**AMHERST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**SYLLABUS FOR: CFOT-120 HISTORY BOOKS I**

**JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH, EZRA, NEHEMIAH, ESTHER**

**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 social and economic reforms initiated by Nehemiah in Jerusalem. Discuss his efforts to address issues such as poverty, usury, and social injustice among the returned exiles. Explore the significance of these reforms in promoting social cohesion and equality within the community. Reflect on the principles of justice, compassion, and community welfare as exemplified in Nehemiah's initiatives, and consider their relevance in contemporary social and economic contexts. |
| 2 | Examine the leadership qualities of Nehemiah as portrayed in the Book of Nehemiah. Discuss his role as a governor and builder of the walls of Jerusalem, highlighting his determination, organization, and faith in God. Explore the challenges he faced in mobilizing the community and overcoming opposition. Reflect on the lessons in leadership, perseverance, and reliance on divine guidance derived from Nehemiah's story. |
| 3 | Analyze the theme of religious revival and reform in the Book of Ezra. Discuss the challenges faced by the returning exiles in rebuilding the temple and restoring worship practices. Explore the role of Ezra as a religious leader and reformer. Reflect on the importance of spiritual renewal and obedience to God's law in the context of post-exilic Israel. |
| 4 | Discuss the interfaith tensions and conflicts depicted in the Book of Ezra, particularly regarding intermarriage between Israelites and non-Israelites. Analyze the measures taken by Ezra to address these issues and the implications for the community. Reflect on the complexities of cultural identity, religious purity, and unity in the restoration of Jerusalem, exploring the lessons that can be drawn for contemporary multicultural societies. |
| 5 | Discuss the themes of loyalty, faithfulness, and redemption in the Book of Ruth. Analyze the relationships between Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, highlighting the acts of kindness and loyalty demonstrated by each character. Explore the theological significance of the kinsman-redeemer concept and its application in the narrative. Reflect on the broader implications of these themes for personal relationships and social justice. |
| 6 | Ruth: Discuss the significance of the harvest and field settings, as well as the role of genealogy in the story. Analyze the use of imagery and foreshadowing. Reflect on how these literary elements contribute to the overall message and meaning of the book. |
| 7 | Analyze the role of women in the Book of Judges, focusing on characters like Deborah, Jael, and Delilah. Discuss their contributions to the narratives and their impact on the outcomes of the stories. Explore the themes of power, bravery, and deception as portrayed through these women. Reflect on the cultural and social implications of these portrayals. |
| 8 | Examine the cycle of apostasy and deliverance in the Book of Judges. Discuss the recurring pattern of Israel's disobedience, oppression, repentance, and deliverance through judges. Analyze the theological message behind this cycle and its implications for the relationship between God and Israel. Reflect on the lessons about faithfulness and consequences of disobedience. |
| 9 | Explore the concept of conquest and inheritance in the Book of Joshua. Discuss the military campaigns undertaken by the Israelites to claim the Promised Land. Analyze the theological significance of these conquests and the idea of divine promise and fulfillment. Reflect on the ethical implications of the conquest narratives and their impact on the identity of ancient Israel. |
| 10 | Describe the leadership style of Joshua as portrayed in the Book of Joshua. Analyze his strategies for leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, managing diverse tribes, and ensuring obedience to God's commands. Discuss the key challenges he faced and the lessons contemporary leaders can draw from his leadership. |
| 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. |
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