



McMaster Divinity
College

PHD-CHTH G105-C05 MA - OT 6ZY6
OLD TESTAMENT SYNOPTIC TRADITIONS
Fall 2014

Class Schedule:

Wednesdays 10:30-12:20pm

Professor: Dr. Paul S. Evans

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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.
- Isaac Kalimi. *The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles*. (Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2005).
- Articles distributed to the class.

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, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: 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.
- 20% - Leading Class Discussion.** Each student will take a turn leading the class discussion. Preparation for leading the discussion will require some independent research on behalf of the discussion leader. Each presentation must take the form of a brief initial lecture (with handout and bibliography for class members) and then the facilitation of further discussion on the topic. Presentation notes are due before class (to the professor via email). Topics for discussion will be determined *in situ*.
- 30% - Research Paper on Chronicles: Minimum 20 pages.** Due Oct 17, 2014. No extensions will be given. Papers must be double-spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font throughout (footnotes should be 10pt Times New Roman font). The bibliography must contain at least 20 items of varied secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, specialized books) including *at least* 3 articles from peer reviewed / refereed journals. *By way of supplement* to these 15 sources, a student may use a *maximum* of 2 internet resources. Students are responsible for the quality of the sources chosen. These secondary sources do not include primary sources. Each source listed must be drawn on in the paper and evidenced in the footnotes etc. Research Topic must be approved by your professor.

40% - Research Paper (of publishable quality) on Chosen Synoptic Text. Minimum 20 pages. Though the main focus in this course is on Chronicles, students may choose any synoptic text from the Old Testament on which to focus for this paper; however, this paper can also be on Chronicles if desired. Students will write a complete draft of the paper by November 26, 2014 and submit the paper electronically to the professor who will distribute the paper electronically to students. Students will be divided into groups of 3 or 4 and each student will present their paper (a 20 minute version) to the group, in class, on November 26, 2014. After the presentations each student will read each group member's draft paper (distributed electronically to students) and offer critical feedback via email by December 3, 2014. Students will then revise their paper in light of the feedback received and submit the final version to the professor by December 10, 2014. *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

All papers to be submitted in electronic format only (a pdf file)—no hardcopies! Email to pevans@mcmaster.ca. If you need a program for creating pdfs go to <http://primopdf.com> or <http://www.pdf995.com> for a free pdf maker. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., [evans.researchpaper.pdf](#)). To avoid late marks papers must be received before the end of the calendar day on which they are due (i.e., before midnight Eastern Standard Time).

Policy concerning late papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances. (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, holidays, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions. 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 **December 10** in order to avoid a failing grade in the class.

Academic dishonesty:

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 ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

Gender Inclusive language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Useful Internet Sites

- OT Gateway (<http://www.otgateway.com/>)
- itanakh (www.itanakh.org.) Includes links to many full text articles and useful webpages.
- ETANA: Electronic sources for ANE Studies <http://www.etana.org>
- <http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/sitesofinterest.aspx> From the website of the Society of Biblical Literature. Contains links to many useful sites categorized according to subject areas.
- *Dinur Centre for Research in Jewish History*
(http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/dinur/internetresources/historyresources/biblical_studies.htm)
- *Internet Ancient History Sourcebook*
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html>
- Codex: Resources for Biblical, Theological, and Religious Studies
(<http://biblical-studies.ca>)
- *Links related to Bible & ANE:*
(<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/%7Ehummm/Resources/Texts/index.html>)
- *Link for choosing commentaries:* <http://bestcommentaries.com>

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.

Research Paper Evaluation

Name: _____ Topic: _____

I. The next items are rated according to this scale: 1 = inadequate; 2 = adequate; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = superior.

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified essay
<input type="checkbox"/> Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page numbers etc. need attention
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite primary resources correctly/consistently (e.g., Gen 1:26; Genesis 1; etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> The paper is too long/too short
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly
<input type="checkbox"/> The paper needs balance
<input type="checkbox"/> Follow MacDiv Style guide
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|---|--|

III. Comments

Select Bibliography

In order to aid in research preparation, topic selection or for further reading students may wish to consult the following bibliography.

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.

Allen, Leslie C. *The Greek Chronicles: The Relation of the Septuagint of I and II Chronicles to the Massoretic Text*. 2 vols. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum 25, 27. Leiden: Brill, 1974.

Auld, A. Graeme. *Kings Without Privilege: David and Moses in the Story of the Bible's Kings*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994.

_____. "What Was the Main Source of the Books of Chronicles?" Pages 91-135 in *The Chronicler as Author*. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

Balentine, Samuel E. "You Can't Pray a Lie': Truth and Fiction in the Prayers of Chronicles," Pages 246-267 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

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.

_____. "When the Foreign Monarch Speaks," Pages 209-228 in *The Chronicler as Author*. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

_____. "The Chronicler as Historian: Building Texts," Pages 132-149 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238 Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

_____. "A Gateway to the Chronicler's Teaching: The Account of the Reign of Ahaz in 2 Chr 28,1-27." *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament* 7 (1993): 216-249.

_____. "Observations on Josiah's Account in Chronicles and Implications for Reconstructing the Worldview of the Chronicler," Pages 89-106 in *Essays on Ancient Israel*. Edited by Yairah Amit, Ehud Ben Zvi, Israel Finkelstein, and Oded Lipschits. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2006.

_____. "A Sense of Proportion: An Aspect of the Theology of the Chronicler." *SJOT* 9 (1995): 37-51.

- Braun, Roddy L. "1 Chronicles 1-9 and the Reconstruction of the History of Israel: Thoughts on the Use of Genealogical Data in Chronicles in the Reconstruction of the History of Israel." Pages 92-106 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
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- De Vries, Simon J. "Moses and David as cult founders in Chronicles." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 107 (1988): 619-639.
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- Dillard, Raymond B. *2 Chronicles*. Word Biblical Commentary 15. Waco, Texas: Word, 1987.
- Duke, Rodney K. "A Rhetorical Approach to Appreciating the Books of Chronicles," Pages 100-135 in *The Chronicler as Author*. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- Dyck, Jonathan E. *The Theocratic Ideology of the Chronicler*. Biblical Interpretation, 33. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 1998.
- Evans, Paul S. "Divine Intermediaries in 1 Chronicles 21: An Overlooked Aspect of the Chronicler's Theology." *Biblica* 85 (2004): 545-558.
- _____. "The Function of the Chronicler's Temple Despoliation Notices in Light of Imperial Realities in Yehud." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 129 (2010): 31-47.
- _____. "Prophecy Influencing History: Dialogism in the Chronicler's Ahaz Narrative." Pages 143-65 in *Prophets and Prophecy in Ancient Israelite Historiography*. Edited by Mark J Boda and Lissa Wray-Beal. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013.
- _____. "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: The Book of Chronicles and Early Second Temple Historiography*. Edited by Paul S. Evans and Tyler F. Williams. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013.
- _____. "Historia or Exegesis? Assessing the Chronicler's Hezekiah-Sennacherib Narrative." Pages 103-120 in *Chronicling the Chronicler: The Book of Chronicles and Early Second Temple Historiography*. Edited by Paul S. Evans and Tyler F. Williams. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013.
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- _____. "The Date of the Book Chronicles," Pages 347-71 in *God's Word for Our World: 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/New York: T & T Clark, 2004.

- _____. "Was the Chronicler a Historian?" Pages 73-89 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
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- Kleinig, John W. *The Lord's Song: The Basis, Function and Significance of Choral Music in Chronicles*. JSOTSup, 156. Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1993.
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- _____. "'To Him You Must Listen': The Prophetic Legislation in Deuteronomy and the Reformation of Classical Tradition in Chronicles." Pages 161-194 in *Chronicling the Chronicler: The Book of Chronicles and Early Second Temple Historiography* Edited by Paul S. Evans and Tyler F. Williams. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013.
- _____. "The City Yhwh Has Chosen": The Chronicler's Promotion of Jerusalem in Light of Recent Archaeology," Pages 307-326 in *Jerusalem in Bible and Archaeology*. Edited by Andrew G. Vaughn and Ann E. Killebrew. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
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- Tino, Jozef. *King and Temple in Chronicles*. Forschungen Zur Religion Und Literatur Des Alten Und Neuen Testaments. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2010.
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