

**Hasn't the King
Distinguished Himself:
The Life of David**
3 credits
Prerequisite(s): None

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	
Days	May 2-6	Instructor:	Mark Buchanan, BFA (UBC), MACS (Regent)	Last day to add/drop:	End of the first day
Time:	9:00-4:00	Email:	mbuchanan@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	n/a
Room:	A2133	Phone:	403-410-2000, ext 7907	Last day to withdraw from course:	1 pm on the 4 th day of classes
Final Exam day		Office:	L2071	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	One month before final due date
There are no final exams for spring classes.		Office Hrs:	By appointment	Last day of classes:	May 6

Textbook:

 Robert Alter, *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1st & 2nd Samuel*

 Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over A Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians*
Course Description:

Poet. Warrior. Shepherd. Assassin. Worshipper. Adulterer. David was a man after God's own heart, but 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 and leader 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 real wisdom for our own journey as leaders.

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 and biblical context.
2. Its theological and interpretive history.
3. The student's own life and times.
4. Its lessons and warnings.
5. The application of its lessons and warnings to the student's own life, especially their leadership challenges and opportunities.

Course Schedule:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Course Outline:

- Day 1 The David Story: Overview
- Day 2 The Time of The Judges (including the book of Ruth) & the Rise of Samuel, Saul & David
- Day 3 David in Saul's Court (**NOTE:** Chapel and Lunch)
- Day 4 David in the Wilderness
- Day 5 David & Power (**NOTE:** Class party on last break)

NOTE: The student is expected each day to have read a portion of 1 or 2 Samuel and one Psalm; a schedule of readings will be sent to all enrolled students within a week of the course starting.

Requirements:

1. Reading Summaries:

A concise summary of the content of the 2 required texts. Do not critique or interact with the material – just summarize it (*see Moodle for a description of an effective summary/precis*).

Length: 1 page each (do not exceed) according to format listed below (p. 5).

Due: June 27, 2016

2. Reading Log:

A tabulation of all reading (*use template in Moodle*). The student is required to read, besides the required texts and the biblical story in 1 & 2 Samuel, approximately another 200 pages - this 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.

Due: June 27, 2016

3. Reflective Paper:

A written 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, these psalms, or portions thereof, intersect with or have grown out of an event or events in David's life? Use format listed below (p. 5).

Length: 1500 wds

Due: June 27, 2016

4. Research Paper

A research paper on a key theme *or* relationship in David's life (possible themes: friends, enemies, allies, women, children, worship, warfare, confession, lament, anger, lust, humility, succession, prayer, politics, etc.; possible relationships: Jonathan, his wives (esp. Michal, Abigail, Bathsheba - see list in 2 Sam. 3), his sons (esp. Amnon, Absalom, Solomon - see list in 2 Sam. 3), Saul, Samuel, sons of Zeruiah (esp. Joab), Abiathar, Ahitophel, Nathan, 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. Use format listed below. Use format listed below (p. 5).

Length: 3000 wds

Due: June 27, 2016

NOTE: All assignments must be submitted electronically on Moodle in a Word.doc format. **DO NOT** submit pdfs.

NOTE: See **Late Policy** (p. 4) below for penalties related to late submissions.

Attendance:

Attendance and class participation count toward 10% of the student's grade.

NOTE: We will break early on Wednesday for a Chapel service, followed by a free lunch. As well, our final class on Friday will include a class party; please bring a snack to share.

Grade Summary:

Assignment 1: Reading Summaries	15%
Assignment 2: Reflective Paper	20%
Assignment 3: Research Paper	40%
Assignment 5: Reading Log	15%
Class Attendance & Participation	10%

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

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

Bibliography**Required Texts (students should read this alongside the lectures):**

Alter, Robert. *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary on 1 & 2 Samuel*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2000.

Peterson, Eugene. *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1998.
ISBN: TBD

Recommended Texts:

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: A Novel.* (Forthcoming).

Edwards, Gene. *A Tale of Three Kings.* Nashville, TN: Tyndale Publishers, 1992.

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.

Heller, Joseph. *God Knows: A Novel.* New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1984.

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, Stephen L. *King David: A Biography.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Peterson, Eugene. *Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer.* San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1991.

Pinsky, Robert. *The Life of David.* Schocken, 2005. Prague, 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.

Late Policy:

Due dates are valuable for several reasons. Here are three: 1) They mimic reality. Most of your life involves hard deadlines - 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 help the instructor. On-time submissions allow me to adequately schedule my time to grade and return your work in a timely and thoughtful manner.

Therefore, only under extraordinary circumstances (i.e., a life or family crisis, a severe and/or prolonged illness, etc.; *poor time management does not count as a life crisis*) will I grant an extension. **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 (and on final assignments with the Registrar), will automatically receive an F.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY.

Formatting for Papers:

All papers must:

- Use 1.5 spacing.
- Use *Times New Roman*, *Arial* or *Garamond* 12-point font.
- Be numbered.
- 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.
- Include a title page.

Other General 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.

Exam Scheduling

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.

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 college. 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.