



**MB** BIBLICAL  
SEMINARY



Advancing God's Kingdom by Preparing Competent Christian  
Leaders for Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry

## **LS5103 A Biblical Theology and Hermeneutic of Leadership**

Prerequisites: none

Module: October 28-31, 2019  
3 credit hours

Mark D. Wessner, Ph.D.  
markwessner@mbseminary.ca

### **Course Description**

The Old Testament themes of leadership and spiritual formation are expressed in and through the history, activities, beliefs and teachings of the first followers of God, from scattered individuals to a unified socio-political state. In terms of spiritual formation, this course explores the nature of personal “face to face” encounters/relationships with the divine. In terms of leadership, the life and leadership of various “unequaled” Old Testament leaders will be examined. Throughout the course, participants will explore specific theological and practical frameworks to evaluate their own spiritual health and ministry leadership.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, each participant should be able to:

- Identify and describe the key theological and practical elements of leadership within the Old Testament, and the essential elements of spiritual formation in the Old Testament,
- Articulate and apply specific principles from each Old Testament text that describes either a “face to face” encounter or a “there has never been a prophet/king/ \_\_\_\_ like” evaluation, and
- Implement new (or renewed) practices of leadership development and spiritual formation in their own life and leadership.

Real learning takes place as you carefully process information through higher order thinking skills. Your performance in this class will be based on your demonstration of your engagement and learning, not by simply repeating back basic facts (your knowledge of the facts will become clear as you demonstrate higher order thinking skills). In all that you do in this class, you should always remember to use higher order thinking skills, as described below:

- *Comprehension*: demonstrates the ability to grasp meaning, explain, and restate ideas,
- *Application*: demonstrates the ability to use learned material in new situations,
- *Analysis*: demonstrates the ability to separate material into component parts and show relationships between parts,

- *Synthesis*: demonstrates the ability to put together the separate ideas to form a new whole, to establish new relationships, and
- *Evaluation*: demonstrates the ability to judge the worth of material against stated criteria.

### Required Textbooks and Readings

Averbeck, Richard. "Spirit, Community, and Mission: A Biblical Theology for Spiritual Formation." *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care* 1, no. 1 (2008): 27-53.

Brisben, David, and Amelia Klein. 2012. "Reading the Old Testament as Story: A Pedagogy for Spiritual Formation." *Christian Education Journal* 9, no. 2 (2012): 326-341.

Fountain, Kay A. "An Investigation into Successful Leaderships Transitions in the Old Testament." *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies* 7, no. 2 (2014): 187-204.

Stevens, Marty E. *Leadership Roles of the Old Testament: King, Prophet, Priest, Sage*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2012.

Wessner, Mark D. "No one like Josiah: Covenant Faithfulness as a Foundation for Ministry, Marketplace, and Social leadership." *Direction Journal* 47, no. 2 (2018): 229-238.

Wessner, Mark D. "Toward a Literary Understanding of Moses and the Lord Panim el-Panim in Exodus 33:7-11." *Restoration Quarterly* 44, no. 2 (2002): 109-116.

Wessner, Mark D. "Toward a Literary Understanding of Panim el-Panim in Genesis 32:23-33." *Restoration Quarterly* 42, no. 3 (2000): 169-177

### Course Assignments

Reflection Paper #1	15%	1000 words	<b>Oct 25</b>
Reflection Paper #2	15%	1000 words	<b>Oct 27</b>
Reading Report	5%	500 words	<b>Nov 22</b>
Book Review	15%	10 pages	<b>Dec 13</b>
Research Paper	25%	15-20 pages	<b>Jan 3</b>
Ministry Curriculum Project	25%	Curriculum + 1500 word summary	<b>Jan 24</b>

#### 1. Reflection Papers (15% each)

- #1: Relevance of the Old Testament
  - Write a 1,000 word reflective essay that describes the specific relevance of the Old Testament to your current life and leadership contexts, noting the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of using the Old Testament text as a source of information, influence and/or authority.
  - Due date: October 25
- #2: Reflections on OT Models of "Calling" to Ministry

- Read the calls to ministry of Moses (Exodus 1-4), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-13), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1-19), and Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1-3).
- Write a 1,000 word autobiographical paper in which you describe the way in which God directed you into Christian ministry/leadership, noting particular parallels and deviations from the Old Testament patterns.
- Due date: October 27

## 2. Reading Report (5%)

- Read Averbeck, Brisben, Fountain, and the following books in the Old Testament: Genesis to 2 Kings, Nehemiah, Psalms, Daniel.
- Write of a 500 word summary of your observations about the required reading, as well as a summary of the impact that the reading had on your personal spirituality and leadership. In the report, you must include the percentage of how much of the reading you thoughtfully read (not skimmed).
- Due date: November 22

## 3. Book Review (15%)

- Write a 10 page book review of *Leadership Roles of the Old Testament*, following the standard guidelines below (important: the assignment is to write a book review, not a book report). At the minimum, the book review is to include:
  - Introduction (2 marks):
    - A general description of the book: authorship, currency, format, etc.
    - A brief summary of the purpose of the book and its general argument or theme. Include a discussion about whom the book is intended for.
  - Summary of Content (1 marks):
    - This can be done in the same way that it is done for a simple book report (do not spend too much time or paper on this section, as the analysis and evaluation of content is more important than a simple summary).
  - Analysis of the Text (8 marks):
    - What is the author's style: simple/technical, persuasive/logical, etc.?
    - How well does the organizational method (comparison/contrast; cause/effect; analogy; persuasion through example) develop the argument or theme of the book? (give examples to support your analysis.)
    - What evidence does the book present to support the argument? How convincing is this evidence? (select pieces of evidence that are weak, or strong, and explain why they are such.)
    - How complete is the argument?
    - In your opinion, are there facts and evidence that the author has neglected to consider? (you may need to refer to other relevant material)
  - Evaluation of the Text (4 marks):
    - Give a summary of all the weakness and strengths you have found in the book. Does it do what it set out to do? Why or why not?
    - Evaluate the book's overall usefulness to the audience it is intended for.
    - Specifically, how would you improve the book?

- Due date: December 13

#### 4. *Research Paper (25%)*

- Write a 15-20 page paper that carefully explores the context, message and meaning of a specific Leadership or Spiritual Formation passage of the Old Testament. The specific passage must be approved by Dr. Wessner prior to writing the paper. At a minimum, the Research Paper will consist of:
  - The correct identification of the passage (where the passage starts/stops, its placement within the book, its placement within the Bible, etc.), giving specific reasons for each of your conclusions (2 marks),
  - An analysis of the literary style and characteristics of both the book and the passage (citing specific references) (4 marks),
  - The cultural and historical background of the passage (4 marks),
  - A detailed analysis and application the passage as it relates to both Old Testament and contemporary contexts of Leadership or Spiritual Formation (14 marks),
  - Specific references from at least eight academic sources in addition to the course textbooks and articles (1 mark).
  - Due date: January 3

#### 5. *Ministry Curriculum Project (25%)*

- Using the Research Paper as the foundation, you are to create either a small group study guide or a classroom curriculum based on the Research Paper passage. The study guide / curriculum must reflect the content and principles discussed in this course, and it is to include a section on life and ministry application for the participants. You are to work through the study guide / curriculum with a small group of at least four people (one meeting). The assignment report will consist of:
  - The study guide / curriculum itself (12 marks), and
  - A 1,500 word summary of your small group / classroom experience (13 marks).
  - Due date: January 24

### **General Assignment Guidelines**

All written assignments should:

- Follow the “Chicago Style” of formatting.
- Be typed, double-spaced and follow appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins)
- Use **Times New Roman** font only, *italics* rather than underlining (including in the footnotes and bibliography), and **footnotes** only, not endnotes.
- Not exceed the **maximum length**; papers will receive a grade reduction and may not be graded at all.
- Employ **gender-inclusive language** wherever possible and appropriate.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines warrants a grade reduction. All assignments must be uploaded into the classroom in **PDF** format. When you submit electronic files, please name them as follows:

LASTNAME\_Firstname – Course Abbreviation - Title of assignment (as given on this syllabus)

Example: **SMITH\_JOHN B6210/P6210 Research Paper**

## Course Timeline

### Pre-Class

- Old Testament Reflection Paper (Oct 25)
- Reflections on OT Models of “Calling” to Ministry (Oct 27)

### During Class (October 28-31, 2019)

- Monday, Oct 28
  - Introduction, Personal Calling Papers
  - Four Voices of Leadership and Spiritual Formation
  - Spiritual Awareness and Formation (Seasons, 3 C’s)
  - Face to Face with God (Jacob, Moses)
- Tuesday, Oct 29
  - Personal Calling Papers
  - Face to Face with God (Gideon, Israel)
  - Leading by Following: Epitaph (Moses, Josiah)
  - Leading by Following: Future (Moses’ successor, Solomon)
- Wednesday, Oct 30
  - Personal Calling Papers
  - Leading by Following: Historical (the Lord, the people, David)
  - Leading by Following: Judgment (the people, Aaron, Miriam)
  - Leading by Following: Judgment (Jeroboam, Ahab, Jerusalem)
- Thursday, Oct 31
  - Personal Calling Papers
  - OT Leadership Transitions (unsuccessful)
  - OT Leadership Transitions (successful)
  - Conclusion, Next Steps

### Post-Class

- Reading Report (Nov 22)
- Book Review of *Leadership Roles of the Old Testament* (Dec 13)
- Research Paper (Jan 3)
- Ministry Curriculum Project (Jan 24)