**AMHERST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**SYLLABUS FOR: CFOT-130 HISTORY BOOKS II**

**1&2 SAMUEL, 1&2 KINGS, 1&2 CHRONICLES**

**MEET YOUR MENTOR:**

**NAME:**

**EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_@srcministry.org**:

### **TEXTS, MATERIALS, AND SUPPLIES:**

**- *The Bible*  Bible versions that are deemed acceptable include the following:**

American Standard Version

Holman Christian Standard Version

King James Version

New King James Version

New International Version

New American Standard Bible

Revised Standard Version

New Living Translation

**GRADING SCALE:**

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

59-Below F

**GRADING:** Your final grade is determined by dividing the number of questions by 100 then adding up your total points. If there are 10 questions, then each question is worth 10 points. Example: If you were to get 10 points on 8 questions, 8 on one and 9 on another, Your final grade would be 80+8+9=97.

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

### In this course, you are given 10-12 questions designed to make you reflect, think, and comment on the assigned book(s) of scripture. You may use any and all ***VALID*** Christian resources as determined by your mentor, vice-chancellor, and chancellor. After you answer all the questions, submit your answers for discussion with your mentor. You may be required to resubmit or revise one or more of your answers. The idea is to engage in a back and forth discussion that is beneficial to both parties. The mentors ultimate decision regarding grades is final in all cases.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

While there are no set dates, we do expect that you will be disciplined and work on a regular and consistent basis. Please submit your completed assignments to your instructors as indicated.

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|  | **QUESTIONS** |
| 1 | Analyze the relationship between Samuel and Saul in 1 Samuel. Discuss Samuel's role as a prophet and judge and his interactions with Saul, the first king of Israel. Explore how their dynamic influences the fate of the kingdom. Reflect on the lessons about obedience to divine authority and the consequences of disobedience as depicted in their story. |
| 2 | Discuss the character of David in 1 Samuel. Analyze his rise to prominence, his victory over Goliath, and his relationship with Saul. Explore the challenges he faces and the decisions he makes. Reflect on the themes of loyalty, friendship, and trust in God as portrayed in David's narrative in 1 Samuel. |
| 3 | Examine the theme of leadership in 2 Samuel. Discuss David's reign as king, his military campaigns, and his accomplishments as a ruler. Analyze the challenges he faces, both internally within his family and externally in his kingdom. Reflect on the qualities of a strong and just leader as exemplified by David's actions in 2 Samuel. |
| 4 | Explore the concept of divine covenant in 2 Samuel. Discuss God's covenant with David and the promises made to him regarding his lineage and kingdom. Analyze how David responds to God's promises and the implications of this covenant for the Israelite monarchy. Reflect on the theological significance of God's faithfulness and the human responsibility in fulfilling covenant obligations. |
| 5 | Analyze the reign of Solomon in 1 Kings. Discuss his wisdom, achievements, and the construction of the temple in Jerusalem. Explore the challenges he faces and the consequences of his actions, especially regarding his foreign alliances and idolatry. Reflect on the lessons about leadership, wisdom, and the dangers of straying from God's commands as portrayed in Solomon's story. |
| 6 | Discuss the ministry of the prophets in 1 Kings. Analyze the roles and messages of prominent prophets like Elijah and Elisha. Explore their interactions with the kings of Israel and Judah and the impact of their prophecies on the nation. Reflect on the themes of divine judgment, repentance, and God's intervention in human affairs as depicted in the narratives of these prophets. |
| 7 | Examine the downfall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 2 Kings. Discuss the reasons for its destruction, including idolatry, disobedience, and political instability. Analyze the role of prophets like Hosea and Amos in warning the people. Reflect on the consequences of national unfaithfulness and the lessons about divine judgment as portrayed in the fall of Israel. |
| 8 | Explore the theme of exile and restoration in 2 Kings. Discuss the fall of Jerusalem, the Babylonian exile, and the eventual return of the Israelites under Persian rule. Analyze the messages of hope and restoration proclaimed by prophets like Jeremiah. Reflect on the spiritual and theological significance of exile and restoration, considering themes of repentance, redemption, and divine faithfulness. |
| 9 | Discuss the genealogical focus of 1 Chronicles. Analyze the genealogies presented in the book and their significance for establishing the lineage of Israelite tribes and families. Explore the purpose of preserving these genealogies and their cultural, religious, and political implications. Reflect on the themes of heritage, identity, and continuity in the context of Israel's history. |
| 10 | Analyze David's preparations for building the temple in 1 Chronicles. Discuss his gathering of materials, organizing the Levites, and seeking God's guidance for the construction. Explore the symbolic and theological significance of the temple in ancient Israelite worship. Reflect on the themes of reverence, worship, and God's dwelling place as depicted in David's preparations for the temple. |
| 11 | Examine the theme of religious reforms in 2 Chronicles. Discuss the efforts of kings like Hezekiah and Josiah to restore proper worship, eliminate idolatry, and renew the covenant with God. Analyze the challenges they face and the impact of their reforms on the nation. Reflect on the importance of spiritual renewal, obedience to God's law, and the role of leaders in guiding the faith of a nation. |
| 12 | Explore the concept of divine communication and guidance in 2 Chronicles. Discuss instances where God speaks to the kings and prophets, providing direction and warnings. Analyze the responses of the recipients and the outcomes of following or ignoring divine guidance. Reflect on the themes of obedience, discernment, and faithfulness as portrayed in the communication between God and the leaders of Israel and Judah. |