

RUTH, PSALMS, JONAH & SELECTED EPISTLES SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exposition of Ruth, Psalms, Jonah, and three of Paul's epistles (Romans, Ephesians, and Philippians) that are not taught in the other required Bible courses, with emphasis on the biblical theology of these books, their genre, and application. *Prerequisite or Corequisite:* BE101 Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics. **Recommended Prerequisites:** BE102 Old Testament History I and BE104 Old Testament Prophets.

3 hours / 2 hours for MABC students.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

At the end of this course you will be able . . .

A. Cognitive Objectives

1. To think through the flow of the content of each of the books we study this term;
2. To develop an appreciation of the varied literary genres and forms the biblical books of this course present;
3. To trace the development of various formal categories of the Psalms;
4. To think through the theological notions of these varied books;
5. To discuss key passages and to explain the importance these passages have in the flow of biblical theology;

B. Behavioral Objectives

1. To develop a word study of a term from the Old Testament (Hebrew) or the New Testament (Greek);
2. To articulate fairly the interpretive issues in celebrated difficult passages;
3. To apply sound hermeneutical principles in the interpretation and application of the biblical texts in the lives of believers in our own day;

C. Affective Objectives

1. To develop a positive attitude concerning the use of these texts in the lives of the people of ancient Israel (Ruth, Jonah & Psalms), and in the lives of the people of the early church (the Epistles);
2. To appreciate more fully how you may use these books in your own expository ministry;
3. To reflect on how the study of these texts has increased your own love for God and His Word;
4. To purpose to live your life in faith and reverence to Yahweh.

D. Rationale

Students at Dallas Theological Seminary who are in programs other than the Th.M. program will not ordinarily have course-work on the books that make up BE109 as those books are studied by students in their courses in biblical languages. This course allows for coverage of these significant biblical books in the sequence of courses in Bible Exposition.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS

A. Required

1. An English (or mother tongue) Bible of your choice of translation (not a paraphrase), which you will need to have in class each period. The professor will regularly be using the Hebrew and Greek texts and the New King James Translation in class. Those students who have facility in the Hebrew Bible and/or the Greek New Testament are encouraged to bring their BHS and Greek texts to class. Note: Those who wish to access their Bible on laptops may do so. Just be sure you are able to read the text in class.
2. Ronald B. Allen, *And I Will Praise Him: A Guide to Worship in the Psalms* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999). This book is available through the DTS Seminary Book Center; it is also available on Kindle format.
3. Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald B. Allen and H. Wayne House, eds. *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000). There is an electronic version available as well as hard-bound.

Not required for **MABC two-hour** students.

4. Standard requirement for all DTS Classes; the “Supplement” must be in your possession.
Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.
Dallas Theological Seminary Thesis Style Committee, “Supplement to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, November 2013. (PDF available online at http://library.dts.edu/Pages/RM/Write/turabian_sup.pdf.)

B. Supplementary Bibliography

A separate bibliography for the books of this course will be provided.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: Students in the **MABC program** may take this course for 2 hours, unless they request differently. Because the credit hours are reduced, the tasks will also be reduced. It is expected that the MABC students will view *all* lecture videos along with other students; the lecture videos are regarded as a part of the requirements for the course. Written assignments are significantly reduced for MABC students, but the reading assignments are not reduced, except the Commentary Reading assignment. **All** students in the class need to read **all** the Bible books that are a part of the course.

A. Reading Assignments

1. Read each of the scheduled Bible books in a prayerful and devotional manner. Submit a log of this reading in your Journal by writing the name of the book and the date completed. Note: all students read all the biblical books and record them by the name of book and the date read in your journal.

For some books, you will maintain a Journal Response on your reading (as noted in part B).

2. Read in its entirety the book, *And I Will Praise Him*. Write a two-page personal response of one concept in the book that was important to you, along with a statement that you have completed reading the book. Include a title page.

MABC two-hour students will complete this assignment. You will find it to be most helpful for you as you think of the Psalms and biblical counseling.

This reading and report should not take more than 5 hours.

3. Read 100 pages of your choice in the *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary* (on books treated in this course) and keep a log of your reading on one page of your journal (below). Please treat this seriously, as the professor regards this as an extension of the class sessions.

These pages are not dense; the whole assignment, done incrementally, will not take more than 4 hours.

MABC two-hour students need not complete this assignment. Any reading one might choose to do in this commentary may be logged for Extra Credit.

4. Read each of the five posted Notes / Introductions to Bible books (on-line documents); when you complete each of these, make an entry on one page of your journal (“Log of Class Handout Reading”). Reading of the other documents may be done for extra credit. List these on the same log.

This reading, done incrementally, will not take much more than 2 hours.

B. Learning Activities (papers, journals, study exercises, charts, etc.)

1. Develop a **journal** of your Bible reading for the books of this course, and keep it in a file on your computer. Read the Psalms in clusters of 10. In other Bible books, read in clusters of four to six chapters, with at least one entry for each book. After each reading, select one pericope (connected passage) of three-to-five verses from the chapters you have read and write a paragraph of your response in your journal.

For the Book of Psalms you will prepare 16 entries (one for a selection from each group of 10 Psalms; one for a selection from Psalm 119).

For the Book of Romans you will prepare 4 entries

For the Book of Ephesians you will prepare 2 entries

For the Books of Ruth, Jonah and Philippians you will prepare 1 entry each.

Begin each entry on a new page. Indicate at the top of each page the chapters you have read, the pericope on which you are responding and the time and date you have done this. Do these several steps in each journal entry. Your submission, as is the case for all assignments for this course, will be on line. **Note: the failure to submit an acceptable journal will usually mean the student may not receive a grade above “C.”**

MABC two-hour students will complete journal entries for two books, Psalms and Romans. Journaling beyond these two books will be recorded as extra-credit.

The actual journaling adds about ten-fifteen minutes to the Bible reading for each entry.

2. Maintain **two logs** in your journal; one for the listing of your reading of class handouts (on-line documents) and a second one for the listing of your reading of the *Commentary* [this second log is not required of **MABC-two hour** students.] Date each reading as you complete it. The logs are due on the same date as the journal. You will **not** receive credit for this reading apart from proper logs. On these logs, just list what you have read and the date you did so. No further responses are sought.

3. Compose **two original psalms**, one a Psalm of Praise and one a Psalm of Lament. Make these personal and genuine. Type your work single-spaced, one psalm on one page. Include a title page. **NOTE:** The *appearance* of your psalms should be similar to medium-length psalms in the Book of Psalms in your non-KJV Bible. If your work does not have the *look* of the psalms, it will be returned to you without credit; you will have the opportunity to resubmit your work. The *content* of your psalms should be your own fresh, personal, genuine responses to God.

MABC two-hour students will complete this assignment

Do not spend more than 4 hours on this assignment, no more than 2 hours per psalm.

4. Prepare a **word study** of a Hebrew term or a Greek term (the professor's choice) in which you follow the pattern established by the professor in an on-line document. This is now augmented by a video -presentation by Chris McMaster, our DTS Logos Master. This study will be done from the vantage point of the student not being trained in Hebrew or Greek language. You will only begin this assignment after viewing the Video presented by Mr. Chris McMaster (which ordinarily is a class session). A new word will be chosen by the professor each semester.

MABC two-hour students will complete this assignment

Set a self-limit to 5 hours for this project.

5. Complete the number of **analysis papers** that will fulfil the requirements for the grade you contract: one for a "C" grade, two for a "B" grade, and two for an "A" grade. The list of topics and the specifications for an analysis paper are on a separate sheet. Include a title page, a bibliography of sources used, and proper footnoting. Follow the pattern on the DTS style sheet; compare the samples of footnotes included on the document on Topics for Analysis Papers. Consult the list of topics; others will be suggested in class sessions.

Each Analysis Paper should not take more than 5 hours to research and to write.

MABC two-hour students will do one analysis paper for a "B" or an "A" grade.

6. If you contract for an "A" grade, you must also complete a **term project**. The list of topics and the specifications for a term project are on a separate sheet. Submit a 3x5 card on the stated date with your plan for your term project, if you so choose.

A term project may take 15-20 hours to complete.

MABC two-hour students may contract for an "A" grade by completing a second Analysis Paper rather than a term project.

The second analysis paper may be done in 5 hours.

C. Videos

All students must view all of the lecture video sessions before beginning the Learning Activity and class discussion. Many of the lectures have direct bearing on the written assignments and resulting interaction.

D. Interactions

Some of the modules will have class interaction. In some cases you may post a response to an interaction question and discuss these in your online groups. In other cases you will respond to papers posted by you and your classmates. This will require that you open and read papers written by your classmates and discuss their work. One additional unique opportunity for interaction will occur in the opportunity to post some of your journal entries to share together your insights into the application of the Scriptures to your life. Interaction is a vital part of the online experience. It is here that you will meet you classmates, discuss the class material, develop a sense of community, and worship your God.

E. Exam

There is a required **final examination** for all students in this course. A grade of 70% or higher is regarded as a "passing grade." Passing the final exam is an expected element in course completion. The exam must be taken during the time scheduled by the Registrar's office. Failure to pass the final examination will result in a one-grade reduction for the course (that is, an A would be reduced to an A-). A bonus of one-grade will be awarded for a grade of 95 or higher (that is, a B+ will be raised to an A-). Failure to take the exam at all, will result in a full letter grade reduction (that is, a B will be reduced to a C). **Note:** When you take the final examination, you will be asked to sign a form stating that you have not discussed the content of the examination with other students, past or present. Please keep this stipulation in mind during the course of the semester.

MABC two-hour students will complete this assignment

Preparation for the Final Examination is done day-by-day in Bible reading, journaling, and class lectures.

Note: The Final Exam is geared to standard, objective knowledge of the contents of these books, as is indicated in the Final Exam Study Guide. Much class time is spent in analysis, interaction and interpretation of salient texts as well as discussion of disputed texts. Merely attending class will not prepare you for the exam.

You may plan to spend 4 hours on review before you take the exam.

“For those students graduating in a given semester or participating in the commencement ceremony, arrangements must be made with the professor to complete the final examination early. In addition to the final exam, all course work must be completed by graduates and commencement participants by the date specified for the semester of graduation” (*DTS Student Handbook*, 1.19.1).

V. COURSEPOLICIES

A. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Your course grade will be determined on the basis of a **contract system**. Since the work to be done for this course is more subjective than in some classes, the grading will be done with some latitude. Papers will be judged to be "Good" (G), that is, meeting the expected standards; "Good-Plus" (G+) when the expectation is exceeded; "Good-Minus (G-) when the expectation is not quite met; "Unacceptable" (U) when the expectations are not met. An Unacceptable paper may be revised and resubmitted; in this case a grade no higher than "Good" (G) may be attained. (Note that this provision will only apply to papers submitted early enough in the semester for grading, return, and resubmission.) Notations will be made on your papers indicating strengths and weaknesses. Review these before your next submission.

1. For an "A" grade, the student will have completed the following tasks with a "G" average or better:
 - a. Journal of Bible reading, including lists of books read and required responses to your reading
 - b. Proper log of Handout reading
 - c. Proper log of *Commentary* reading
 - d. Videos
 - e. Interactions
 - f. Response paper on *And I Will Praise Him*
 - g. Two Original Psalms
 - h. Word study (Hebrew or Greek term)
 - i. Final Examination
 - j. Two (2) Analysis Papers
 - k. Final Project

2. For a "B" grade, the student will have completed all tasks **a** through **i** with a "G" average or better (including **two** analysis papers). Note: a B grade may not be given if a student does not turn in an acceptable journal.

3. For a "C" grade, the student will have completed most tasks **a** through **h** with a "G" average or better and will have completed one (1) analysis paper (task **i**) with a "G" notation.
4. Note: only those contracting for an "A" grade will complete the Final Project. Doing a Final Project will not guarantee an "A" grade.
5. Gradations in the course letter grades (A, A-, B+, etc.) will develop as work is assessed to be at, above, or below standard expectations.

B. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading—Two Hour Course MABC

For an "A" grade, the student will have completed the following tasks with a "G" average or better:

- a. Journal of Bible reading—reduced requirement of journal responses to two books, including a list with dates of the reading of all the Bible books for this course.
 - b. Proper log of Handout reading
 - c. [Proper log of *Commentary* reading is not required]
 - d. Videos
 - e. Interactions
 - f. Response Paper to *And I Will Praise Him*
 - g. Two Original Psalms
 - h. Word Study (Hebrew or Greek term)
 - i. One Analysis Paper
 - j. Final Examination
 - k. A Second Analysis Paper in lieu of a Final Project.
6. For a "B" grade, the student will have completed all tasks **a** through **i** with a "G" average or better. Note: a "B" grade will not be given if the student does not turn in an acceptable journal.
 7. For a "C" grade, the student will have completed most tasks **a** through **i** with a "G" average or better.
 8. Note: only those contracting for an "A" grade will complete a second Analysis Paper.
 9. Gradations in the course letter grades (A, A-, B+, etc.) will develop as work is assessed to be at, above, or below standard expectations.

C. Late Assignments

The professor may accept late assignments when accompanied by an acceptable written note of explanation; there may be a penalty on late papers.

D. Plagiarism

“The website, Turnitin.com, defines plagiarism as ‘the use of another’s original words or ideas as though they were your own. Any time you borrow [copy] from an original source and do not give proper credit, you have committed plagiarism. . .’ (http://turnitin.com/research_site/e_faqs_text). Plagiarism is academically dishonest and contrary to biblical standards of integrity. Any course work involving dishonest academic practices will be graded as zero without any resubmission permitted. In each case the Office of the Dean of Students will be notified” (DTS *Student Handbook*, 1.16.3).

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

There are several ways to contact the professor of the course. Dr. Allen's office is in Todd, third floor.

Appointments may be made through Mrs. Tina Smilie at 214-887-5090 Dr.

Allen's cell number is 503-503-9320. Feel free to text him at any time. Dr.

Allen's e-mail address is drronballen@hotmail.com

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

| Module | Topic | Assignments Due |
|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | Introduction to the Course | |
| 2 | Introduction to Psalms/Psalms of Praise | Plans for final project |
| 3 | Wisdom Psalms | |
| 4 | The Book of Ephesians | 1 st Analysis Paper |
| 5 | Psalms of Lament | Respond to <i>And I Will Praise Him</i> |
| 6 | The Book of Jonah | |
| 7 | The Book of Philippians | Two original Psalms |
| 8 | The Book of Ruth | |
| 9 | Psalms 110 | 2 nd Analysis Paper |
| 10 | Romans | Word Study / Journal with Logs |
| 11 | Final Project and Exam | Final Project Final Exam |

May God give you energy and joy as you complete the work for this course!