

Class Schedule:

Tuesdays 4:00-5:50pm **Professor:** Dr. Paul S. Evans **Phone:** 905.525.9140 x24718 **E-mail:** pevans@mcmaster.ca

Office: 236

Course Description:

• A study of 'Synoptic' (parallel) texts in the Old Testament through a special focus on the book of Chronicles, which largely parallels Samuel–Kings, as well as drawing on other biblical texts. Areas to be studied include: a survey of the Chronicler's history with a focus on its distinctive themes; significant individual passages in Chronicles; the Chronicler's portrayal of David and the Davidic kings; the history of Chronicles scholarship; comparisons with the Deuteronomistic History and other biblical parallels; and the Chronicler's purpose and method. In addition to the focus on Chronicles, other synoptic texts in the Old Testament will be the focus of seminar discussions and papers.

Course Objectives:

Knowing

- To have a thorough knowledge of the contents and message of Chronicles
- To gain familiarity with the state of the field of research on Chronicles
- To gain an awareness of the presence of various synoptic texts in the Old Testament

Being

- To embrace the contemporary relevance of Chronicles for the Church today
- To grow closer to God through closer study of the Old Testament

Doing

- To be able to discuss the relation of Samuel-Kings to Chronicles
- To be able to interpret Chronicles in its historical context
- To be able to apply the message of Chronicles to contemporary audiences

Required Texts:



Sara Japhet. The Ideology of the Book of Chronicles and Its Place in Biblical Thought. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2009.

Evans, Paul S. and Tyler F. Williams eds. *Chronicling the Chronicler: The Book of Chronicles and Early Second Temple Historiography*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013.



Articles posted on Avenue to Learn.

Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Evaluation

The assignments and their weights are as follows:

- 10% Class Participation: This course is designed as a graduate seminar. The professor will begin with some introductory lecture but the majority of the course will be student-led discussions and presentations. Classroom experiences will be collaborative, with both students and professor engaged in the learning process together. Students must attend every class and come prepared to actively contribute to class discussions. Therefore, assigned readings and assigned research must be completed before class time in order for both the individual student and the broader class to benefit.
- 15% Leading Class Discussion. Each student will take two turns leading the class discussion. Preparation for leading the discussion will require extra reading and independent research on behalf of the discussion leader. Each presentation must take the form of a brief initial presentation (summarizing the monograph read) and the facilitation of further discussion on the topic. Presentation notes are due before class (to the professor via email). Topics for discussion are listed below in the course schedule.

- *Presentation notes are due before class (to the professor via email). Topics for discussion are listed below in the course schedule.
- **35% Research Paper on Chronicles: 20 pages.** Due <u>Oct 13.</u> No extensions will be given. Paper will be submitted via A2L for both the professor and fellow classmates, who will come prepared to discuss their peers' papers in class on <u>Oct 18</u>. At the beginning of each discussion students will provide a 5-minute overview of the paper to get discussions going.

Following our class presentations, students will revise their paper in light of the feedback received and submit the final version to the professor by **Oct 28**.

Paper (30%) For this paper students will choose a research topic or text from the book of Chronicles. <u>Research Topic must be approved by your professor.</u>

Reviews (5%): Each student will write a two-page review of their fellow students' papers and email them to the professor before the date on which the papers will be presented and discussed, and then to the student who wrote the paper(s) after the class discussion of the paper under review.

40% - Research on Chosen Synoptic Text. 25 pages. Students may choose any synoptic text (from Chronicles or elsewhere) from the Old Testament on which to focus for this paper. Students will write a complete draft of the paper by Nov 21 and submit the paper via A2L for both the professor and classmates.

Presentation (5%) Each student will present their paper (a 20–30 minute version) to the rest of the class **Nov 29**.

Reviews (5%): Each student will write a two-page review of their fellow students' draft papers and offer critical feedback via email by **Dec 4**. This will be emailed to both the student and the professor.

Paper (35%) Students will then revise their paper in light of the feedback received and submit the final version to the professor by **Dec 11**. *Research Topic must be approved by your professor.*

College Style for Submission of Written Work

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

All papers to be submitted in electronic format only (a pdf file)—no hardcopies! Email to pevans@mcmaster.ca. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., evans.researchpaper.pdf). To avoid late marks papers must be received by 11:59pm on which they are due. Late assignments receive no critical feedback.

Policy concerning late papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances. (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions and in the interests of fairness any request for extensions will take into account the entire class. Late assignments will be docked at the rate of 2% per day for the first 7 days (including weekends) and 4% per day after that. All assignments must be received by the last day of class (Dec 9) in order to avoid a failing grade in the class. Late assignments receive no critical feedback.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/

Date	Classroom Experiences	Main Synoptic Text	Readings due	Assignment due
Sept 13	A. Introduction - Synoptics B. Chronicles in Past Research			
Sept 20	A. The Synoptic Problem: Chr's relationship to other biblical books B. Genre of Chronicles	2 Sam 6 / 1 Chr 15	 Cross, Frank Moore. "A Reconsideration of the Judean Restoration." <i>JBL</i> 94 (1975) 1–18. Lemke, W. "The Synoptic Problem in the Chronicler's History." <i>HTR</i> 58 (1965) 349–63. McKenzie, Steven L. "The Chronicler as Redactor," Pages 70–90 in in <i>The Chronicler as Author</i>. Ed. M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie (1999). Auld, A. Graeme. "What Was the Main Source of the Books of Chronicles?" Pages 91–135 in <i>The Chronicler as Author</i>. Ed. M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie (1999). 	* 2 page review of readings (with comments & questions) to be posted on A2L by Monday 11:59pm)
Sept 27	A. Historicity of Chronicles	2 Chr 8.4-6; 11.5-12; 14.5-6; 16.6; 17.12-13; 26.2, 6, 10; 27.4; 32.29)	 Ben Zvi, Ehud. "The Chronicler as Historian: Building Texts," Pages 132–149 in <i>The Chronicler as Historian</i>. Ed. Matt Patrick Graham, et al. (1997). Knoppers, Gary N. "History and Historiography: The Royal Reforms," Pages 178–203 in <i>The Chronicler as Historian</i>. Ed. Matt Patrick Graham, et al. (1997). Klein, Ralph W. "How Many in a Thousand?" Pages 270–282 in <i>The Chronicler as Historian</i>. Ed. M Patrick Graham, et al. (1997). 	* 2 page review of readings (with comments & questions) to be posted on A2L by Monday 11:59pm)
Oct 4	A. Genealogies B. Role of Saul in Chronicles C. The Coronation of David	2 Sam 17:25 / 1 Chr 2:16 1 Chr 10-11 / 1 Sam 31-2 Sam 5	 Genealogies Bodner, Keith. "Reading the Lists: Several Recent Studies of the Chronicler's Genealogies." Pages 29–41 in Chronicling the Chronicler. Schweitzer, Steven James. "The Genealogies of 1 Chronicles 1–9: Purposes, Forms, and the Utopian Identity of Israel." in Chronicling the Chronicler Evans, Paul S. "All in the Family of David: The Chronicler's Change from the Ammonite (2 Sam. 17:25) to the Davidic Zeruiah (1 Chr 2:16)," in Community: Biblical and Theological Reflections, ed. Rick Wadholm, Jr. and Meghan Musy (2022). Death of Saul Zalewski, Saul. "The purpose of the story of the death of Saul in 1 Chronicles 10." Vetus Testamentum 39 (1989) 449–467. Jonker, Louis C. "Revisiting the Saul Narrative in Chronicles: Interacting with the Persian Imperial Context?" Old Testament Essays 23 (2010) 283–305. 	* 2 page review of readings (with comments & questions) to be posted on A2L by Monday 11:59pm)
Oct 11	A. The Chronicler's Census Narrative	1 Chr 21 / 2 Sam 24	 Wright, John W. "The Innocence of David in 1 Chronicles 21." JSOT 60 (1993) 87–105. Knoppers, Gary N. "Images of David in Early Judaism: David as Repentant Sinner in Chronicles." Biblica 76 (1995) 449–470. Evans, Paul. "Divine Intermediaries in 1 Chronicles 21: An Overlooked Aspect of the Chronicler's Theology." Biblica 85 (2004) 545–558. Evans, Paul. "Let the Crime Fit the Punishment: The Chronicler's Explication of David's 'Sin' in 1 Chronicles 21." Pages 65–80 in Chronicling the Chronicler. 	* 2 page review of readings (with comments & questions) to be posted on A2L by Monday 11:59pm) **Draft Chronicles Research Paper <u>due</u> October 13
Oct 18	A. Discussion of Seminar papers on Chronicles		Read peer's seminar papers in time to discuss Oct 18	* 2 page review of peer's papers to be posted on A2L by Monday 11:59pm)
Oct 25	READING WEEK – NO CLASS			**Final version of Chronicles paper <u>due</u> <u>Oct 28</u>

Nov 1	A. Temple Despoliations B. Ahaz in Chronicles C. Student led presentations and class discussion	1 Chr 21 / 2 Sam 24 2 Chr 28 / 2 Kgs 16 / Isa 7 (Ahaz)	 Evans, Paul S. "The Function of the Chronicler's Temple Despoliation Notices in Light of Imperial Realities in Yehud." <i>JBL</i> 129 (2010) 31–47. Knoppers, Gary N. "Treasures Won and Lost: Royal (Mis)appropriations in Kings and Chronicles." Pages 181–208 in <i>The Chronicler as Author</i>. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic 1999. Smelik, Klaas A. D. "The Representation of King Ahaz in 2 Kings 16 and 2 Chronicles 28." Pages 143–185 in <i>Intertextuality in Ugarit and Israel</i>. Leiden: Brill, 1998. Evans, Paul S. "Prophecy Influencing History: Dialogism in the Chronicler's Ahaz Narrative." Pages 143–165 in <i>Prophets and Prophecy in Ancient Israelite Historiography</i>. Ed. Mark J Boda and Lissa Wray-Beal. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013. 	th Dbe Lby 19pm)
Nov 8	A. Hezekiah Texts B. Theory of Re-United Monarchy	2 Chr 29-32 / 2 Kgs 18-20	 Moriarty, Frederick L. "Chronicler's account of Hezekiah's reform." Catholic Biblical Quarterly 27 (1965) 399–406. Knoppers, Gary N. "A Reunited Kingdom in Chronicles?" Proceedings (Grand Rapids, Mich.) 9 (1989) 74–88. Throntveit, Mark A. "Hezekiah in the Books of Chronicles." Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers (1988) 302–311. Evans, Paul S. "Historia or Exegesis? Assessing the Chronicler's Hezekiah–Sennacherib Narrative." Pages 103–120 in Chronicling the Chronicler. 	th be L by
Nov 15	A. Manasseh in Chronicles and Kings	2 Chr 33 / 2 Kgs 21	 Abadie, Philippe. "From the Impious Manasseh (2 Kings 21) to the Convert Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33): Theological Rewriting by the Chronicler." Pages 89–104 in Chronicler as Theologian ed. M. P. Graham, et al. (2003). Ben Zvi, Ehud. "Reading Chronicles and Reshaping the Memory of Manasseh" Pages 121–140 in Chronicling the Chronicler. Kelly, Brian. "Manasseh in the Books of Kings and Chronicles (2 Kings 21:1–18; 2 Chron 33:1–20)," Pages 131–146 in Windows into Old Testament History. Ed. V. Philips Long, et al. (2002). 	th be Lby spm) rch osen
Nov 22	NO CLASS DUE TO SBL	2 Chr 34-35 / 2 Kgs 22-23 (Josiah)	 Ben Zvi, Ehud. "Observations on Josiah's Account in Chronicles and Implications for Reconstructing the Worldview of the Chronicler." Pages 89–106 in Essays on Ancient Israel. Ed. Yairah Amit, et al. (2006). Talshir, Zipora. "The Three Deaths of Josiah and the Strata of Biblical Historiography." VT 46 (1996) 213–236. Mitchell, Christine. "The Ironic Death of Josiah in 2 Chronicles." Catholic Biblical Quarterly 68 (2006) 421–435. 	th b be LL by 19pm) on of v 29
Nov 29	Student Presentations of research papers		• Read drafts of peers' papers and write review by Dec 4 *Peer review research pap Dec 4 Dec 4	ers due
Dec 6	Message / Purpose of the Chronicler	2 Chr 36	 C. Begg, "Seeking Yahweh' and the Purpose of the Chronicles," Louvain Studies 9 (1982) 128–42. R. Braun, "The Message of Chronicles: Rally 'Round the Temple," Concordia Theological Monthly 42 (1971) 502–14. Schniedewind, William N. "The Chronicler as an Interpreter of Scripture." Pages 158–180 in The Chronicler as Author. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie (1999). Talshir, Zippora. "Several Canon-Related Concepts Originating in Chronicles." ZAW 113 (2001) 387–403. 	th be Lby om)

• Van Seters, John. "Creative Imitation in the Hebrew Bible." <i>Studies in Religion</i> 29 (2000) 392–409.		
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Gender Inclusive language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Research Paper Evaluation

Name: Topic:	
I. The next items are rated according to this scale: 1 : 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = superior.	= inadequate; 2 = adequate;
Bibliographic consciousness	1 2 3 4 5
Range and Use of Sources	1 2 3 4 5
Clarity in Defining Issues	1 2 3 4 5
Strength of Argument	1 2 3 4 5
Awareness of Exegetical Issues	1 2 3 4 5
Accuracy of Data and Assertions	1 2 3 4 5
Analysis /Critical Thinking	1 2 3 4 5
Introduction (Thesis Statement /Clear Issue)	1 2 3 4 5
Development of Thesis (focus)	1 2 3 4 5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1 2 3 4 5
Organization/coherence of ideas	1 2 3 4 5
Grammar/Spelling	1 2 3 4 5

§ Note: this is a simple evaluation tool to assist in paper assessment. The categories are not weighted equally, and thus are not added together or averaged to calculate your grade.

II. The following need attention if so indicated

□ Use inclusive language	□ The paper is too long/too short
□ Write a unified essay	□ Edit your paper more thoroughly
□ Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page	□ The paper needs balance
numbers etc. need attention	□ Follow MDC Style guide
☐ Cite primary resources correctly/	☐ Cite secondary resources correctly/
consistently (e.g., Gen 1:26; Gen 1; etc.)	consistently

III. Comments

Select Bibliography

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- Ackroyd, Peter R. "The Biblical Interpretation of the Reigns of Ahaz and Hezekiah," Pages 247–259 in *In the Shelter of Elyon: Essays on Ancient Palestinian Life and Literature in Honor of G.W. Ahlstrom*. Edited by W. Boyd Barrick and John R. Spencer. JSOTSup, 31. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1984.
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- Ben Zvi, Ehud. "The authority of 1–2 Chronicles in the late Second Temple period." *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*, 3 (1988) 59–88.
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37–51.
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<i>1 and 2 Chronicles.</i> Forms of the Old Testament Literature 11. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1989.
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Dyck, Jonathan E. <i>The Theocratic Ideology of the Chronicler</i> . Biblical Interpretation, 33. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 1998.
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"The Function of the Chronicler's Temple Despoliation Notices in Light of Imperial Realities in Yehud." <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> 129 (2010) 31–47.
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"Historia or Exegesis? Assessing the Chronicler's Hezekiah-Sennacherib Narrative." Pages 103–120 in <i>Chronicling the Chronicler: The Book of Chronicles and Early</i>

_ "Creating a New "Great Divide": The Exoticization of Ancient Culture in Some Recent Applications of Orality Studies to the Bible." Journal of Biblical Literature 136 (2017) 749-764. . "All in the Family of David: The Chronicler's Change from the Ammonite (2 Sam. 17:25) to the Davidic Zeruiah (1 Chr 2:16)," in Community: Biblical and Theological Reflections in Honour of August H. Konkel, ed. Rick Wadholm, Jr. and Meghan Musy. McMaster Divinity College Press, 2022. Evans, Paul S., and Tyler F. Williams, eds. Chronicling the Chronicles: The Book of Chronicles and Early Second Temple Historiography. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013. Freedman, David Noel. "The Chronicler's Purpose." Catholic Biblical Quarterly 23 (1961) 436-442. Gelston, Anthony. "The End of Chronicles." Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament 10 (1996) 53-59.Graham, Matt Patrick, and Steven L. McKenzie. The Chronicler as Author: Studies in Text and Texture. ISOTSup, 263. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999. Japhet, Sara. "The Supposed Common Authorship of Chronicles and Ezra-Nehemiah Investigated Anew." Vetus Testamentum 18 (1968) 332-72. Japhet, Sara. "Conquest and Settlement in Chronicles." Journal of Biblical Literature 98 (1979) 205-215.. The Ideology of the Book of Chronicles and its Place in Biblical Thought. Beitrèage zur Erforschung des Alten Testaments und des antiken Judentums. Bd. 9. Frankfurt am Main; New York: P. Lang, 1997. . The Ideology of the Book of Chronicles and its Place in Biblical Thought. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2009. ___. "The Historical Reliability of Chronicles: The History of the Problem and Its Place in Biblical Research," Pages 117–136 in From the Rivers of Babylon to the Highlands of *Judah: Collected Studies on the Restoration Period.* Winona Lake, Indiana:

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"The Date of the Book Chronicles," Pages 347–71 in <i>God's Word for Our World:</i> Volume I-Biblical Studies in Honor of Simon John DeVries. Edited by D. L. Ellens Ed. J. H. Ellens, R. P. Knierim and I. Kalimi. JSOTSup. London\NewYork: T & T Clark, 2004.
"Was the Chronicler a Historian?," Pages 73–89 in <i>The Chronicler as Historian</i> . Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
Klein, Ralph W. 1 Chronicles: A Commentary. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
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"The City Yhwh Has Chosen": The Chronicler's Promotion of Jerusalem in Light of Recent Archaeology," Pages 307–326 in <i>Jerusalem in Bible and Archaeology</i> . Edited by Andrew G. Vaughn and Ann E. Killebrew. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
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