

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2024
PT612	With Skillful Hands & Integrity of Heart	WEEKEND MODULE
	The Life of David	Prerequisite: None
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Jan 12-13 Feb 9-10 Mar 15-16	Instructor:	Mark Buchanan, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, BFA (UBC), MCS (Regent)	First day of this class:	Fri, January 12
Time:	Fri 6:30-9:00 PM Sat 9:00 AM-4:00 PM	Email:	mbuchanan@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 21
Room:	L2084	Phone:	403-410-2000, ext. 2703	Last day to request revised final exam:	NA
Lab/ Tutorial:	None	Office:	L2071	Last day to withdraw from course w/o academic penalty:	Thu, March 28
		Office Hours:	By appt. (mostly Zoom)	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Tues, April 2
Final Exam:	None			Last day of this class:	Sat, March 16

Course Description

Poet. Warrior. Shepherd. Assassin. Worshipper. Adulterer.

David was a man after God's own heart. He was also utterly human and deeply flawed - wise, courageous compassionate, but also prone to anger, pride, lust, fear, self-pity, and more. He's not so much a model as a mirror. Though much about him inspires us, not everything invites our admiration or imitation. But everything - his character, his prayers, his relationships, his decisions, his actions, his mistakes - demands our full attention and prayerful reflection.

In this course, we will enter deeply into the David story, not to find "leadership principles" but to reflect on the life of a real man in real time, with all its tensions, contradictions, serendipities, and opportunities. And always, we will be looking at David's relationship with God. We'll eschew formulaic answers but will mine the story for wisdom for our own life and time.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to understand and appreciate the David story in relation to...

1. Its historical, biblical and literary context.
2. Its theological, interpretive and literary history.
3. Its lessons and warnings.
4. The implications and applications of its lessons and warnings to the student's own life, especially their leadership challenges and opportunities.

Textbooks

Required

- Robert Alter, *The David Story*
- David Wolpe, *David: The Divided Heart*

Recommended

- Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians*
- I will make available for \$15 paperback copies of my novels *David: Rise* and *David: Reign*, Books One and Two of The David Trilogy, in our first class. There is no requirement or expectation that you purchase or read either.

Course Schedule

Fridays: 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

Saturdays: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Course Outline

Weekend One	Backstory: Judges, Ruth, the Rise of Samuel & Saul
Weekend Two	Rise: The Rise of David, David in Saul's Court, David in the Wilderness
Weekend Three	Reign & Descent: David & Power (+ student presentations)

NOTE: The student is expected each day to consult and follow the reading schedule for the course posted in Moodle.

Requirements

1. Reflective Paper (Due Monday, January 29, 5 PM; worth 20% of total)

- a. A 1500-word (*please follow formatting guidelines listed on page 4*) reflection on one or more of the Davidic psalms (or a portion thereof) in light of David's story - in other words, how might this psalm, or portion thereof, intersect with or have grown out of an event or events in David's life?

Or

- b. A 1500-word (*please follow formatting guidelines listed on page 4*) reflection on the what "a man after God's own heart" actually means, historically, linguistically, textually, theologically, practically.

Or

- c. Pitch me an idea...

2. 2 Precis or 1 Reading Summary (Due Monday, February 12, 5 PM; worth 15% of total)

- a. A 1-page (*please follow formatting guidelines listed on page 4*) precis of 2 texts (required, recommended, or from the bibliography). Do not critique or interact with the material – just summarize it (*see Moodle for my description of an effective summary/precis*).

Or

- b. A 3-page (*please follow formatting guidelines listed on page 4*) summary, critique, and response to one text (required, recommended, or from the bibliography).

3. Final Project (Due Monday, March 25, 5 PM; worth 25% of total. If you wish, you can collaborate with up to two other students on this assignment; each student or team of students will give a 10-minute presentation of some portion of their research in-class on Friday, March 15)

- a. A 2200-word (*please follow formatting guidelines listed on page 4*) research paper on a key theme or relationship in David's life.

Possible themes: friends; enemies; allies; tributaries; women; children; worship; warfare; confession; deceit; lament; anger; lust; humility; succession; prayer; politics; Philistines; Ammonites; Amalekites; Moabites; the Ark of the Covenant; etc.

Possible relationships: Saul; Jonathan; David's wives, esp. Michal, Abigail, Bathsheba (see list in 2 Sam. 3); David's sons, esp. Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah, Solomon (see list in 2 Sam. 3); David's daughters, esp. Tamar; David's Nephews, esp. Joab; People in David's court or inner circle, esp. Samuel, Nathan, Gad, Zadok, Abiathar, Ahitophel; Pagan Kings, esp. Mesha, Achish; David and the Holy Spirit; etc.

Pay attention to how David's relationship with God informs (or fails to inform) this theme or relationship, and develop your thesis with an eye toward life application.

Or

- b. A 2200-word (*please follow formatting guidelines listed on page 4*) research paper on a key issue arising from the scholarship on David.

Possible issues: Did David actually live? Was David fundamentally selfless or selfish? Was David running a protection racket in the Judean wilderness? Was David bi-sexual? Was David complicit in the murder of Saul's family? Was David, or anyone in his time, aware of Mosaic Law? Did David write any of the Psalms attributed to him? Did David fight Goliath? Was David manipulated into appointing Solomon his successor? What was the cause of Michal's barrenness? Etc.).

Or

- c. A 2200-word (*please follow formatting guidelines listed on page 4*) research paper on a literary pattern in the David story.

Possible patterns: doublets and triplets; *inclusios*; allusions to the Pentateuch and Judges; relation of 1 Samuel to the book of Ruth; Deuteronomistic influences; etc.

Or

- d. Any of the above rendered in an artistic medium – paint, pottery, poetry, song, dance, drama, etc.

NOTE: All assignments (with the possible exception of 4d) must be submitted electronically on Moodle in a Word.doc format. **DO NOT SUBMIT** pdfs unless of artwork.

NOTE: See **Late Policy** below for penalties related to late submissions. Do Not Ask for an Exception.

4. Journal Excerpt (Due Monday, April 8, 5 PM; worth 15% of total)

Keep a journal of your reflections related to the course – how has a David story or psalm, for instance, helped you navigate a personal or vocational crisis, etc. Post a picture or photocopy of a minimum of 5 pages and a maximum of 10 page (this can be redacted for reasons of privacy).

5. Reading Log (Due Monday, April 8, 5 PM; worth 10% of total)

A tabulation of all readings (*use template in Moodle*). The student is required to read a total of approximately 1000 pages (which includes the required texts and the biblical story in 1 & 2 Samuel; the 2 required texts alone total almost 600 pages); the extra readings can be comprised of articles, novels, plays, other books or portions thereof, commentaries, monographs, etc. A select bibliography of suggested further reading is included in this syllabus, but you are not confined to this list.

6. Attendance & Class Participation

Attendance and class participation count toward 15% of the student's grade.

Grade Summary

Assignment 1, Reflective Paper – Due Jan 29, 5 PM	20%
Assignment 2: Reading Summary – Due, Feb 12, 5 PM	15%
Assignment 3: Final Project – Due, Mar 25, 5 PM (includes presentation)	25%
Assignment 4: Journal Excerpt – Due, April 8, 5 PM	15%
Assignment 5: Reading Log – Due, April 8, 5 PM	10%
Assignment 6: Attendance & Participation - throughout	15%

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Late Policy – READ THIS CAREFULLY

Due dates are valuable for several reasons. Here are three: 1) They mimic reality. Most of your life involves hard deadlines – rent or mortgage payments, project assignments, work schedules. This is like that; 2) They create a level playing field. It's simply unfair to your classmates if they submit their work on time and you receive an extension without penalty; 3) They honour my time. Deadlines allow me to schedule adequate time to grade and respond to your work thoughtfully and return it punctually.

Therefore, only under extraordinary circumstances (i.e., a life or family crisis, a severe and/or prolonged illness, etc.) will I grant an extension. **NOTE:** *A busy schedule does not count as a life crisis.*

All requests for extension must be submitted to me in writing on or before the assignment's due date. Otherwise, any submissions received later than midnight on the due date will be deemed late and penalized at a **5% deduction per day**. Any submission later than a week past the due date, unless negotiated with me, will automatically receive an F.

DO NOT ASK FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY.

Formatting for Papers - READ THIS CAREFULLY

All papers must:

- Use Word format (no Pdfs)
- Use 1.5 spacing.
- Use *Times New Roman, Arial or Garamond*
- Use 12-point font.
- Be numbered.
- Include a title page.
- Cite sources properly. **NOTE:** The student can use his/her preferred style (e.g. Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, or *The Chicago Manual of Style*), but must remain consistent throughout the entire paper.
- Use inclusive language. The student is encouraged to avoid the consistent use of masculine terminology in reference to people in the general sense. For example, prefer using the terms "humanity" or "people" or "humankind" over the terms "man" or "mankind" when referring to the human race.

Bibliography

- Alter, Robert. *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 & 2 Samuel*. New York, NY: WW Norton, 2000,
- Baden, Joel, *The Historical David: The Real Life of an Invented Hero*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2013.
- Borgman, Paul. *David, Saul & God: Rediscovering an Ancient Story*. Oxford, US: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Brooks, Geraldine. *The Secret Chord: A Novel*. Viking, 2015
- Brueggemann, Walter. *David and His Theologian: Literary, Social, and Theological Investigations of the Early Monarchy*. Pittsburgh, PA: Wipf & Stock Pub, 2011.
- _____. *David's Truth: In Israel's Imagination & Memory*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1985.
- _____. *First & Second Samuel: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching & Teaching*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990.
- _____. *The Message of the Psalms*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1985.
- Buchanan, Mark. *David: Rise*. Book One. WordCraft, 2020.
- _____. *David: Reign*. Book Two. WordCraft, 2023.
- _____. *David: Descend*. Book Three. WordCraft, 2024 (projected).
- Edwards, Gene. *A Tale of Three Kings*. Nashville, TN: Tyndale Publishers, 1992.
- Gafney, Wilda C. *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.
- Gide, André. *Bathsheba*. A drama in 1 Act. 1912.
- _____. *Saul*. A drama in 5 Acts. 1898.

- Ginzberg, Louis. "David," *Legends of the Bible*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication of America, 1956.
- Gladwell, Malcolm. *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits & the Art of Battling Giants*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co., 2013.
- Goldingay, John. *First & Second Samuel for Everyone*. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2011.
Men Behaving Badly. STL Distribution, 2003.
- Halpern, Baruch. *David's Secret Demons: Messiah, Murderer, Traitor, King*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Heller, Joseph. *God Knows: A Novel*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1984.
- James, Carolyn C. *Finding God in the Margins: The Book of Ruth*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018.
- Kirsch, Jonathan. *King David: The Real Life of the Man Who Ruled Israel*. New York, NY: Ballantine Books, 2001.
- Laniak, Timothy S. *While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks: Recovering Biblical Leadership*. Higher Life Publishing, 2009.
- L'Engle, Madeleine. *Certain Women*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1993.
- McKenzie, Steven L. *King David: A Biography*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Peterson, Eugene H. *Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1991.
- _____. *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2011.
- Pinsky, Robert. *The Life of David*. Prague: Schocken, 2005.
- Rosenberg, David. *The Book of David: A New Story of the Spiritual Warrior & Leader Who Shaped Our Inner Consciousness*. New York: Harmony Books, 1997.
- Rutland, Mark. *David the Great: Deconstructing the Man After God's Own Heart*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma Press, 2018.
- Wolpe, David. *David: The Divided Heart*. New Haven, NJ: Yale University Press, 2017.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further

information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.