

Joshua—Ruth (TS 103)

Spring 2019

Course Description:

This course traces the pre-monarchy history of Israel from the time of the 'Conquest of Canaan' until the latter period of the Judges. This is a textual study drawing part of its contents from extra-Biblical sources.

Instructor:

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Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize ourselves with the content of these three books of Scripture.
2. To acquaint ourselves with the historical issues surrounding this time period in biblical history.
3. To learn techniques for interpreting Hebrew narrative.
4. To synthesize what these books have to say about God, man, and their relationship.

Textbooks:

Hess, Richard S. Joshua. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008. CDN \$24.62 ISBN: 978-0830842063

Block, Daniel I. Judges-Ruth. New American Commentary. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 1999. CDN \$36.81 ISBN: 978-0805401066

Course Requirements:

1. **Study Questions:** Each week I will send out a series of study questions that cover the material we will be handling the following week in both the Bible and the assigned commentary. Beginning with the second week of class, you should email me your responses by **9:00 A.M. Tuesday morning**. I will collate these answers during the day on Tuesday and use them to tailor my lecture for that evening.
2. **Quizzes:** Seven quizzes are scheduled during the semester (three for Joshua, three for Judges, and one for Ruth). Each quiz falls at what I consider to be a major break in the flow of the book, rather than artificially dividing the material into equal pieces. However, each will receive a weight commensurate with the amount of material.
3. **Paper/Presentation:** This is a multi-part assignment. First, each student is responsible for preparing a research paper. This paper should be 10 pages, double spaced, in Times New Roman 12 font. Your footnotes and bibliography should reflect interaction with a

minimum of 15 sources. Please make sure the literature you cite is academically reputable. Be very careful with Internet sources! Please follow the most recent edition of Turabian style. This stage is due by the end of March. The second stage is to present the findings of your research to a group of Christians (ideally in your local congregation). If you cannot make arrangements with the leadership of your congregation to present there, you will present to the class in a mock Bible class format. During the class meeting reserved for the final there will be time for each student to debrief how the presentation went.

4. **Attendance:** Students are required to attend classes regularly. One unexcused absence for each credit hour in a given course may be permitted, i.e. per one-hour class. Two percent (2%) of the course grade per academic hour for each hour of classroom instruction missed may be deducted for each unexcused absence beyond the above.
5. **Semester Grade Breakdown:**
 - a. Study Questions.....30%
 - b. Quizzes (total).....40%
 - c. Paper.....20%
 - d. Presentation.....10%

Course Outline:

Week 1: Syllabus/Course Expectations, Introduction to Joshua

Week 2: Mobilization and Invasion (Joshua 1:1–5:12)

Week 3: Warfare (Joshua 5:13–11:23)

Week 4: Summary of Progress (12:1-24)/**Quiz 1**/Flashback to the Transjordan (Joshua 13:1-33)

Week 5: Distribution on the W. Side of the Jordan (Joshua 14–17)

Week 6: Distribution at Shiloh (Joshua 18-19)/**Quiz 2**

Week 7: Promise Defended (Joshua 20–24)/**Quiz 3**

Week 8: Introduction to Judges/Prologue to Judges (1:1–3:6)

Week 9: **Quiz 4**/Othniel—Barak (Judges 3:7–5:31)

Week 10: Gideon and His Sons (Judges 6–9)

Week 11: Minor Judges and Jephthah (Judges 10–12) ***Paper Due***

Week 12: Samson (Judges 13–16)/**Quiz 5**

Week 13: Epilogue to Judges (17:1–21:25)/**Quiz 6**

Week 14: Ruth

Week 15: **Quiz 7**/Presentation Report