

JUDGES TO ESTHER



Dr. Mark D. Futato

Reformed Theological Seminary

050T510

FALL 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Instructor: Dr. Mark D. Futato
- Contact Information: See Communication Protocols on Canvas > Course Resources
- Dates
 - Weekend 01 – September 23-24
 - Online – September 29 – October 27
 - Weekend 02 – October 28-29
- Office Hours: By Appointment via Canvas

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

- October 1 at 4p
 - Exam #1
- October 11 at 4p
 - Post #1
- October 13 at 4p
 - Post #2 = Reply #1
- October 25 at 4p
 - Post #3
- October 27 at 4p
 - Post #4 = Reply #2
 - Exam #2
- November 5 at 4p
 - Workbook
 - Reading Report
- November 12 at 4p
 - Exam #3

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT VALUES:

- Workbook 25%
- Posts 17%
- Reading 8%
- Exams 50%

PURPOSE AND GOALS

PURPOSE:

- To encourage you in living an abundant life to the glorify God.

OBJECTIVES:

- Comprehension
 - To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Judges to Esther.
 - To increase your knowledge of the theology in each book from Judges to Esther.
 - To increase your knowledge of the history of Israel from the period of the Judges to the post-exilic community.
- Competence
 - To sharpen your ability to interpret Judges to Esther in their geographical, historical, theological, and literary contexts.
 - To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Judges to Esther in your own life and in the life of the local church.
- Character
 - To be a person of growing faith.
 - To be a person of increasing hope.
 - To be a person of deepening love.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Special introduction
 - Walton, John H., and Andrew E. Hill. *Old Testament Today: A Journey from Original Meaning to Contemporary Significance*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
ISBN: 978-0310498209
 - You will read 123 pages of this book.
- Exegetical introduction
 - Chisholm, Robert B. *Interpreting the Historical Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2006.
ISBN: 9780825427640.
 - You will read 184 pages of this book.
- Historical introduction
 - Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008.
ISBN: 9780801031991.
 - You will read 367 pages of this book.
- Theological introduction
 - Van Pelt, Miles V., ed. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.
ISBN: 9781433533464.
 - You will read 234 pages of this book.

HISTORY WORKBOOK:

- During this course, you will produce a workbook on the history of Israel by answering questions on chapters 5-15 in *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel* by Eugene Merrill. The questions are found in the "Study Guide" on Canvas > Modules > Course Resources > Guides & Guidelines.
- Submission: Canvas (Modules > History Workbook).
- Due date: November 5 at 4p.

DISCUSSION POSTS:

- You will have online discussions of the book of Ruth and the book of Esther.
- In preparation for these discussions you will read at least the material on Ruth and Esther in:
 - Chisholm, Pages 99-100 (Ruth) and Pages 126-128 (Esther).
 - Walton & Hill, Page 191 (Ruth) and Pages 195-1196 (Esther).
 - Van Pelt, Chapters 21(Ruth) and 17 (Esther).
- You will submit at least two posts for each discussion.
 - In the subject line put LastName_FirstName, e.g., Futato_Mark.
 - Each post is to be between 250 and 500 words.
 - The first and third will articulate your position regarding a point of theology in the book of Ruth and the book of Esther respectively.
 - The second and fourth will be your replies to classmates' posts.
- Topics:
 - Post #1: What is the main theological point of Ruth and what is at least one implication of this theology for Christian living?
 - Post #3: What is the main theological point of Esther and what is at least one implication of this for Christian living?
- Grading criteria:
 - Post #1 and post #2 must have the following five headings:
 - **Thesis:** A thesis is a one sentence statement about your topic. It's an assertion about your topic, something you claim to be true. Think about what your readers want or need to know. Then write a sentence—a simple one—stating what will be the main idea of your argument. (1 points)
 - **Proof:** Proof includes logical arguments, examples, facts, supporting opinions. (1 point)
 - **Refutation:** Refutation anticipates objections and counters opposing point(s) of view. (1 point)
 - **Conclusion:** The conclusion indicates the significance or application of the thesis. (1 points)

- **References:** References are works consulted. Include at least two. (1 points)
 - Bibliography must follow SBL style:
 - Book: Jobes, Karen H. *Esther*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
 - Article in a journal: Smith, Mark S. "Your People Shall Be My People: Family and Covenant in Ruth 1:16-17," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 69. 2007): 242-258.
 - Article in a book: McClarty, Wilma. "Esther." *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Eds. Leland Ryken and Tremper Longman. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993, 216-229.
- Submission: Canvas (Modules > Discussion Posts).
- Due dates:
 - Post #1: October 11 at 4p
 - Post #2: October 13 at 4p
 - Post #3: October 25 at 4p
 - Post #4: October 27 at 4p

READING REPORT:

- I will give you one point for every 10% of the assigned material in Van Pelt, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* that you read.
- The report will be taken as a quiz on Canvas.
- Due date: December 5 at 4p.

EXAMS:

- There are three exams.
 - The exams will be taken on Canvas.
 - Exam #1:
 - Covers the lecture material from the first weekend.
 - Books of the OT – English divisions and order (see below).
 - Opens on September 24 at 4p and closes on October 1 at 4p.

- Exam #2:
 - Covers the lecture material from the online portion.
 - Books of the OT – Hebrew divisions and order (see below).
 - Opens on October 8 at 4p and closes on October 27 at 4p.
- Exam #3:
 - Covers the lecture material from the second weekend.
 - Books of the OT – Hebrew divisions and order (see below).
 - Opens on October 29 at 4p and closes on November 12 at 4p.
- Preparation:
 - Be prepared to answer questions based on the lectures. Questions will be taken from the lecture outlines.
- Submission: Canvas (Modules > Exams).

GRADING:

- The workbook is worth 30 points, equaling approximately 25% of your final grade.
- The posts are worth 5 points each or 20 points, equaling approximately 17% of your final grade.
- The reading report is worth 10 points, equaling approximately 8% of your final grade.
- The exams are worth 20 points each or 60 total points, equaling approximately 50% of your final grade.

SCHEDULE

Weekend 1

Introduction to the course

Background of Judges to the OT (Part 1): The Hebrew Canon

Chisholm, Chapter 1 & Pages 128-129

Van Pelt, Introduction

Walton & Hill, Pages 140-179

The Book of Judges

Chisholm, Pages 93-99

Merrill, Chapters 1 & 5

Van Pelt, Chapter 7

Walton & Hill, Pages 179-223

The Book of Samuel

Chisholm, Pages 101-112

Merrill, Chapters 6-8

Van Pelt, Chapter 8

Walton & Hill, Pages 223-229

The Book of Kings

Chisholm, Pages 112-118

Merrill, Chapters 9-13

Van Pelt, Chapter 9

Walton & Hill, Pages 230-244

Online Portion

Background to the OT (Part 2): Geography

Chisholm, Chapter 3

Walton & Hill, Pages 2-21

Background to the OT (Part 3): Canaanite Theology

Chisholm, Chapter 4

Walton & Hill, Pages 21-25

The Book of Ruth

Chisholm, Pages 99-100

Van Pelt, Chapter 17

The Book of Esther

Chisholm, Pages 126-128

Van Pelt, Chapter 21

Weekend 2

The Writings

Walton & Hill, Pages 213-227

Van Pelt, Pages 38-39

The Chronicler's History

Chisholm, Pages 129-131

The Book of Ezra-Nehemiah

Chisholm, Pages 118-122

Van Pelt, Chapter 23

Merrill, Chapters 14

The Book of Chronicles

Chisholm, Pages 122-126

Merrill, Chapter 15

Van Pelt, Chapter 24

HEBREW CANON

LAW/TORAH

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

PROPHETS/NEVI'IM

Former/Rishonim

Joshua
Judges
Samuel
Kings

Later/Achronim

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel
The Twelve

WRITINGS/KETUBIM

Psalms
Job
Proverbs
Ruth
Song of Songs
Ecclesiastes
Lamentations
Esther
Daniel
Ezra-Nehemiah
Chronicles

FURTHER READING

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION

- Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1995.
- Cate, Robert L. *An Introduction to the Historical Books of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *Interpreting the Historical Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. HOTE; Grand Rapids, MI, Kregel: 2006.
- Dumbrell, W.J. *The Faith of Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Howard, David M. Jr. and Michael A. Grisanti. *Giving the Sense: Understanding and Using the Old Testament Historical Texts*. Grand Rapids, MI, Kregel: 2003.
- Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
- Waltke, Bruce K. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel: From the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- Provan, Iain W., V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2003.

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORIOGRAPHY

- Dillard, Raymond B. "Harmonization: A Help and a Hinderance," *Inerrancy and Hermeneutic*. edited by Harvie M. Conn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988) 151-64.
- Long, V. Philips. *The Art of Biblical History*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 5; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Longman, Tremper III. "Storytellers and Poets in the Bible: Can Literary Artifice Be True," *Inerrancy and Hermeneutic: A Tradition, a Challenge, a Debate*. edited by Harvie M. Conn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988) 137-50.
- Merrill, Eugene H. "History," *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. edited by D. Brent Sandy and Ronal L. Giese, Jr.; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995) 89-112.

OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE

- Longman, Tremper III. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 3; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Pratt, Richard L. Jr. *He Gave Us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1990.

ANCIENT NEAR EAST

- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings From the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Studies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.
- Bienkowski, Piotr and Alan Millard. *Dictionary of the Ancient Near East*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania, 2000.
- Currid, John D. *Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.
- Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998)
- Millard, Allan. "The Old Testament and the Ancient Near East," *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. edited by Pat Alexander and David Alexander; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999) 105-7.
- Millard, Allan. "The Canaanites," *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. edited by D.J. Wiseman; Oxford: Oxford, 1973) 27-52.
- Schoville, Keith N. "Canaanites and Amorites," *People of the Old Testament World*. edited by Alfred J. Hoerth Et Al.; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994) 157-82.

JUDGES

- Coleson, Joseph, Lawson G. Stone, and Jason Driesbach. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2012.
- David, Dale Ralph. *Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1990.
- Groves, J. Alan. "The Book of Judges: Introduction and Notes," *The New Geneva Study Bible*. edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 331-365.
- Younger, K. Lawson Jr. *Judges/Ruth*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

- Webb, Barry G. *The Book of Judges: An Integrated Reading*. JSOTSup 46; Sheffield: JSOT, 1987.

SAMUEL

- Arnold, Bill T. *1 & 2 Samuel*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Looking on the Heart: Expositions of the Book of 1 Samuel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Out of Every Adversity: Expositions of the Book of 2 Samuel*. Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1999.

KINGS

- Barnes, William H. *1 & 2 Kings*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2012.
- House, Paul R. *1, 2 Kings*. NAC 8; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.
- Provan, Iain W. *1 and 2 Kings*. NIBC 7; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

RUTH

- Coleson, Joseph, Lawson G. Stone, and Jason Driesbach. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2012.
- Hubbard, Robert L., Jr. *The Book of Ruth*. NICOT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Younger, K. Lawson Jr. *Judges/Ruth*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Luter, A. Boyd and Barry L. Davis. *God Behind the Scenes: Expositions of Ruth and Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.
- Sakenfeld, Katherine Doob. *Ruth*. Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1999.

ESTHER

- Bechtel, Carol M. *Esther*. Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 2001.
- Jobes, Karen H. *Esther*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
- Luter, A. Boyd and Barry L. Davis. *God Behind the Scenes: Expositions of Ruth and Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.

EZRA-NEHEMIAH

- Fensham, F. Charles. *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1982.

- Futato, Mark D. "The Book of Ezra: Introduction and Notes," *The New Geneva Study Bible*. edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 646-642.
- Futato, Mark D. "The Book of Nehemiah: Introduction and Notes," *The New Geneva Study Bible*. edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 663-85.
- Thronveit, Mark A. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1992.
- Williamson, H. G. M. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. Vol. 16. WBS. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985.

CHRONICLES

- Dillard, Raymond B. *2 Chronicles*. WBC 15; Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.
- Hill, Andrew E. *1 & 2 Chronicles*. NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.
- Pratt, Richard L. Jr. *1 and 2 Chronicles*. Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1997.
- Thompson, J.A. *1, 2 Chronicles*. NAC 9; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: OT510 Judges to Esther

Professor: Futato

Campus: Orlando

Date: Fall 2012

| <u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> | | <u>Rubric</u> | <u>Mini-Justification</u> |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None | |
| Articulation (oral & written) | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Moderate | Students write extensively on the History of Israel. |
| Scripture | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong | Teaches the skills to research further into the original meaning of Scripture, including historical, literary, and theological perspectives. |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Minimal | Reflects on the sovereignty of God over history. |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification. | Moderate | Focuses on likeness to God as he is revealed in the corpus under study. |
| Desire for Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Minimal | Reflects on application of corpus to all of life. |
| Winsomely Reformed | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Minimal | Discussion forums are moderated to ensure that students communicate winsomely. |
| Preach | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | None | |
| Worship | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | None | |
| Shepherd | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | None | |
| Church/World | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | None | |