantly, students are expected to use *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, Whitaker's *NRSV Concordance*, and/or a Hebrew concordance copiously in order to determine the author's use of words and phrases. For historical background, you will find John Bright, *A History of Israel* (4th edition), particularly helpful. Commentaries and other resources are listed below. While I am most interested in your own exegesis of the texts, you should be aware of and make use of important commentaries, dictionaries, word books, introductions, etc.

#### ▼ Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Assignments:

##### ▼ 8/30 *Intro. to the Course and course syllabus. 1 Chronicles 1-9.*

##### ▼ Readings:

- McKenzie, 17–115.
- Shipp, 353–356.
- Tuell, 1–16.
- *Japhet, 1–50.*

##### ▼ 9/6: *1 Chronicles, Chapters 1–9, Chapter 10.*

##### ▼ Readings:

- McKenzie, 17–115; 115–120.
- Shipp, 356–360.
- Tuell, 1–16, 17–46.

- *Japhet, 1–50.*
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 9/13: *1 Chronicles, Chapters 11–12.*

▼ *Readings:*

- McKenzie, 120–131.
- Shipp, 360–361.
- Tuell, 46–54.
  
- *Japhet, 231–270.*
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

- 9/20: *No class; ACU Summit.*

▼ 9/27: *1 Chronicles, Chapters 13–16.*

▼ *Readings:*

- McKenzie, 131–153.
- Shipp, 361–364.
- Tuell, 54–71.
  
- *Japhet, 271–324.*
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 10/4: *1 Chronicles, Chapter 17.*

▼ *Readings:*

- McKenzie, 153–160.
- Shipp, 364–365.
- Tuell, 71–77.
  
- *Japhet, 325–341.*
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 10/11: *1 Chronicles, Chapters 18–20. Mid Term Exam.*

▼ *Readings:*

- McKenzie, 160–168.
- Shipp, 365–366.
- Tuell, 77–83.
  
- *Japhet, 342–369.*
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 10/18: *1 Chronicles, Chapters 21–22*

▼ *Readings:*

- McKenzie, 168–184.
- Shipp, 366–368.
- Tuell, 83–93.
  
- *Japhet, 370–404.*
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 10/25: *1 Chronicles, Chapters 23–29.*

▼ *Readings:*

- McKenzie, 184–225.
- Shipp, 368–371.
- Tuell, 93–113.
  
- *Japhet, 405–517.*
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 11/1: *2 Chronicles, Chapters 1–9.*

▼ *Readings:*

- McKenzie, 226–259.

- Shipp, 373–375.
- Tuell, 114–154.
- *Japhet*, 521–646.
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 11/8: *2 Chronicles*, Chapters 10–16.

▼ *Readings*:

- McKenzie, 259–286.
- Shipp, 375–378.
- Tuell, 155–175.
- *Japhet*, 647–741.
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

▼ 11/15: *2 Chronicles*, Chapters 17–23.

▼ *Readings*:

- McKenzie, 286–314.
- Shipp, 378–381.
- Tuell, 175–193.
- *Japhet*, 742–837.
- Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

- 11/22: *No class, Thanksgiving holiday.*

▼ 11/29: *2 Chronicles*, Chapters 24–36.

- ***Exegesis papers and sermons due.***

▼ *Readings*:

- McKenzie, 314–373.
- Shipp, 381–394.

- Tuell, 193–246.
  - *Japhet*, 838–1077.
  - Student Papers: \_\_\_\_\_
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- 12/6: ***Final Exam***.