



# Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

## ***Course Identification***

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Course Number : WYB2342H  
Course Name: Engaging with Old Testament Narrative: The Book of Chronicles  
Campus: St. George

## ***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Dr. Andrew Witt  
E-mail: andy.witt@mail.utoronto.ca  
Office Hours: send an email to the instructor to schedule office hours

## ***Course Prerequisites or Requisites***

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None; preferred if student has already completed requirements for introduction to Old Testament

## ***Course Description***

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This course will introduce students to the joy and complexity of reading narrative texts in the Old Testament through a careful study of the book of Chronicles. The first part of the course will consider the current academic climate in interpreting Chronicles. At the same time, we will be introduced to the skills needed to read biblical narratives in more general terms. The remainder of the course will engage directly with the book of Chronicles itself. During this part of the course we will pay careful attention to how Chronicles is both similar and different from the parallel accounts in the books of Samuel and Kings, which helps us to see the distinctive contribution Chronicles makes as part of Christian Scripture.

## ***Course Methodology***

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Lectures, term papers, exegetical worksheets and classroom discussion

## ***Course Outcomes***

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COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students will:	This outcome will be demonstrated through:	Corresponding to the following Wycliffe statements of outcomes:
Know the broad concerns of the book of Chronicles in terms of its content,	Tutorial discussion Term papers	<b>MTS: 1.1</b>

themes, complexities, and theological purposes as part of Christian scripture		<b>MDiv:</b> 1.1; 1.2
Be able to perform close readings of the book of Chronicles by identifying and analyzing key elements of Old Testament narrative, including plot development, characterization, speech assessment, key words, themes, motifs, and intertextuality.	Exegetical worksheets Synoptic Comparison Paper Scribing Chronicles	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1; 2.1 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1; 2.1
Be able to practice theological interpretation of biblical texts	Exegetical worksheets Thematic paper	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1; 2.1 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1; 2.1; 2.2
Be able to participate in a small group discussion of a biblical passage, having developed the skills of discovering the valuable insights of others, charitable listening, communication of one's own interpretation, and critique of others	Tutorial Discussion	<b>MTS:</b> 2.2; 3.1; 3.2 <b>MDiv:</b> 3.2; 3.3
Be able to compare and contrast the thematic and theological outlook of the book of Chronicles from its parallels in Samuel-Kings, differentiating the concepts and/or ideas which may have motivated authors in their representation of history	Synoptic Comparison Paper Thematic Paper	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1; 2.1; 2.2 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1; 2.1; 2.2
Be able to evaluate the reuse of biblical texts through quality writing	Exegetical Worksheets Synoptic Comparison Paper Thematic Paper	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1; 2.1 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1; 2.1; 2.2
Be able to identify and describe how specific thematic threads run throughout the book of Chronicles by summarizing the components of this thread, including key words, phrases, and concepts	Thematic paper	<b>MTS:</b> 1.1; 2.1; 2.2 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.1; 2.1; 2.2

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Required Course Textbooks**

- Dutcher-Walls, Patricia. [\*Reading the Historical Books: A Student's Guide to Engaging the Biblical Text.\*](#) Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Hahn, Scott W. [\*The Kingdom of God as Liturgical Empire: A Theological Commentary on 1-2 Chronicles.\*](#) Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Brooks, Geraldine. [\*The Secret Chord: A Novel.\*](#) New York: Penguin Books, 2015.
- One of the following harmonies/synoptic parallels of Chronicles-Samuel-Kings:

- Crockett, William Day. *A Harmony of the Books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1897. [note: [free PDF on Google](#)]
- John C Endres, William R. Millar, and John Barclay Burns, eds. *Chronicles and Its Synoptic Parallels in Samuel, Kings, and Related Biblical Texts*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1998.
- Abba Bendavid. *The Twice-Told Tale: Parallels in the Bible*. Edited by Mordechai Cogan. Jerusalem: Carta, 2017/Hendrickson, 2017.

## Recommended Course Textbooks

- You will need **access** to at least one of the commentaries listed at the end of the course syllabus. Please speak to your instructor about the use of commentaries in the course.

## Reading Accessibility

Each of the textbooks above are available as e-books, and can be used with audio programs for ease of reading for the course. All of the PDF files have been passed through Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to make them available for audio programs as well. Please contact your instructor if you have any difficulties using these files.

## Course Website

- U of T's Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged into Quercus, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the website material in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. Students who have trouble accessing the course materials should ask the Registrar's office for further help.

## Course Schedule

Week	Dates	TOPIC	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	Jan 7	Introducing Chronicles, Pt 1: Background	Dutcher-Walls, 1-68
2	Jan 14	Introducing Chronicles, Pt 2: Aim & Purpose	Dutcher-Walls, 69-102; Hahn, 1-13
3	Jan 21	Introducing Chronicles, Pt 3: Sources & Composition	Dutcher-Walls, 103-162
4	Jan 28	The Genealogy of All Israel (1 Chr 1-9)	<b>Annotated Outline Due</b> Hahn, 17-42 <i>Have Brooks' <u>Secret Chord</u> read for this week's tutorial.</i>
5	Feb 4	The Reign of David, Pt 1 (1 Chr 10-16): Establishing the Kingdom of David	<b>Topic for Thematic Paper Due</b> Hahn 43-66

			Worksheet #1
6	Feb 11	The Reign of David, Pt 2 (1 Chr 17-21): The Covenant & the Altar	Hahn 67-82 Worksheet #2
	Feb 18-22	<b>READING WEEK</b>	
7	Feb 25	The Reign of David, Pt 3 (1 Chr 22-29): Preparations for the Temple & Its Personnel	Hahn 83-104 Worksheet #3 <i>Synoptic Comparison Paper Due</i>
8	Mar 4	The Reign of Solomon (2 Chr 1-9)	Hahn 105-138 Braun, "Solomon, the Chosen" Dillard, "The Chronicler's Solomon" Worksheet #4
9	Mar 11	The Davidic House, Pt 1 (2 Chr 10-20): Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat	Hahn, 139-164 Dillard, "The Chronicler's Jehoshaphat" Worksheet #5
10	Mar 18	The Davidic House, Pt 2 (2 Chr 21-28): Jehoram, Ahaziah, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz	Worksheet #6
11	Mar 25	The Davidic Dynasty, Pt 3 (2 Chr 29-35): Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	Hahn 165-192 Worksheet #7
12	Apr 1	Collapse and Hope (2 Chr 36): The Book of Chronicles as Christian Scripture	Dempster, "Chronicles" Boda, "Gazing through the Cloud" <i>Scribing Chronicles Due</i>
13	Apr 8	Finals Week	<i>Thematic Paper Due by Apr 12</i>

## ***Requirements and Evaluation***

There are two different tracks that students can follow for their grade in this course. The first track will involve a traditional assignment schedule of weekly worksheets plus two papers. The second track will include weekly worksheets and one paper, as well as a "scribing" project. Students must inform the professor of their planned marking track by the beginning of Week 4.

<b>Track 1</b>	<b>Track 2</b>
Annotated Outline (10%)	Annotated Outline (10%)
Tutorial Worksheets (25%)	Tutorial Worksheets (25%)
Synoptic Comparison Paper (30%)	Scribing Chronicles (40%)
Thematic Paper (35%)	Thematic Paper (25%)

- **Annotated Outline.** Due at the beginning of Week Four, students will need to complete an annotated outline of 1-2 Chronicles. The professor will give out an outline of 1-2 Chronicles, and students must write between 200-250 words summarizing each section of the outline. Summaries must be written in the student's own words. Think of it as a highlight reel for each section.
- **Tutorial Worksheets and Discussion.** Beginning in Week Four, a tutorial section of the class will begin in which students will participate in a close reading of one passage in that week's reading. Your mark will include the completion of exegetical worksheets for each week's passage, and involvement in the tutorial discussion. Thus, it is expected that students will come to class having already read the

passage to be discussed in class that week, as well as its synoptic parallel when appropriate. The first tutorial of the term, on Jan 28, will be spent talking through Geraldine Brooks' novel *The Secret Chord*.

- **Synoptic Comparison Paper.** Students who choose the first track will be given three different passages in Chronicles in which they will need to compare *two of them* to their synoptic parallels in the Samuel-Kings narrative. This paper will need to be a maximum of 2500-3000 words (roughly 10-12 pages), and will be due by the end of the seventh week of the course. There will be two main sections of the paper: (1) *Comparative Analysis*. Analyze the two parallel passages, noting where the differences are located, including where each passage is found in each book, and differences in phrases and words (it is recommended that the student use a very literal translation); (2) *Narrative Analysis*. In this section students will analyze what significance these differences have on their respective narratives in Samuel-Kings and Chronicles; that is, for example, how do these differences change the characterization of figures in the story? Or, what thematic significance do the changes indicate? Your weekly worksheets will give you helpful questions to ask in completion of this section. A deduction of -1 will be taken for every 50 words over 3000 words.
- **Scribing Chronicles.** Students who choose the second track will need to submit a *handwritten* copy of 1-2 Chronicles, due by the final class of the course (but it can be handed in as soon as the student completes the assignment). The student will begin their copy in 1 Chronicles 10:1 and end with 2 Chronicles 36:36 (in other words, you can skip the genealogies in 1 Chronicles 1-9). Copies should be made using one of the more literal translations of the Bible (e.g. NRSV, ESV, NASB, KJV, JPS, etc.), and need to be legible. If written on loose-leaf paper, this needs to be bound (not stapled); it is recommended that students use a bounded journal or notebook. Students should begin early, as this is a time-consuming project.
- **Thematic Paper.** Students will turn in a 3000-3500 word paper (roughly 12-15 pages) on one the following themes in the Book of Chronicles (if you have another idea for a theme, talk to the instructor to get approval), due by Friday, April 12. As above, a -1 deduction will be taken for every 50 words over 3500 words. You must talk to the instructor to let him know your theme by week five of the course. Beginning research on your theme early in the course will prove advantageous, as you can think through your theme as we go through the book in class. Consulting the Bibliography at the end of the syllabus may provide you with some great starting points in your research. Themes include:
  - Prohibitions of Idolatry and the Maintaining of Temple Worship in Chronicles
  - When God Acts: God's Involvement in the Shaping of Israel's History in Chronicles
  - The Origin and Dynamics of the Davidic Dynasty in Chronicles
  - The Varying Roles of Levites in Chronicles
  - Comparing the Roles of the Levites in the Tabernacle (e.g. the Pentateuch) and their Role in the Temple (Chronicles/Ezra-Nehemiah)
  - The Function of Prophets in Chronicles
  - The Role of the King in Chronicles
  - The Dimensions of Prophetic Hope in Chronicles
  - The Narrative Function of Justice and Retribution in Chronicles

## Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory

FZ                      0–69%                      0                      Failure

*Grades without numerical equivalent:*

- CR     Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
- NCR   Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
- SDF   Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
- INC   Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
- WDR   Withdrawal without academic penalty
- AEG   May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

### **Policy on Assignment Extensions**

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

### ***Policies***

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics.

This course will be utilizing the *Turnitin* tool within Quercus, which will assist in detecting textual similarities between compared works. Note the following University of Toronto policy: “Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web

site.” Your instructor will use their independent professional judgment in assessing the originality report and will assume responsibility for determining whether a text has been plagiarized.

An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (<http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks>) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges ([http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm)).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

**Writing Style.** The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

## ***Bibliography for the Study of 1-2 Chronicles***

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- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative: Revised and Updated*. New York: Basic Books, 2011.
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- Chisholm, Robert B. *Interpreting the Historical Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006.
- Dutcher-Walls, Patricia. *Reading the Historical Books: A Student's Guide to Engaging the Biblical Text*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Fokkelman, J. P. *Reading Biblical Narrative: An Introductory Guide*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook on the Historical Books*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001, 2008.
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- Satterthwaite, Philip E., and J. Gordon McConville, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007, 2016.
- Sternberg, Meir. *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative: Ideological Literature and the Drama of Reading*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999.
- Walsh, Jerome T. *Old Testament Narrative: A Guide to Interpretation*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

### **General Overviews of Chronicles**

- Ackroyd, Peter R. "Chronicles, the First and Second Books of the." Pages 163-165 in Achtemeier, Paul, ed. *Harper's Bible Dictionary*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985.
- Alter, Robert, and Frank Kermode. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987, 1999.
- Braun, Roddy. "1 Chronicles" and "2 Chronicles." Pages 342-371 in Mays, James L., ed. *Harpers Bible Commentary*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.
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- Talmon, Shemaryahu. "1 and 2 Chronicles." Pages 365-372 in Alter, Robert, and Frank Kermode, eds., *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 1987.

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