



On-Campus Course Syllabus
OTS 315 L01.A
Life of David
Spring 2020

Class Information

Day and Time: Monday 8:00am—10:30am

Room Number: E209

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Joel Reemtsma

Instructor Email: jreemtsma@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 907.690.1423

Instructor Office Hours: n/a

Course Description and Prerequisites

A study of selected topics related to the languages, history, background, hermeneutics, or theology of the Old Testament. (Course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs; Prerequisites OTS 101, OTS 201; Other prerequisites may be required.)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

1. Describe the major events and episodes in the life of David;
2. Describe the literary and theological aims of the author of 1–2 Samuel as they relate to the major episodes in the life of David based on the narrative craft of its author;
3. Explain the historical, literary, and theological contexts of 1-2 Samuel as they relate to the interpretation of 1–2 Samuel.
4. Describe the general literary impact of the David narratives in the Psalms and the New Testament.
5. Apply scriptural truths from the life of David to contemporary situations.

Required Textbooks

The Holy Bible. Use any version as long as it is a translation, not a paraphrase.

Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *1 & 2 Samuel*. Teach the Text Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013. (9780801092251)

Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Reading (20%)

Students are responsible to read 1–2 Samuel and 1 Kings 1-2:10 in a Bible version of their choice. All Bible readings are due on the day they are listed for discussion in the course schedule, unless otherwise noted by the professor. Students must complete reading quizzes to receive credit for their Bible reading. Students are also responsible to read the course textbook in its entirety, according to the schedule provided. (In some cases, textbook reading may be skimmed or speed-read, by the professor's permission.) Again, readings are due on the day that text is scheduled for discussion.

B. Exegetical Assignments (20%)

Students will be required to complete five of eight exegetical assignments that will be given. They may choose to complete all eight, but only the first five submitted will be graded. These assignments will be keyed to the following pericopes (see the course schedule): *From Shepherd to Warrior* (1 Sam 16–18); *Life on the Run* (1 Sam 19–26); *Enemies All Around* (1 Sam 27–31); *The Old King is Dead* (2 Sam 1–4); *Long Live the King!* (2 Sam 5–10); *Sin and Consequences* (2 Sam 11–14); *Rebellions Break Out* (2 Sam 13–20); *Epilogue: Struggle and Triumph* (2 Sam 21–1 Kings 2). Exegetical assignments are due on the day that these narratives are discussed in class (see course schedule), to be submitted electronically via CANVAS. However, note that the schedule and number of assigned exegetical assignments may vary slightly, depending on circumstances. Exegetical assignments will not be accepted after class discussion on that passage, except by the professor's approval.

C. Participation (10%)

Students will be evaluated based on their contribution to class discussion throughout the semester. So, they must be prepared to think critically about the text and reading and interact with their peers. Contributions may include insights, analogies, questions, observations, and more, but they must add value to the discussion. (Note that even mistakes can be useful to help us process—one need not get everything right!) Since this is a subjective grade, students are free to check in with the professor periodically as to whether their participation is satisfactory. Note that the exegetical assignments are designed to prepare students for class discussion. Participation grade will be assessed in CANVAS in conjunction with exams. Excessive absence (more than one week) may result in a lower grade.

D. Exams (30%)

There will be two exams: a Mid-Term and a Final. They will be based primarily on the class lectures and discussion. Note that the Final Exam is not cumulative—it only covers material presented/discussed after the Mid-Term exam. All exam questions will appear on the study guides to be distributed at least one week ahead of time. Exam dates are as follows:

Mid-Term Exam	Mar 9
Final Exam	May 11

E. Devotional Project (20%)

Since the goal of Old Testament study is the application of its truths to the Christian life, students will write a devotional paper which applies an episode from the David narrative to contemporary life. This 5-7 page (double-spaced) paper should be written so it could be delivered as a teaching lesson, sermon, or group devotional. (Extra credit will be considered for those who actually deliver their paper to an audience before the end of the semester. TBD.) A rubric for grading the devotional project will be issued by the professor. **Due Monday, May 5.**

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Do not expect detailed notes to be given in class—students are responsible to process class discussion and write down important information. In some cases, the professor will hand out skeleton notes to help guide students in this effort. Late work may be rejected outright or subjected to a penalty of 2 percentage points per day, at the professor's discretion. Assignments turned in more than two weeks late will not be accepted, except under special circumstances and by special permission.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Discussion and Reading Schedule *

1/27	David in Historical Context		<i>The biblical text listed is due on the day it is listed, along with Chisholm commentary that goes with that text. Half credit for reading at least half-done will count.</i>
2/3	Hebrew Narrative Concepts	(1 Sam 1–15)	
2/10	From Shepherd to Warrior	(1 Sam 16–18)	
2/17	Life on the Run	(1 Sam 19–26)	
2/24	Enemies All Around	(1 Sam 27–31)	
3/2	The Old King is Dead	(2 Sam 1–4)	
3/9	Midterm Exam		
3/16	Spring Break	<i>no class</i>	
3/23	Long Live the King!	(2 Sam 5–10)	
3/30	Sin and Consequences	(2 Sam 11–14)	
4/6	Rebellions Break Out	(2 Sam 13–20)	
4/13	Epilogue: Struggle and Triumph	(2 Sam 21–1 Kings 2)	
4/20	David in the Psalms	(Psalms 3, 18, 23, 32, 51, 52, 63)	
4/27	David in the New Testament	(Psalm 2, 22, 110, Acts 1–4, 13)	
5/4	Course Summation		<i>Devotional Paper Due</i>
5/11	Final Exam		*

*Note that this course schedule is a plan, not a prophecy! It may be changed if circumstances require it. However, no assignments, readings, or quizzes will be due earlier than they appear on this schedule.

Selected Bibliography

- Alter, Robert. *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1999.
- Bodner, Keith. *David Observed: A King in the Eyes of His Court*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 5. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2008.
- Caird, G. B. *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1980.
- Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *1 & 2 Samuel*. Teach the Text Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody, 1987.
- Halpern, Baruch. *David's Secret Demons: Messiah, Murderer, Traitor, King*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Hill, Andrew E., and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Hoerth, Alfred J., Gerald L. Mattingly, and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *A History of Israel: From the Bronze Age through the Jewish Wars*. Rev. ed. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2017.
- King, Philip J. and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.
- Wright, Jacob L. *David, King of Israel and Caleb in Biblical Memory*. New York: Cambridge, 2014.