



OT356: 1 & 2 Samuel; God's People and the Politics of Power

Dr Philip Satterthwaite | 1.5CR

Course Purpose

BGST's vision statement speaks of growing in Christ-likeness, and of Christians living out their calling 'to fulfil God's creative and redemptive purposes in the Church and the marketplace'. Politics and power have a significant bearing on what happens in the marketplace; the same applies to the church! But Christians may find themselves ill-equipped in dealing with these issues. 1 & 2 Samuel describe a major transition in Israel's power structures, from tribal confederation to monarchy. The purpose of this course is to reflect on what 1 & 2 Samuel may have to teach us regarding politics and power today.

Dates (2021)

Jan 19
Feb 2, 16
Mar 2, 16
(7:15pm – 10:00pm)

Location

Zoom Classroom

Credits

1.5CR

Fees*

S\$225(Credit)

S\$120 (Audit)

Class Format

- Self-Paced+Live (In-Person)
- Self-Paced+Live (Online)
- Self-Paced+Live (In-Person+Online)

OT 356 will be taught by blended learning, using a mixture of recorded lectures and class-based study of 1 & 2 Samuel. It may be necessary to conduct all class sessions online.

About the Lecturer

Dr Philip Satterthwaite has been Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew at BGST since 1998.

His main research areas are the OT Historical and Wisdom Books. In 2007 his book *Exploring the Old Testament 2: The Histories* (written with J.G. McConville) was published by SPCK/IVP. Philip has preached and taught in a number of churches in Singapore. He is a member of Prinsep Street Presbyterian church. He is married to Eileen.



Academic Information

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will have studied 1 & 2 Samuel in some detail. They will have produced two reflection papers: one based on a portion of 1 or 2 Samuel; the other responding either (i) to a modern text relating to politics (either a study of political theology or a political biography or autobiography) or (ii) to a recent study of 1 & 2 Samuel which highlights the issues of politics and power.

Assignments:

The grade point for OT356 will be based on the following:

1. A reflection (1500 words) on one of the following biblical texts, paying particular attention to the issues of character, politics and power: 1 Samuel 18; 1 Samuel 22; 1 Samuel 29; 2 Samuel 4; 2 Samuel 15; 2 Samuel 21. **[50% of the grade point]**
2. Either: (a) A reflection (1500 words) responding to one of the following texts:
 - Stephen Sykes, *Power and Christian Theology* (London/New York, 2006)
 - Nicholas Wolterstorff, *The Mighty and the Almighty. An Essay in Political Theology* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)
 - Lee Kuan Yew, *The Singapore Story, Vol. I or Vol. II* (Singapore: Times Editions, 1998, 2000)
 - Another political biography or autobiography chosen by the student and approved by the lecturer.

Or: (b) A review (1500 words) of J. Goldingay, *1 and 2 Samuel for Everyone*, focusing particularly on those parts of the book which address the issue of character, politics and power. **[50% of the grade point]**

Course Text:

J. Goldingay, *1 and 2 Samuel for Everyone* (London/Louisville: SPCK/WJKP, 2011)

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**
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