



LEADERSHIP *through* UNDERSTANDING

SYNOPTIC TRADITIONS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
CHTH G105 – C05
OT 6ZG6
Fall 2010

Class Schedule:

Thursdays 1:30-3:20pm

Professor: Dr. Paul S. Evans

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Office: 236

Course Description:

- A study of 'Synoptic' (parallel) texts in the Old Testament through a special focus on the book of Chronicles, which largely parallels Samuel-Kings, as well as drawing on other biblical texts. Areas to be studied include: a survey of the Chronicler's entire history with a focus on its distinctive themes; significant individual passages in Chronicles; the Chronicler's portrayal of David and the Davidic kings; the history of Chronicles scholarship; comparisons with the Deuteronomistic History and other biblical parallels; and the Chronicler's purpose and method. In addition to the focus on Chronicles, other synoptic texts in the Old Testament will be the focus of seminar discussions and papers.

Course Objectives:

Knowing

- To have a thorough knowledge of the contents and message of Chronicles
- To gain familiarity with the state of the field of research on Chronicles
- To gain an awareness of the presence of various synoptic texts in the Old Testament

Being

- To embrace the contemporary relevance of Chronicles for the Church today
- To grow closer to God through closer study of the Old Testament

Doing

- To be able to discuss the relation of Samuel-Kings to Chronicles

- To be able to interpret Chronicles in its historical context
- To be able to apply the message of Chronicles to contemporary audiences

Required Texts:

- Sara Japhet, *I & II Chronicles* (OTL; Philadelphia: WJKP, 1993), paperback.
- Isaac Kalimi. *The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles*. (Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2005).
- Articles handed out in class or available on the course website.
- A Hebrew Bible
- An English Bible (in a modern critical translation (e.g., NRSV, TNIV, NIV, NLT, NASB, RSV). I recommend *The Tanakh: The New JPS Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1985)

Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Evaluation

The assignments and their weights are as follows:

- 10% - Class Participation:** This course is designed as a graduate seminar. The professor will begin with some introductory lecture but the majority of the course will be student-led discussions and presentations. Classroom experiences will collaborative with both students and professor engaged in the learning process together. Students must attend every class and come prepared to actively contribute to class discussions. Therefore, assigned readings and assigned research must be completed before class time in order for both the individual student and the broader class to benefit.
- 20% - Leading Class Discussion.** Each student will take a turn leading the class discussion. Preparation for leading the discussion will require some independent research on behalf of the discussion leader. Each presentation must take the form of a brief initial lecture (with handout and bibliography for class members) and then the facilitation of further discussion on the topic. Presentation notes are due before class (to the professor via email) on the day of the presentation. Topics for discussion will be determined *in situ*.
- 30% - Research Paper on Chronicles: Minimum 15 pages.** Due Oct 14, 2010. No extensions will be given. Papers must be double-spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font throughout (footnotes should be 10pt Times New Roman font). The bibliography must contain at least 15 items of varied secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, specialized books) including *at least* 3 articles from peer reviewed / refereed journals.

By way of supplement to these 15 sources, a student may use a maximum of 2 internet resources. Students are responsible for the quality of the sources chosen. These secondary sources do not include primary sources. Each source listed must be drawn on in the paper and evidenced in the footnotes etc. Research Topic must be approved by your professor.

40% - Research Paper (of publishable quality) on Chosen Synoptic Text. Minimum 20 pages. Though the main focus in this course is on Chronicles, students may choose any synoptic text from the Old Testament on which to focus for this paper; however, this paper can also be on Chronicles if desired. Students will write a complete draft of the paper by November 17, 2010 and submit the paper electronically to the professor who will post the paper on the course website. Students will be divided into groups of 3 or 4 and each student will present their paper (a 20 minute version) to the group, in class, on November 18, 2010. After the presentations each student will read each group member's draft paper (available on the course website) and offer critical feedback via email by November 25, 2010. Students will then revise their paper in light of the feedback received and submit the final version to the professor by December 2, 2010. Research Topic must be approved by your professor.

College Style for Submission of Written Work

All written work is to be submitted in accordance with the McMaster Divinity College Style Guide for Essays and Theses, available on the McMaster Divinity College website.

All papers to be submitted in electronic format only (a pdf file)—no hardcopies! Email to pevans@mcmaster.ca. If you need a program for creating pdfs go to <http://primopdf.com> or <http://www.pdf995.com> for a free pdf maker. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., evans.researchpaper.pdf). To avoid late marks papers must be received before the end of the calendar day on which they are due (i.e., before midnight Eastern Standard Time).

Policy concerning late papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances. (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, holidays, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions. All assignments must be completed to avoid a failing grade in the class.

Academic dishonesty:

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 ~ www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php.

Inclusive language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Useful Internet Sites

- *Bible Gateway* (<http://www.biblegateway.com/>). Online Bibles with search engines.
- *itanakh* ([www.itanakh.org.](http://www.itanakh.org/)) Includes links to many full text articles and useful webpages.
- <http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/sitesofinterest.aspx> From the website of the Society of Biblical Literature. Contains links to many useful sites categorized according to subject areas.
- *Dinur Centre for Research in Jewish History* (http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/dinur/internetresources/historyresources/biblical_studies.htm) Includes links on creation, flood, patriarchs
- *Internet Ancient History Sourcebook* (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html>). The sections on Human Origins and Mesopotamia include some useful comparative material for Genesis.
- *Links related to Bible & ANE:* (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/%7Ehumm/Resources/Texts/index.html>)

Disclaimer

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the respective professor. This syllabus has been prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Research Paper Evaluation

Name: _____ Topic:

I. The next 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

§ 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; Genesis 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"/> Follow MacDiv Style guide
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|---|--|

III. Comments

Select Bibliography

In order to aid in research preparation, topic selection or for further reading students may wish to consult the following bibliography.

Ackroyd, Peter R. "The Biblical Interpretation of the Reigns of Ahaz and Hezekiah," Pages 247-259 in *In the Shelter of Elyon: Essays on Ancient Palestinian Life and Literature in Honor of G.W. Ahlstrom*. Edited by W. Boyd Barrick and John R. Spencer. JSOTSup, 31. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1984.

Allen, Leslie C., *The Greek Chronicles: The Relation of the Septuagint of I and II Chronicles to the Massoretic Text*. 2 vols. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum 25, 27. Leiden: Brill, 1974.

Auld, A. Graeme. *Kings Without Privilege: David and Moses in the Story of the Bible's Kings*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994.

_____. "What Was the Main Source of the Books of Chronicles?" Pages 91-135 in *The Chronicler as Author*. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

Balentine, Samuel E. "You Can't Pray a Lie': Truth and Fiction in the Prayers of Chronicles," Pages 246-267 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

Ben Zvi, Ehud. "The authority of 1-2 Chronicles in the late Second Temple period." *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*, 3 (1988): 59-88.

_____. "When the Foreign Monarch Speaks," Pages 209-228 in *The Chronicler as Author*. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

_____. "The Chronicler as Historian: Building Texts," Pages 132-149 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238 Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

_____. "A Gateway to the Chronicler's Teaching: The Account of the Reign of Ahaz in 2 Chr 28,1-27." *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament* 7 (1993): 216-249.

_____. "Observations on Josiah's Account in Chronicles and Implications for Reconstructing the Worldview of the Chronicler," Pages 89-106 in *Essays on Ancient Israel*. Edited by Yairah Amit, Ehud Ben Zvi, Israel Finkelstein, and Oded Lipschits. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2006.

_____. "A Sense of Proportion: An Aspect of the Theology of the Chronicler." *SJOT* 9 (1995): 37-51.

- Braun, Roddy L. "1 Chronicles 1-9 and the Reconstruction of the History of Israel: Thoughts on the Use of Genealogical Data in Chronicles in the Reconstruction of the History of Israel." Pages 92-106 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
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- Curtis, E. L. and A. A. Madsen., *The Books of Chronicles*. International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1910.
- De Vries, Simon J. "Moses and David as cult founders in Chronicles." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 107 (1988): 619-639.
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- Dillard, Raymond B., *2 Chronicles*. Word Biblical Commentary 15. Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1987.
- Duke, Rodney K. "A Rhetorical Approach to Appreciating the Books of Chronicles," Pages 100-135 in *The Chronicler as Author*. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- Dyck, Jonathan E., *The Theocratic Ideology of the Chronicler*. Biblical interpretation series., v. 33. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 1998.
- Evans, Paul S. "Divine Intermediaries in 1 Chronicles 21: An Overlooked Aspect of the Chronicler's Theology." *Biblica* 85 (2004): 545-558.
- _____. "The Function of the Chronicler's Temple Despoliation Notices in Light of Imperial Realities in Yehud." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 129 (2010): 31-47.
- _____. "Prophecy Influencing History: Dialogism in the Chronicler's Ahaz Narrative." in *Prophets and Prophecy in Ancient Israelite Historiography*. Edited by Mark J. Boda and Lyssa Wray Beal. Eisenbrauns, forthcoming.
- _____. *The Invasion of Sennacherib in the Book of Kings: A Source-Critical and Rhetorical Study of 2 Kings 18-19*. Supplements to Vetus Testamentum 125. Leiden: Brill, 2009.
- Freedman, David Noel. "The Chronicler's Purpose." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 23 (1961): 436-442.
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- Graham, Matt Patrick, and Steven L. McKenzie. *The Chronicler as Author: Studies in Text and Texture*. JSOTSup, 263. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

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- _____. *The Ideology of the Book of Chronicles and its Place in Biblical Thought*. Beitrage zur Erforschung des Alten Testaments und des antiken Judentums., Bd. 9. Frankfurt am Main; New York: P. Lang, 1997.
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- _____. "The Historical Reliability of Chronicles: The History of the Problem and Its Place in Biblical Research," Pages 117-136 in *From the Rivers of Babylon to the Highlands of Judah: Collected Studies on the Restoration Period*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2006.
- Johnstone, William, *1 and 2 Chronicles*. 2 vols. JSOTSup, 253-254. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
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- Klein, Ralph W., *1 Chronicles: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
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- _____. "The City Yhwh Has Chosen": The Chronicler's Promotion of Jerusalem in Light of Recent Archaeology," Pages 307-326 in *Jerusalem in Bible and Archaeology*. Edited by Andrew G. Vaughn and Ann E. Killebrew. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- _____. "Hierodules, Priests, or Janitors? The Levites in Chronicles and the History of the Israelite Priesthood." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 118 (1999): 49-72.
- _____. "Treasures Won and Lost: Royal (Mis)appropriations in Kings and Chronicles," Pages 181-208 in *The Chronicler as Author*. Edited by M. Patrick Graham and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- _____. "History and Historiography: The Royal Reforms," Pages 178-203 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Matt Patrick Graham, Kenneth G. Hoglund, and Steven L. McKenzie. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
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Wright, John W. "The Fight for Peace: Narrative and History in the Battle Accounts in Chronicles," Pages 150-177 in *The Chronicler as Historian*. Edited by Kenneth G. Hoglund and Steven L. McKenzie M. Patrick Graham. JSOTSup, 238. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

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