

## In Ministry Course Syllabus

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

OT 101 (501): *Promise and Covenant*. An investigation into the literature dealing with the origins of the nation of Israel, including the Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and Joshua through Ruth. Students will be introduced to the nature of Hebrew narrative, and to scholarly approaches to this material. The primary emphasis will be on God's promises and covenants with His people: their nature and their significance in history and theology (Bethel Catalog description).

The student will be introduced to the religious, historical, and cultural background of Genesis through Ruth. The course will trace the progressive unfolding of God purpose and plan for the nation of Israel. The theological emphases and literary features of these books will be observed.

**Purposes:** The purpose of this course is to provide the student with:

1. a basic knowledge of the historical background and religious-cultural setting of the Old Testament books of Genesis through Ruth.
2. a basic knowledge of the literary and theological distinctions and purposes of each Book (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and Ruth).
3. an understanding of how to interpret, teach, and apply narrative passages to the student's own life and to the life of others.
4. a growing appreciation of the unique contribution this part of God's revelation has for for the student's own personal life.

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### Required Textbook

Merrill, Eugene H., *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*, Second Edition (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1966).

Class notes on Genesis through Ruth, Dr. Forrest Weiland (to be distributed on line).

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

### A. Reading Assignments

There will be reading assignments from: (1) Dr. Weiland's overview notes to the Old Testament books of Genesis through Ruth, (2) the text book *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*, Second Edition, by Eugene Merrill, and (3) biblical books of Genesis through Ruth (see course schedule). The assigned passages from Genesis through Ruth are to be read through carefully and completely during the course. Reading progress reports will be submitted to the professor weekly.

### B. Application Assignments

The application assignments need to be answered in writing and submitted to the professor as an email attachment through blackboard the week they are assigned (There are application assignments for weeks 1, 2, 3, & 9).

### C. Discussion Questions

Participation in discussion forums in written form (on-line) is required during those weeks in which discussion questions are presented (weeks 1, 2, 3, & 9). (See instructions on the discussion forums for specific details regarding participation).

### D. Exam

There will be one Exam to be taken at the end of the Intensive On Site week (May 5-9, 2008). This exam will focus on the background and content of the Genesis through Ruth as covered in weeks 1-4 and in the intensive week (yet, in the exam more emphasis will be given to Genesis through Ruth). No notes or books may be used while taking this Exam.

### E. A Short Research Paper

One 6-8 page double spaced research paper of the student's choosing, but approved by the professor, will be due at the end of the course (see research paper instructions and suggested topics).

### F. An in-class presentation of an Old Testament passage:

Each student will prepare for a 15 to 25 minute presentation of a passage from one of the Old Testament books that we will cover during the course (Genesis through Ruth) to be presented during the on-site session (May 5-9). These passages will be assigned to each student by the professor during the first two weeks of the course (see student passages doc.).

## G. Attendance

Attendance in the on-site part of the course is mandatory. Absence of more than three class hours will result in a lowering of the student's final grade.

## Grading Breakdown

Exam	20%
Reading	20%
Application Assignments	5%
Discussion forums	15%
Student passage preparation and presentation	10%
Research paper	20%
Class Participation	10%

\*\*All late assignments will be penalized 10% per week late.

## Grade Scale

94-100	A	78-79	C+	60-62	D-
90-93	A-	72-77	C	below 60	F
88-89	B+	70-71	C-		
82-87	B	67-69	D+		
80-81	B-	63-66	D		

**EXTENSIONS:** There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. An Incomplete Contract must be drawn up, dated, processed, and then approved by the professor and submitted to the Associate Registrar before the last day of class.

**DISABILITIES:** Any student who because of a disability may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor or the Access Coordinator for the Bethel Office of Disability Services by the second week of class to discuss reasonable accommodations. Please see Student Handbook, pg 22.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at Bethel and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from the school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research, multiple submissions of work in different courses, misrepresentation of academic records, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of necessary academic resources.