

HB 733 Samuel, Kings, & Chronicles

Spring 2015

Wednesdays 2:00–4:50 pm

Instructor: Paul Kim

Werner Hall 218 (office hours: by appointment preferred)

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Course Description

This is an upper-level course of the exegetical study on Samuel-Kings and Chronicles. We will engage in an in-depth study of the books of Samuel-Kings and Chronicles both with regard to their rich contents and various issues for interpretation, especially in comparison of the two collections. We will also incorporate ways for making constructive and critical applications of the diverse interpretive insights toward ministry and other relevant concerns.

In order to meet these goals, this course will take an inductive approach, which implies flexibility and interaction as keys for maximum learning. First, we will study the biblical text primarily *as it is*. A careful reading, analysis, and appreciation of the entire texts in their given form will be strongly emphasized. We will focus on select texts for each class for literary and thematic interpretations. Second, we will also pay close attention to the historical, archaeological, and compositional issues that are intricately embedded in the text *as it was*. We will read some related materials and each student will undertake a research study on a given topic. Third, we will then apply hermeneutical principles to (re-)interpret the text *as it should be*. This endeavor implies both an ideological encounter with the text's concepts and a theological assessment vis-à-vis the life of the church and contemporary society. Hence, the format of the class will be more like a seminar than a lecture, with constant effort to make discussions theologically challenging, constructive, and creative.

Objectives

- ❑ to build familiarity with the very texts of Samuel-Kings-Chronicles
- ❑ to do hands-on works on the praxis of exegeting selected texts
- ❑ to dialogue with diverse readers and interpreters, both ancient and modern

Textbooks

Required:

- ☞ Johanna W. H. van Wijk-Bos, *Reading Samuel: A Literary and Theological Commentary* (Macon, Ga.: Smyth & Helwys, 2011)
- ☞ Marvin A. Sweeney, *I & II Kings* (OTL; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007)
- ☞ Mark J. Boda, *1-2 Chronicles* (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary; Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2010)

Recommended:

- ☞ Gina Hens-Piazza, *1-2 Kings* (AOTC; Nashville: Abingdon, 2006)
- ☞ Steven L. McKenzie, *1 and 2 Chronicles* (AOTC; Nashville: Abingdon, 2004)

Requirements

1. Faithful Attendance and Participation at All Sessions: assigned readings—biblical texts first, and also secondary readings—should be done prior to each class session and students should be prepared to discuss the issues raised in the readings.
2. Exegesis Papers (two): because this course is an upper-level biblical books-based exegesis course, we will put emphasis on exegetical tasks. Thus, there are *two* exegesis papers as required assignments. Each student will need to choose one exegesis text during the first-half of the semester, and then choose the second exegesis text during the second-half of the semester. Those who signed up for their specific week will be doing a panel presentation on the focus text. You should post an abbreviated summary (e.g., 1-2 pages long) on Sakai by 24 hours prior to the class. Then, each exegesis paper (**10 pages**, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font size) is due *one week after* the corresponding passage will have been discussed. Late submission will result in grade reduction (cover page, bibliography, or appendixes such as chart, diagram, etc. will not be counted).
3. Research Report OR Interpretive Performance: whereas the exegesis paper above should be done alone, individually, this project may be done as a group, collectively, or individually. Be sure to consult numerous pertinent secondary resources. Each individual or group may select one of the two options:
(a) topical research report OR (b) interpretive application/performance.

For option #(a), you may do a concentrated research on a selected topic. In most cases, there are three different approaches, and one of which you may select:

- (i) DtrH // ChrH: comparing and/or contrasting DtrH (Deuteronomistic historical books) with ChrH (Chronicles). It would be feasible to choose a text (or a theme) and then analyze as to where differences are between the two books, and expound how each book presents its unique perspectives.
- (ii) Minority or female characters: pick a character, in most cases, who does not play a major role (hence Samuel, David, Elijah, Elisha are excluded) and trace, investigate, compare her/his role and depiction in DtrH and ChrH.
- (iii) Hermeneutical application to today's issues: find an episode, issue, or character and then, critically and creatively explore in what ways your observation and interpretation can be relevant in contemporary world. What inspirations, connections, and/or challenges can you discover and present from the topic?

For option #(b), you may take on a character, issue, or theme and present in a creative form of performance (e.g., powerpoint, drama, monologue, art, music, worship setting, performance, etc.).

“Research report” should consist of a report paper (suggested amount: typed, single-spaced, 3 pages, plus a bibliography), whereas “Interpretive performance/application” should have a brief synopsis report (at least 1-page handout) and powerpoint or similar performance in the presentation. Each individual or group must consult and confirm with the instructor regarding their project idea/topic.

Grading

Class Contribution/Readings	25%
Exegesis Papers (two)	50%
Research Report/Interpretive Performance	25%

Lectionary Passages (Revised Common Lectionary)

Year A	1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)	1 Kings 3:5-12 (Proper 12)	1 Kings 19:9-18 (Proper 14)
Year B	1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (Proper 28)	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) (Second Sunday after the Epiphany)	1 Samuel 8:4-20 (Proper 5)
	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 // 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16 (Proper 7)	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 (Proper 8)	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 (Proper 9)
	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 (Proper 10)	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) // 2 Samuel 7:1-14a (Proper 11)	2 Samuel 11:1-15 or 2 Kings 4:42-44 (Proper 12)
	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a (Proper 13)	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 (Proper 14)	2 Samuel 23:1-7 (Proper 29)
	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 (Proper 15)	1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 (Proper 16)	1 Kings 17:8-16 (Proper 27)
	2 Kings 2:1-12 (Transfiguration Sunday)	2 Kings 5:1-14 (Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany)	
Year C	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (Second Sunday after Christmas Day)	1 Kings 18:20-39 or 1 Kings 8:22-43 (Proper 4)	1 Kings 17:8-24 (Proper 5)
	1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a (Proper 6)	1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a (Proper 7)	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 or 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 (Proper 8)
	2 Kings 5:1-14 (Proper 9)	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c (Proper 23)	

Class Schedule

Date	Topics/Texts	Articles/Books
Feb 4	Introduction Reading Samuel, Kings, & Chronicles	Exegesis, Theology, & Hermeneutic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Johanna van Wijk-Bos, pp. 1-18 ■ Marvin Sweeney, pp. 26-32 ■ Steven McKenzie, pp. 43-58
Feb 11	1 Samuel 1–12 Exegesis Focus: 1 Samuel 1:1-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reinhard Müller, “1 Samuel 1 as the Opening Chapter of the Deuteronomistic History?” in <i>Is Samuel among the Deuteronomists?</i> (2013), 93-104. ■ Donald W. Parry, “Hannah in the Presence of the Lord,” in <i>Archaeology of the Books of Samuel</i> (2010), 53-73. ■ Marianne Grohmann, “Psalm 113 and the Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10): A Paradigm for Intertextual Reading?” in <i>Reading the Bible Intertextually</i> (2009), 119-135, 289-294.
Feb 18	1 Samuel 13–31 Exegesis Focus: 1 Samuel 14:1-52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Philip R. Davies, “Saul, Hero and Villain,” in <i>Remembering Biblical Figures in the Late Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods</i> (2013), 131-140. ■ Klaus-Peter Adam, “Saul as a Tragic Hero: Greek Drama and Its Influence on Hebrew Scripture in 1 Samuel 14, 24-46 (10, 8; 13, 7-13a; 10, 17-27),” in <i>For and against David: Story and History in the Books of Samuel</i> (2010), 123-184. ■ Ralph K. Hawkins, “The First Glimpse of Saul and His Subsequent Transformation,” <i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i> 22 (2012): 353-362.
Feb 25	2 Samuel 1–12 Exegesis Paper: 2 Samuel 11 – 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ David Janzen, “The Condemnation of David’s ‘taking’ in 2 Samuel 12:1-14,” <i>JBL</i> 131 (2012): 209-220. ■ Steven L. McKenzie, “Ledavid (for David)! ‘Except in the Matter of Uriah the Hittite,’” in <i>For and against David: Story and History in the Books of Samuel</i> (2010), 307-314. ■ Yitzhak Berger, “Ruth and the David-Bathsheba Story: Allusions and Contrasts,” <i>JSOT</i> 33 (2009): 433-452.
Mar 4	2 Samuel 13–24 Exegesis Paper: 2 Samuel 24:1-25 (// 1 Chr 21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Song-Mi Park, “Census and Censure: Sacred Threshing Floors and Counting Taboos in 2 Samuel 24,” <i>HBT</i> 35 (2013): 21-41. ■ Antony F. Campbell, “2 Samuel 21-24: The Enigma Factor,” in <i>For and against David: Story and History in the Books of Samuel</i> (2010), 347-358. ■ Kyle R. Greenwood, “Labor Pains: Relationship between David’s Census and Corvée Labor,” <i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i> 20 (2010): 467-477.

Mar 11	1 Kings 1–11 Exegesis Paper: 1 Kings 3:1-28 (// 2 Chr 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Christina Petterson, “‘Nothing Like It Was Ever Made in Any Kingdom’: The Hunt for Solomon’s Temple,” in <i>Postcolonialism and the Hebrew Bible</i> (2013), 93-107 ■ Moshe Garsiel, “Revealing and Concealing as a Narrative Strategy in Solomon’s Judgment (1 Kings 3:16-28),” <i>CBQ</i> 64 (2002): 229-247. ■ Carole R. Fontaine, “The Bearing of Wisdom on the Shape of 2 Samuel 11-12 and 1 Kings 3,” <i>JSOT</i> 34 (1986): 61-77.
Mar 18	1 Kings 12–21 Exegesis Paper: 1 Kings 21:1-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Carey Walsh, “Why Remember Jezebel?” in <i>Remembering Biblical Figures in the Late Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods</i> (2013), 311-331. ■ Makhosazana Nzimande, “Reconfiguring Jezebel: A Postcolonial Imbokodo Reading of the Story of Naboth’s Vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-16),” in <i>African and European Readers of the Bible in Dialogue</i> (2008), 223-258; (plus) Hans de Wit, “Interpretation and Social Transformation: A Response to Makhosazana K. Nzimande,” in <i>African and European Readers of the Bible in Dialogue</i>, 259-267. ■ Herbert B. Huffmon, “Jezebel – The ‘Corrosive’ Queen,” in <i>From Babel to Babylon</i> (2006), 273-284. <p>Research Report Topics Due</p>
Mar 25 & Apr 1	MIDTERM RECESS & HOLY WEEK BREAK	
Apr 8	1 Kgs 22 – 2 Kgs 8 Exegesis Paper: 1 Kings 22:1-36 (// 2 Chr 17–20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ehud Ben Zvi, “A Contribution to the Intellectual History of Yehud: The Story of Micaiah and Its Function within the Discourse of Persian-Period Literati,” in <i>Historian and the Bible</i> (2010), 89-102. ■ Eep Talstra, “The Truth and Nothing but the Truth: Piety, Prophecy, and the Hermeneutics of Suspicion in 1 Kings 22,” in <i>Land of Israel in Bible, History, and Theology</i> (2009), 355-371. ■ R.W.L. Moberly, “Does God Lie to His Prophets? The Story of Micaiah ben Imlah as a Test Case,” <i>Harvard Theological Review</i> 96 (2003): 1-23
Apr 15	2 Kings 9–17 Exegesis Paper: 2 Kings 11:1-20 (// 2 Chr 22–23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Robert W. Kuloba, “Athaliah of Judah (2 Kings 11): A Political Anomaly or an Ideological Victim?” in <i>Looking through a Glass Bible</i> (2014), 139-152. ■ Monika Müller, “The Households of the Queen and Queen Mother in Neo-Assyrian and Biblical Sources,” in “<i>My spirit at rest in the north country</i>” (<i>Zechariah</i> 6.8) (2011), 241-263. ■ Robin Gallaher Branch, “Athaliah, a Treacherous Queen: A Careful Analysis of Her Story in 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 22:10–23:21,” <i>In die Skriflig</i> 38 (2004): 537-559.

Apr 22	2 Kings 18–21 Exegesis Paper: 2 Kings 18:1-37 (// 2 Chr 29–32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bob Becking, “Between Realpolitiker and Hero of Faith: Memories of Hezekiah in Biblical Traditions and Beyond,” in <i>Remembering Biblical Figures in the Late Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods</i> (2013), 182-198. ■ Paul Evans, “The Hezekiah-Sennacherib Narrative as Polyphonic Text,” <i>JSOT</i> 33 (2009): 335-358. ■ Diana Edelman, “Hezekiah’s Alleged Cultic Centralization,” <i>JSOT</i> 32 (2008): 395-434.
Apr 29	2 Kings 22–23 Exegesis Paper: 2 Kings 22:1–23:30 (// 2 Chr 34–35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Joseph Blenkinsopp, “Remembering Josiah,” in <i>Remembering Biblical Figures in the Late Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods</i> (2013), 236-256. ■ Michael Pietsch, “Prophetess of Doom: Hermeneutical Reflections on the Huldah Oracle (2 Kings 22),” in <i>Soundings in Kings</i> (2010), 71-80, 182-187. ■ Kenneth A. Ristau, “Reading and Rereading Josiah: The Chronicler’s Representation of Josiah for the Postexilic Community,” in <i>Community Identity in Judean Historiography: Biblical and Comparative Perspectives</i> (2009), 219-247.
May 6	2 Kings 24–25 Exegesis Focus: 2 Kings 24:1–25:30 (// 2 Chr 36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Michael Chan, “Joseph and Jehoiachin: On the Edge of Exodus,” <i>ZAW</i> 125 (2013): 566-577. ■ Samantha Joo, “A Fine Balance between Hope and Despair: The Epilogue to 2 Kings (25:27-32),” <i>BibInt</i> 20 (2012): 226-243. ■ Kari Latvus, “Decolonizing Yahweh: A Postcolonial Reading of 2 Kings 24-25,” in <i>Postcolonial Biblical Reader</i> (2006): 186-192.
May 13	Research Reports & Presentations	
May 20	Research Reports & Presentations	

ACADEMIC POLICY

Please see Student Handbook for sections providing policy details on the following:

ADA—MTSO seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in its learning communities. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs at the beginning of the semester. Please contact the Director of Student Services to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any accommodation must be agreed upon prior to the due date of the affected course requirement.

Class attendance—Regular attendance is expected in all classes. During unavoidable absences, students are responsible for missed work. An excessive number of absences

may result in grade reduction or course failure, despite successful completion of all assigned work. In most cases, a student will not be allowed credit for a course if he or she is absent for 25% of the class sessions. As it relates to blended courses, students may not be allowed credit if they are absent for 25% of class meetings or if 25% of online course work is not completed. Use of Skype or similar technology is not a substitute for attendance in class.

Electronic Devices—Turn mobile devices off or “vibrate only” during class. Browsing the Internet or engaging in email or social network conversations during class is discouraged. Instructors have the right to impose grading penalties for disruptions due to electronic devices. [**HB733 Policy**—In our interactive learning environment, mutual respect toward the instructor and everyone else is essential. Surfing the internet, facebooking, etc. during class can be as rude as (if not more than) snoring or reading a novel. Because it is disrespectful and distracting, these are not permitted. Repeated use of these devices will result in your grade reduction. If you must reply to an email or text message due to an urgent situation, please inform me and you will be permitted to use it.]

Human Subjects Research—Research by MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel that collects non-public information from and/or about living individuals or contemporary organizations/groups for purposes of publication or public presentation (including class assignments) must be approved by the Human Subjects Research Committee. MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel should err on the side of caution and apply for committee approval of any activity that may fit this description.

Inclusive Language—In accordance with MTSO’s policy on inclusive language, all students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

Incompletes—To receive a course grade of Incomplete, students must submit the petition form from the Registrar with all signatures to the Dean’s Office before the last day of regularly scheduled classes. See Student Handbook for intensive term deadlines. Any petition submitted without a due date for outstanding work will be denied. If work is not complete by the due date the Registrar will record the grade of F for the course.

Pass/Fail—The decision to exercise this option must be made before the end of the second week of the course by completing the appropriate form available through the Registrar. To receive a grade of "pass" the student must do at least the equivalent of C minus work in the course.

Plagiarism—Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the masters level are expected to understand the requirement to provide attribution when the work of others is used. Students are also expected to be familiar with and understand the school’s policy on Academic Misconduct found in the Student Handbook. If students have questions about attribution, citation, and how to avoid plagiarism they should consult the course instructor, the school’s writing instructor, or library staff. When in doubt it is better to provide attribution even if one is uncertain about the proper citation form. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that results in disciplinary actions per the Student Handbook that may range from failing an assignment or course to expulsion.

Selected Book List on Samuel-Kings-Chronicles

COMMENTARIES:

- Auld, A. Graeme. *I & II Samuel* (OTL; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011)
- Barron, Robert. *2 Samuel* (Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible; Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2015)
- Brueggemann, Walter. *First and Second Samuel* (Interpretation; John Knox, 1990)
- Birch, Bruce C. "1 and 2 Samuel" in *New Interpreter's Bible* (vol. 2; Abingdon, 1998)
- Bodner, Keith. *1 Samuel: A Narrative Commentary* (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009)
- Campbell, Antony F. *1 Samuel* (FOTL; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003)
- _____. *2 Samuel* (FOTL; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005)
- Cartledge, Tony W. *1 & 2 Samuel* (Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary, 2001)
- Jobling, David. *1 Samuel* (Berit Olam; Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 1998)
- Klein, Ralph W. *1 Samuel* (WBC; Waco: Word Books, 1983)
- McCarter, P. Kyle. *1 Samuel* (AB; New York: Doubleday, 1980)
- Morrison, Craig E. *2 Samuel* (Berit Olam; Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 2013)
- Murphy, Francesca Aran. *1 Samuel* (Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible; Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2010)
- Peterson, Eugene. *1 & 2 Samuel* (Westminster Bible Companion; Louisville: WJK, 1999)
- Penchansky, David. *The Storyteller's Companion to the Bible, Volume Three: Judges-Kings* (Abingdon, 1992)
- Tsumura, David Toshio. *The First Book of Samuel* (NICOT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007)
- Vannoy, J. Robert. *1-2 Samuel* (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary; Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2009)
- Wijk-Bos, Johanna W. H. van. *Reading Samuel: A Literary and Theological Commentary* (Macon, Ga.: Smyth & Helwys, 2011)

- Barnes, William. *1-2 Kings* (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary; Tyndale, 2012)
- Brueggemann, Walter. *1 & 2 Kings* (Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary, 2000)
- Cogan, Mordechai. *1 Kings* (AB; New York; Doubleday, 2001)
- Cohn, Robert L. *2 Kings* (Berit Olam; Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 2000)
- Fretheim, Terence E. *1 & 2 Kings* (Louisville: WJK, 1999)
- Fritz, Volkmar. *1 & 2 Kings* (Continental Commentary; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003)
- Hens-Piazza, Gina. *1-2 Kings* (AOTC; Nashville: Abingdon, 2006)
- Nelson, Richard D. *First and Second Kings* (Interpretation; John Knox, 1987)
- Seow, Choon-Leong. "1 and 2 Kings" in *NIB* (vol. 3; Nashville: Abingdon, 1998)
- Sweeney, Marvin A. *I & II Kings* (OTL; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007)
- Walsh, Jerome T. *1 Kings* (Berit Olam; Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 1996)

- Boda, Mark J. *1-2 Chronicles* (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary; Tyndale House, 2010)
- Hooker, Paul K. *First and Second Chronicles* (Westminster Bible Companion; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001)
- Japhet, Sara. *1 & 2 Chronicles* (OTL; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993)
- Jarick, John. *1 Chronicles* (2nd ed.; Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2007)
- _____. *2 Chronicles* (Readings; Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2007)
- Klein, Ralph. *1 Chronicles* (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006)
- Knoppers, Gary N. *1 Chronicles 10–29* (Anchor Yale Bible; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004)
- McKenzie, Steven L. *1 and 2 Chronicles* (AOTC; Nashville: Abingdon, 2004)
- Tuell, Steven S. *1 & 2 Chronicles* (Interpretation; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001)
- Williamson, H. G. M. *1-2 Chronicles* (NCB; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982)