

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: (3 CR.) RS 207.01 Old Testament

TERM: Spring 2009

COURSE LOCATION: AH 215

COURSE TIME: TuTh 9:30-10:50 am

FACULTY NAME: Kenneth M. Diable, Ph.D.

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the Old Testament writings with attention to contemporary methods of Biblical criticism.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Policy on Academic Honesty and Integrity in the College Catalog, students caught ***cheating or plagiarizing*** will receive a zero on the test or assignment. Instructors will further determine appropriate action in response to the violation of academic integrity.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability which many require special consideration, you should notify the professor. This should be accomplished no later than the second class meeting. If you should need accommodations for successful participation in class activities, you should offer information in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs which includes suggestions for assistance in participating in and completing class assignments. It is not necessary to disclose the nature of your disability.

OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

The student will develop a basic understanding of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and will begin to comprehend some of the major issues, questions and problems faced in a post-modern study of the Hebrew Bible.

The student will develop a general understanding of the social, economic and cultural history of the people Of Israel as presented and interpreted in the narratives, the poetry and prophecy from the story of creation to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE.

The student will learn to recognize some of the elements of the religion and piety of the people of Israel recorded in the Hebrew Bible through guided readings in texts of the Hebrew Bible.

The student will begin to understand Israel's place in the world of the Ancient Near East (ANE) through historical study and modern and post-modern literary and historical-critical methodologies.

The student will begin to critique some of the social, economic, literary and cultural origins of the Hebrew Bible and its content through the use of modern exegetical and hermeneutical tools.

The student will learn to experience the value of the Hebrew Bible as a record of God and Israel relating to one another within the context of 'human life' through exposure to the narratives, poetry, wisdom and prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible.

The student will learn to appreciate how much common faith and trust is shared with Israel and her predecessors by

faith traditions today as the student begins to interpret texts from the Hebrew Bible.

GRADING SYSTEM

3.50 to 4.0+ equals **A**
3.25 to 3.49 equals **B+**
3.00 to 3.24 equals **B**
2.50 to 2.99 equals **C+**
2.00 to 2.49 equals **C**
1.01 to 1.99 equals **D**
1.00 or less equals **F**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The student will read the assigned pages or texts in the Bible on the designated day for discussion. **Please read the introductions to the various books of the Bible before reading the biblical book itself.**

THE STUDENT WILL HAVE ENTERED INTO THE DAILY DISCUSSION IN CLASS.

The student will attend class regularly—20% of the student's grade. THE GRADING SCALE IS AS FOLLOWS FOR ATTENDANCE: 0-2 ABSENCES=4.0; 3 ABSENCES=3.0; 4 ABSENCES=2.0; MORE THAN FOUR ABSENCES WITHOUT A LEGITIMATE EXCUSE=0.

Three **ONE(1)** page papers on the following topics: ***PAPER #1—Read Exodus 31:12-17; 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and answer the following questions: What is the point of each Passage? How do these passages compare and contrast with one another? [Due—Thursday 2/19/09]; PAPER #2—Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and explain what the problems are that the prophet is addressing and to whom the prophecy is addressed [Due Thursday 4/09/09]; PAPER #3—Read Psalm 6 and label each of its form critical elements [Due—Thursday 4/30/09]. EACH PAPER IS TO BE TYPED OR WORD PROCESSED—NO HAND WRITTEN PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED—SINGLE SPACED, NO LARGER THAN 12 POINT TYPE, ON 8 1/2" X 11" PAPER, 1" MARGINS ON ALL FOUR SIDES; NO EXTRA LINES BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS FORMAT) NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.*** THESE PAPERS ARE ***EACH*** WORTH ***20% OF THE STUDENT'S GRADE.***

The student will complete and hand in **on time**—**May 5, 2009** a comprehensive final exam worth **20% of the student's grade.** (See above for formatting.)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

1/13	Introduction
1/15	Introduction <i>Anchor Dictionary of the Bible: Palestine, Archaeology of (Bronze-Iron Ages)</i>
1/20	Introduction <i>Anchor Dictionary of the Bible: Israel, History of (Premonarchic Period)</i>
1/22	Introduction <i>Anchor Dictionary of the Bible: Israel, History of (Archaeology and the "Conquest")</i>
1/27	Genesis 1-11
1/29	Genesis 12-50
2/03	Exodus 1-19
2/05	Exodus 20-40
2/10	Leviticus—special emphasis on chapters 19-26
2/12	Numbers
2/17	Deuteronomy—special emphasis on chapters 12-26
2/19	prophetic understandings PAPER # 1 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

2/24	Joshua	
2/26	Judges	
3/03	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	
3/05	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	
3/10	I Samuel	
3/12	II Samuel	
3/17	I Kings—some discussion of I Chronicles	
3/19	II Kings—some discussion of II Chronicles	
3/24	Isaiah 1-39, Micah	
3/26	Isaiah 40-55	
3/31	Isaiah 56-66	
4/02	Jeremiah	
4/07	Jeremiah (continued) and Lamentations	
4/09	Ezekiel	PAPER # 2 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
4/14	Hosea , Joel and Jonah	
4/16	Amos, Obadiah, Nahum	FINAL HANDED OUT
4/21	Habakkuk , Zephaniah and Haggai	
4/23	Zechariah and Malachi	
4/28	Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes (Hebrew Name— <i>Qoheleth</i>)	
4/30	Ruth, Esther and Song of Songs	PAPER # 3 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS
5/05	Job, Daniel	FINAL DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Jewish Study Bible, New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

UXILIARY TEXTS

General Histories

Ancient Egypt: A Social History. Ed. B. G. Trigger, B. J. Kemp, D. O'Connor, A. B. Lloyd. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

Civilizations of the Ancient Near East. 4 Vols. Ed. In Chief, Jack M. Sasson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1995.

Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992.

Soden von, Wolfram. *The Ancient Orient: An Introduction to the Study of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1994 [1985 German edition].

Histories of Israel

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. Third Edition. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1981 [1959, 1972].

Gottwald, Norman K. *The Tribes of Yahweh: A Sociology of the Religion of Liberated Israel, 1250-1050 B.C.E.* Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1985 [1979].

Grant, Michael. *The History of Ancient Israel*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984.

Herrmann, Siegfried. *A History of Israel in Old Testament Times*. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981 [1973 German Edition].

Israelite and Judean History. Ed. John H. Hayes and J. Maxwell Miller. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1977.

Miller, J. Maxwell and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel And Judah*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1986.

Introductions to the Old Testament

Anderson, Bernhard W. *Understanding the Old Testament*. Third Edition. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1975 [1957].

Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Albany et al.: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1995.

Barth Christoph. *God With Us: A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. Ed. Geoffrey W. Bromily. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991.

Blenkinsopp Joseph. *The Pentateuch: An Introduction to the First Five Books of the Bible*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Flanders, Henry Jackson, Robert Wilson Crapps, David Anthony Smith. *People of the Covenant: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Fourth Edition. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996 [1963].

Gottwald, Norman K. *The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-Literary Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.

Seitz, Christopher R. *Word without End: The Old Testament as Abiding Theological Witness*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.

Theologies of the Old Testament

Eichrodt, Walther. *Theology of the Old Testament*. 2 Vols. Philadelphia: Trans. J. A. Baker. The Westminster Press, 1961, 1967.

Preuss, Horst Dietrich. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 Vols. Trans. Leo G. Perdue. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1991, 1992.

Terrien Samuel. *The Elusive Presence: Toward a New Biblical Theology*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1978.

Rad van, Gerhard. *Old Testament Theology*. 2 Vols. Trans. D. M. G. Stalker. New York: Harper & Row, 1961, 1965.

The Religion of Israel

Ancient Israelite Religion. Ed. Patrick D. Miller, Jr., Paul D. Hanson, S. Dean McBride. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Niditch, Susan. *Ancient Israelite Religion*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Specialized Materials

Cross, Frank Moore. *From Epic to Canon: History and Literature in Ancient Israel*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation. Ed. Cain Hope Felder. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.

Commentary Series

THE ANCHOR BIBLE. 52 Vols. (thus far). New York: Doubleday.

The Cambridge Bible Commentary on the New English Bible. 23 Vols. London: Cambridge University Press.

INTERPRETATION: *A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching.* 25 Vols. Atlanta: John Knox Press.

WORD BIBLICAL COMMENTARY. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Dictionaries

THE ANCHOR BIBLE DICTIONARY. 6 Vols. New York et al.: Doubleday.

The Interpreter's DICTIONARY of the BIBLE. 4 vols. + Supplement. New York and Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible. Ed. Karel van der Toorn, Bob Becking, Pieter W. van der Horst. Leiden, New York and Köln: E. J. Brill, 1995.