



OT 3XS3/5XS5

Class meets asynchronously online:

- Sept 12–Dec 9, 2022

Class meets synchronously online:

- Wednesday @ 9:00am–10:50pm EST (May 3; May 31)

Professor: Dr. Paul S. Evans

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Office: 236

Course Description:

This course will provide a close reading of the biblical books of 1–2 Samuel, exploring important historical, literary and theological issues raised by the text. We will investigate what the proper role of the monarchy was in Israel's history; why Saul was rejected as king; whether Samuel was an unbiased prophet; the nature of Saul's failure as king, and what qualities of David set him apart as a king. Sustained attention will be paid to the rise of David from young shepherd boy, to Israel's hero and king, and his latter decline as sin, family crises and other tragic events threatened to depose him later in life. The key role of David in salvation history will also be explored with a biblical theological exploration of the "son of David" in messianic expectation. This course will consider the nature of the biblical narrative and its theological importance in both its ancient context and for the modern church today.

Specializations: Biblical Studies and Pastoral Studies



Course Objectives:

Knowing

- To gain in-depth knowledge of the contents and message of the books of Samuel
- To gain familiarity with the assumptions, methods and conclusions of modern critical scholarship on the Old Testament
- To gain an appreciation for the literary character of ancient historiography

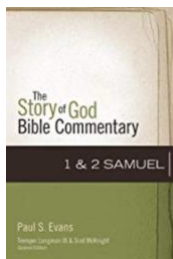
Being

- To embrace the contemporary relevance of these biblical books for the Church today
- To grow closer to God through study of his Word

Doing

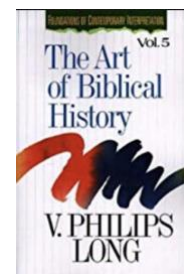
- To be able to interpret Samuel in its original contexts
- To be able to apply the book of Samuel to contemporary audiences.

Required Texts



Paul S. Evans *1–2 Samuel*. Story of God Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.

V. Philips Long, *The Art of Biblical History*, vol. 5 in Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).



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 Requirements

I. Synchronous Classroom Experiences (via Zoom conferencing app)

Participation in synchronous classroom experiences is an assumed foundation for this course (like class attendance) if a student fails to participate their final mark will be reduced by one full letter grade (so A becomes B, A- becomes B-).

Successful classroom experiences depend on student commitment commensurate as how it would be in a face-to-face experience. Just as in a normal physical classroom experience, students are encouraged to take notes, participate in discussion through asking and answering questions, and wear appropriate attire. As much as is possible students should join the Zoom class in a quiet place where you will not be interrupted. Please have your video turned on whenever possible. It is best practice to mute your microphone except for when you are intending to speak to the class. Students are encouraged to use digital virtual backgrounds if desired. Tasteful backgrounds can help with the issues of privacy, equity, and prevent distractions for others in the class (e.g., in the case of a family member walking in the background of your video).

***A link to participate via Zoom will be posted in an announcement on Avenue to Learn each week we meet.

1. **Tuesday Sept 14 at 9:00am–10:50am EST**

Class will meet virtually via Zoom. Our time together will include introductions and an overview of the class.

2. **Tuesday Dec 7 at 9:00am–10:50am EST**

Class will meet virtually via Zoom. In our time together we will share our reflections on course materials

2. Asynchronous Class Discussions- 50% (Sept 12– Dec 7)

Most of the class will take place asynchronously online on the Avenue to Learn course website. Each week students will participate in the online discussion by **posting** responses to **two** discussion questions at the beginning of a week (Sun-Tues). As well, to further the online discussion all students must **respond** to minimum **two posts** every week. Since initial posts will be online in the first part of the week, there will adequate time for all students to respond to posts in a timely manner.

Posts will involve student reflection on questions raised by the biblical text, the textbooks, or lecture videos for the week.

Course Evaluation

The assignments and their weights are as follows:

1. 10% - Reading - Due Dec 7, 2022

Each student is to complete the assigned readings which includes portions of the Old Testament and all of the textbooks (see schedule below). Students will submit a detailed list of the reading that they have completed (including page spreads for partial reading). *The schedule below is a *suggested schedule for reading*.* Students may take more or less time to complete the assigned readings, but all assigned readings must be completed by **June 15**.

- The reading assignment is completed when the student uploads their Reading List assignment to the appropriate Assignment Box on A2L.

2. 20% - Chapter Review of *The Art of Biblical History*. Due date, Oct 5, 2022 no extensions. 4 pages

Students must abstract and critically review either chapter 2 or 3 of this textbook. The review paper must be **no more than 4 pages** double-spaced. The paper must summarize the contents of the chapter and give critical interaction and evaluation of the chapter. See “Review Guidelines” below.

3. 30% - Character Study: 8-10 pages Due date, Nov 2, 2022 no extensions.

After reading handouts and articles on characterization in biblical narratives students will write a paper on the characterization of their chosen biblical character.

Possible topics: Samuel, Saul, David, Michal, Abigail, Bathsheba, Joab, Absalom, Jonadab, Ahithophel. *Choice of another biblical character must be approved by your professor*

4. 40% - Major Assignment. 12-15 pages. Due date Dec 7, 2022 no extensions.

All major assignment papers must follow the MDC Style Guide. Papers should be double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font (footnotes should be single-spaced and 10pt). The major assignment must draw on (and explicitly cite) at least 12 sources within the paper. See “**Major Assignment Evaluation Guidelines**” below.

A. Major Assignments for Biblical Studies Specializations:

There are two (2) options for Biblical Studies: Choose only one (1) of the following:

- 1. Research Paper: 12 pages** This is especially recommended if you are planning to go on to a research degree or write a thesis in OT (or if you have a particular topic in mind that you wish to write on). The topic of this research must be related to Samuel and approved by the professor.

2. Exegetical Paper: 12 pages Students will write an exegetical paper on a chosen text from the book of Samuel (your chosen text must be approved by your professor).

The exegetical paper should include

1. A thesis statement
2. Discussion of the historical and cultural context
3. An exegesis of the passage
4. Discussion of how the passage fits within its broader context
5. Hermeneutical Approach Appropriated
6. Theological reflections and conclusion

B. Major Assignments for Pastoral Specializations:

There are three (3) options for Biblical Studies: Choose only one (1) of the following:

1. Exegetical Paper: as outlined above (**12 pages**)

2. Sermon on a passage from Samuel (oral presentation). 20-25 minute video-taped sermon uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo (or other video sharing site).

Beginning with the text of Samuel this sermon will expound a passage, applying it to the contemporary context. The sermon will be delivered orally but include a written paper with an outline. The paper may be a combination of sentence, bullets/point form, paragraphs (it need not be a complete essay of the words you preach). This paper should be grammatically correct and include appropriate citation of sources employed.

3. Sermon on a passage from Samuel (written). 10 pages double-spaced.

Beginning with the text of Samuel this sermon will expound a passage, applying it to the contemporary context. The sermon will be an original written composition but written with an aim to oral delivery. The submitted text should include an outline. The sermon must be written as it would be spoken and must *not* be in point form etc. but be a full written manuscript. It is expected it will conform to MDC style guide and be grammatically correct and acknowledge its sources appropriately (using Endnotes—not footnotes).

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 uploaded to A2L in pdf file format. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., evans.researchpaper.pdf). To avoid late marks

papers must be uploaded successfully by 11:59pm on which they are due. Late assignments receive no critical feedback

Wk	Date	Classroom Experiences	Content	Assignment Due
1	Sept 14	Initial Zoom meeting 9:00am–10:50am	Course Overview: Introduction to the book of Samuel	--
2	Sept 18-24	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	1 Samuel 1–2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hannah’s Story The asked-for Son Prophecy against Eli’s sons 	--
3	Sept 25-Oct 1	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	1 Sam 3–7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calling Samuel Fall of Shiloah and the Elide House Israel repents 	--
4	Oct 2-8	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	1 Sam 8–14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise of Saul Saul Saves Saul will not wait Saul will not lead 	*Chapter Review Due Oct 5
5	Oct 9-12	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	1 Sam 15–18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saul disobeys David anointed David called David delivers David outshines David covenants 	--
6	Oct 16-22	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	1 Sam 19–26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan arbitrates David leaves Saul executes David Runs David Spares 	--
Oct 24-29 READING WEEK				
7	Oct 30-Nov 5	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	1 Sam 27–31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David the Philistine Saul and the Necromancer Death of Saul 	* Character Study due Nov 2
8	Nov 6–12	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	2 Sam 1–4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David avenges Saul David crowned king The Civil War 	--
9	Nov 13–19	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	2 Sam 5–10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David established David takes Jerusalem David brings the Ark David Honours covenant 	--
10	Nov 20-26	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	2 Sam 11–14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David’s great fall David’s repentance Problems in David’s House 	--
11	Nov 27-Dec 3	Avenue to Learn asynchronous discussions of readings and lecture video	2 Sam 15–21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absalom’s Rebellion Rizpah and Hearing God through the voice of the suffering 	--
12	Dec 4-9	Zoom meeting Dec 7	2 Sam 22–24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David’s Mighty Men The Census David as Messianic figure Samuel as a Whole 	* Major Assignment due Dec 7 * Reading Report due Dec 7

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 (Apr 8) 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/>

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.

PAPER EVALUATION

I. The following 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
Neatness/Presentation	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; Gen 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"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|--|--|

III. Comments

CHAPTER REVIEW GUIDELINES

I. The chapter review from V. Phillips Long. *The Art of Biblical History* should roughly follow this format:

Summary of Content: 1 - 2 Pages

Critique of Content 1 - 2 Page

Personal Reflection ½ - 1 Page

Total=*no more* than 4 pages per review! Pages 5ff *will not* be read

The following items are rated according to the following scale:

1 = poor/inadequate; 2 = adequate; 3 = good/more than adequate; 4 = very good; 5 = excellent/superior.

Summary of Content (noted key concepts etc.)	1 2 3 4 5
Quality of Critique (evidence of critical thought)	1 2 3 4 5
Reflective Thought (theological depth, sensitivity)	1 2 3 4 5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1 2 3 4 5
Grammar/Spelling	1 2 3 4 5
Neatness/Presentation	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 checked

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified review
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<input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly
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<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
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III. Comments

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