



Nipawin Bible College
BI2013 Historical Books I: Joshua-2 Samuel
Fall 2022
3 Credit Hours
Mr. Jordan Bergen
jbergen@nipawin.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course prepares students to begin to properly understand, interpret, and apply the biblical books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel in their immediate and canonical context.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible (a translation, *not a paraphrase*).

Satterthwaite, Philip, and J. Gordon McConville. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.

Walsh, Jerome. *Old Testament Narrative: A Guide to Interpretation*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Cherish God's word to them in Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel.
2. Identify the process of properly interpreting OT Narrative and be able to follow the process from observation to application with assistance.
3. Summarize the message of the books Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel and explain the contributions they make to the biblical canon.
4. Recall some of the significant people, places, and events in the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel and be able to explain how they contribute to the message of the book.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Bible Reading - 10%

- The students are required to completely read the biblical books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel from a non-paraphrase version. On the last day of class the student will indicate how many of the 104 chapters from Joshua-2 Samuel they read. *Readings will help equip students to meet all of the Course Objectives.*

DUE: See the course schedule

Narrative Project - 5 assignments, each worth 10% (50% total)

- Each book covered in this course, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel, are narrative books comprised of smaller narratives called episodes. In this assignment, the students are required to divide each book up into episodes, give 1-2 sentences describing what each episode is about, and 2-4 sentences describing how each episode contributes to the message of the book. An example is given in the appendix. *Narrative Projects will assess how well the students meet Course Objectives 2 and 4.*

DUE: See the course schedule

Satterthwaite and McConville Reflection - 20%

- Read chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 8 from Satterthwaite and McConville. For each chapter read, write a minimum half-page, double-spaced reflection on how that chapter impacts your interpretation of a particular biblical passage. *The reading will reinforce the knowledge necessary to meet Course Objectives 3 and 4. The paper will help measure how well the students meet Course Objective 2.*

DUE: Friday, September 16th

Exam - 20%

- The student will read chapters 1-11 from the Walsh text (as outlined in the course schedule). The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions based on Walsh and essay questions measuring the student's ability to synthesize course material and the biblical text. The student may use their Bible during the exam but have no other help. *The Exam measures how well the students meet Course Objectives 2, 3, and 4.*

DUE: Friday, September 16th

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due at the **beginning of class** on the day that they are assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

Reading: 131 pages of Satterthwaite and McConville, 130 pages of Walsh, 100 pages of Bible reading

Writing: 2 pages of Satterthwaite and McConville Reflection, Narrative Projects

COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Date	Session Topic	Assignment Due
Sept 5	Joshua Lab: Ruth 1 Observations	Read Joshua 1-12 Walsh Chapter 1
Sept 6	Joshua Lab: Ruth 1 Synthesis	Read Joshua 13-24 Walsh Chapter 2
Sept 7	Judges Lab: Ruth 2 Observations	Joshua Narrative Project Read Judges 1-10 Walsh Chapter 3
Sept 8	Judges Lab: Ruth 2 Synthesis	Read Judges 11-21 Walsh Chapter 4
Sept 9	1 Samuel Lab: Ruth 3 Observations	Judges Narrative Project Read 1 Samuel 1-15 Walsh Chapter 5
Sept 12	1 Samuel Lab: Ruth 3 Synthesis	Read 1 Samuel 16-31 Walsh Chapter 6
Sept 13	2 Samuel Lab: Ruth 4 Observations	1 Samuel Narrative Project Read 2 Samuel 1-12 Walsh Chapter 7
Sept 14	2 Samuel Lab: Ruth 4 Synthesis	Read 2 Samuel 13-24 Walsh Chapter 8
Sept 15	Ruth	2 Samuel Narrative Project Read Ruth 1-4 Walsh Chapter 9
Sept 16	Exam	Ruth Narrative Project Walsh Chapters 10-11

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arnold, Bill T., and H. G. M. Williamson. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Hamilton, Victor. *Handbook on the Historical Books*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.

Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. 2nd ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

Rasmussen, Carl. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

APPENDIX 1: NARRATIVE PROJECT EXAMPLE

Episode 1: Genesis 1:1-2:25

What the episode is about: The episode is about God creating the world and everything in it, leading to God's ultimate creation, humanity. Humanity is given the job of tending the garden of Eden. Even though humanity can eat of any tree in the garden, they are commanded to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

How the episode contributes to the message of the book: This episode functions as the introduction to the entire book. As such, this episode introduces creation as God's very good work. It also introduces the purpose for humanity, to rule over creation as God's representative. God's command in 2:16-17 foreshadows the dominant conflict which the rest of the book will try to resolve.

Episode 2: Genesis 3:1-24

What the episode is about: The episode is about humanity's rebellion against God by breaking God's commands. This rebellion leads to the consequences of curses against the woman, the man, and the serpent, as well as Adam and Eve being driven out of the garden.

How the episode contributes to the message of the book: This episode introduces the central problem which the rest of the book of Genesis will attempt to solve. The central problem is humanity's sin which causes several other problems including the curse of death, the corruption of creation, and humanity's exile from their home and the presence of God.