The Book of Daniel
Ph.D. Seminar: OT 9131
First Semester 2014-2015/1:00-3:00 pm/ RM A211

Seminar Leader: Dr. Stephen R. Miller/Professor Old Testament and Hebrew
Office: RM A221 // Office Phone: 901-751-3018// Email smiller@mabts.edu

Seminar Description and Rationale: This seminar is a study of the book of Daniel. Contemporary Old Testament scholarly literature, key critical issues, historical background, structure, theological themes, and other significant matters related to this prophecy will be examined. Special attention will be given to major interpretative problems and key passages. Students will translate selected texts from Daniel in the Hebrew Bible. A study of the book of Daniel will increase the student's understanding of the Hebrew language, Old Testament criticism, eschatological approaches, Messianic interpretation, and the history of the Old Testament period.

Seminar Objectives:
1. Students will improve their Hebrew translation skills.
2. Students will become more familiar with the vast amount of literature (journal articles, commentaries, monographs, etc.) pertaining to the Book of Daniel.
3. Students will better understand the historical issues surrounding the book.
4. Students will better understand the critical issues involved in Daniel studies.
5. Students will gain a better grasp of the theological lessons taught in the book.

Seminar Textbooks:
English Bible (version of student's choice)
Hebrew Bible (BHS)
Students should read the relevant material in the textbook for each week's seminar meeting.

Course Requirements:
1. Textbook: The student will read the material in the textbooks.
2. Seminar Examination: A written examination over the contents of the material covered in the seminar will be given at the conclusion of the seminar.
3. Seminar Research Paper: Each student will select a topic approved by the professor for a seminar paper of at least 25 but no more than 30 pages in length. The paper should follow Turabian's form and style manual. This paper will also be presented orally to the seminar group with time given for interaction on the topic. This research paper will be graded on content and form and style according to the PhD Seminar Paper Rubric.
4. Seminar Commentary/Journal Reviews: Each seminar member will read two commentaries and two journal articles on the book of Daniel for review. These must be approved by the professor and should be significant scholarly works. One commentary and one journal article
will be reviewed orally in class (approximately 15-25 minutes each—depending on class size). The reviews of these commentaries/journal articles should be two pages in length and include an overview of the commentary/article, biographical information and theological standpoint of the writer, strengths and weaknesses of the work, and examples of key interpretations of key passages. (See Book Review Worksheet in this Syllabus)

5. Annotated Bibliography: The student will prepare an annotated bibliography consisting of at least 20 commentaries and other books relating to Daniel's prophecy and at least 10 scholarly journal articles on Daniel. Journal articles should be relatively recent—1980-present. Annotations should consist of a minimum of two sentences. Students should use the journal abbreviations found in JETS. Students will share the bibliographical material with other members of the seminar.

6. Weekly Research Reports: Each week students will research a topic or article and report to the class. These reports will be presented orally and will average approximately 10-20 minutes (depending on the seminar size and other factors). PowerPoint and other communication tools are encouraged. A two page written summary of the report must be prepared for the professor and each student. This is in addition to any other materials made available. The form and style of this written report will be in accordance with Turabian 8th edition.


8. Notebook: A seminar notebook (hard copy or electronic) will be compiled by each student. It will include the professor's lecture notes, the student's weekly reports and those shared by other members of the seminar, notes taken during each seminar, book/journal reviews, the annotated bibliography, and any other seminar materials.

Grading Procedure: The student’s grade will be determined as follows:

- Reading of the Textbook: 10%
- Seminar Examination Grade: 10% (However, students cannot pass the course if they fail the seminar examination. The student will be given one opportunity to retake a failed exam.)
- Research Paper: 50%
- Book/Journal Reviews: 10%
- Annotated Bibliography: 10%
- Seminar Translation: 10%

However, if any of the above assignments or the weekly assignments are not completed, 50% will be deducted from the student’s final grade. In other words, all assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

BOOK REVIEW WORKSHEET

I. Identification. List the title, author, and facts of publication.

II. Theological Biography. Please give a brief bio of the author. Focus on the books written by the author, the achievements of the author and the theological persuasion of the author.

III. Thesis. In one paragraph, please give a brief statement of the main idea and conclusion.


V. Evaluation. One page, include the following:
   A. How successful was the author in achieving his purpose?
   B. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the book?
1. Literary Form
2. Persuasiveness
3. Comprehensibility
4. Treatment of Scripture
5. Biases

C. What is your opinion of the book?
D. Write additional comments you wish to make in evaluating the book that add to your report.

**Grading Scale:** Grade point averages are determined on a 12-point grading system. The grade point value of each letter grade is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Quality Points per Semester Hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>95-96</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>93-94</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>81-83</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>77-80</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>75-76</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>72-74</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>69 and below</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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**Class Attendance:** Unexcused absences are not allowed for Ph.D. seminars. Please pay special attention to the definition of excused absences in the catalog under "General Academic Regulations." A written explanation for any absence must be submitted by the next meeting to the professor. This standard is also for those auditing the course who wish to receive credit for the audit.

**Late Work:** Unless students have a catalog excuse (illness, medical emergency, family emergency, etc.), their grades will be penalized severely for late work (papers, tests, etc.). Arrangements must be made as soon as possible to make up late work.

**Class Conduct:**
1. All talking should stop when the bell rings. Students should be attentive to the prayer requests of other class members.
2. No one is to leave the classroom until the class ends unless it is an emergency.
3. Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices may only be used for taking notes or other class related activities. Surfing the internet, texting, etc. are not permitted. Students who abuse this policy will not be allowed to bring such devices to class.
4. Class is not dismissed until the professor dismisses the class (even after the bell rings).
5. Students should exhibit a Christ-like attitude and demeanor at all times.

After a warning, points will be deducted from the student’s grade for violation of any of the above rules.
Meetings with the Professor: The policy of MABTS is an open door policy for the professors during the school week. Students are encouraged to schedule a time for lengthy matters with my secretary. You may schedule time to confer with me on Tuesdays through Fridays.

Practical Missions: Please pay special attention to the Practical Missions requirements as listed in the catalog. Completion both of your Practical Missions assignments and your personal witnessing activity are mandatory for course credit.
**Seminar Schedule (Fall 2014):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Seminar Meeting</strong></th>
<th><strong>Lecture/Meeting Focus and Assignments</strong></th>
<th><strong>Student Presentations And Submissions</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong> August 21</td>
<td>Seminar Introduction and Assignments; Introductory issues relating to the book of Daniel.</td>
<td>Students should read the relevant material in the textbook for each week's seminar meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong> August 28</td>
<td>Daniel introduction and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong> September 4</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 1 and commentary reviews by seminar members.</td>
<td>Daniel commentary reviews by seminar members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong> September 11</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 2 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Daniel journal article reviews by seminar members</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong> September 18</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 3 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong> September 25</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 4 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong> October 2</td>
<td>Introductory issues relating to Daniel 5 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong> October 16</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 6 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong> October 23</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 7 and reports/translation by seminar members</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10</strong> October 30</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 8 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 11</strong> October 27</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 9 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 12</strong> November 6</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 10-11 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 13</strong> November 13</td>
<td>Issues relating to Daniel 11-12 and reports/translation by seminar members.</td>
<td>Reports by seminar members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 14</strong> November 20</td>
<td>Student paper presentations</td>
<td>Seminar Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 15</strong> December 4</td>
<td>Student paper presentations</td>
<td>Seminar Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 16</strong> December 11</td>
<td><strong>Seminar Examination</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student assignments due</strong></td>
</tr>
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*The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes during the semester to the information provided in this syllabus.*

**Seminar Research Paper Topics:**

A topic for seminar papers may be selected from the following list, or the student may choose another subject approved by the professor. Many of the class research projects will also be assigned from this list.
Introduction
Authorship and Date of the Book of Daniel
Historical Accuracy of the Book of Daniel
Greek Terms in the Book of Daniel and Their Significance
Persian Terms in the Book of Daniel and Their Significance
An Examination of the Aramaic in the Book of Daniel
Explanations Concerning the Two Languages in the Book of Daniel
The Persian Period and the Book of Daniel
The Babylonian Period and the Book of Daniel
The Greek Period and the Book of Daniel
The Maccabean Period and the Book of Daniel
Apocalyptic Literature and the Book of Daniel
The References to Daniel in the Book of Ezekiel
The Life of Nebuchadnezzar
The Life of Cyrus the Great
The City of Babylon
The Gods of Ancient Babylon
Life in Ancient Babylon (diet, customs, housing, etc.)
Archaeological Discoveries in Babylon
A History of Commentaries on the Book of Daniel
Key Differences between the Amillennial and Premillennial Interpretations of Daniel (or a particular passage)
Prophecies of the Last Days in Daniel
The Antichrist in Daniel
Prophecies of Christ's First Coming in Daniel
Evidence of the Jewish Captivity in Babylonia
The Symbolism of Daniel in the Book of Revelation
The Symbolism of Daniel in the New Testament outside of the Book of Revelation
The Nature of the Kingdom Described in Daniel
Angelology and the Book of Daniel
The Messiah in Daniel
An Examination of the "Abomination of Desolation" in Daniel
The Text of Daniel
The Greek Versions of Daniel (or a particular Greek version may be examined)
The Hebrew of Daniel
The Apocryphal Additions to the Book of Daniel
Daniel Texts from Qumran
Midrash and Daniel
Theology of Daniel
Spread of Greek Culture around the Mediterranean World in Ancient Times
Daniel in the Ugaritic Literature
Porphyry
The Literary Character of Daniel
The Structure of Daniel
An Exegesis of a Specific Text
Daniel 1
Wise Men in Ancient Babylon

Daniel 2
The Significance of Dreams in Ancient Times
The Four Empires of Daniel 2 and 7

Daniel 3
Musical instruments in Nebuchadnezzar's orchestra

Daniel 4
The classes of officials named in Daniel 4
The Nature of Nebuchadnezzar's Illness (Daniel 4)

Daniel 5
Belshazzar and Nabonidus
Historical Examination of the Fall of Babylon to Cyrus

Daniel 6
The Identification of Darius the Mede
The Law of the Medes and the Persians

Daniel 7
The Identification of the Little Horn in Daniel 7
The Significance of the Term, "Son of Man," in Daniel 7
A Comparison of the Little Horn in Chapter Seven and the Little Horn in Chapter Eight

Daniel 8
Antiochus IV Epiphanes

Daniel 9
The Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks in Daniel 9

Daniel 10
The identification of the man dressed in linen (10:5)
Angelic warfare

Daniel 11
The Identification of the Willful King in Daniel 11:36
The Battle Described in Daniel 11

Daniel 12
The Time of the Distress Predicted in Daniel 12:1
The Resurrection and Daniel
The Meaning of Daniel 12:4
Select Bibliography of the Book of Daniel

Books and Commentaries


### Articles and Journals

Cook, E. M. "In the Plain of the Wall' (Dan 3:1)." JBL 108 (1989):115-16.
Patterson, R. D. "Holding on to Daniel's Court Tales." JETS 36 (December 1993): 445-54.
Tanner, J. P. "Daniel's 'King of the North': Do We Owe Russia an Apology?" JETS 35 (September 1992): 315-28.
I have read and understand this syllabus for The Book of Daniel Seminar (OT 9131):

Name/Date: ____________________________________________________________