

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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TITLE: Introduction to the Old Testament

TERM: F **YEAR:** 2009

PROFESSOR: Elizabeth M. Davis

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO 20 students

UNLIMITED _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This online course provides an introduction to the Old Testament and its three main canonical units with a view to application to ministry. Students will be introduced to the biblical world and its influence on the understanding of the Old Testament. They will be exposed to principles of biblical exegesis and interpretation through the study of selected passages.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: LEARNING OUTCOMES

A diligent application to the course themes should enable students to:

- ✓ articulate the significance of the three/four major canonical units of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible for Jewish and Christian communities
- ✓ understand Israelite history and its influence on the development and presentation of the scriptural texts
- ✓ identify key persons, places and moments in the world of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
- ✓ demonstrate a beginning knowledge of the history of interpretation of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible with emphasis on current themes in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible study
- ✓ articulate the learning implications of sacred scriptures shared by two major faiths
- ✓ apply their exegetical skills in ministry (e.g. teaching, preaching, leading bible study)
- ✓ access English-language resources and exegetical tools including online resources
- ✓ work confidently and competently with scriptural texts.

PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites for the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. A modern English translation of the Bible such as the *New Revised Standard Version* or the *New American Bible*
2. Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Course requirements include weekly readings, participation online (twice a week), preparation of an exegetical paper (five to seven pages), and a weekly journal (to be submitted to professor in three installments).

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Aharoni, Yohanan and Michael Avi-Yonah. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. Second Edition. New York: Macmillan, 1993. [Or similar Bible atlas]
- Anderson, Bernard, Steven Bishop and Judith Newman. *Understanding the Old Testament*. Fifth Edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2006.
- Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. New York: Paulist Press, 1984.
- Brenner, Athalya, and Carole R. Fontaine, eds. *A Feminist Companion to Biblical Methodologies, Approaches and Strategies*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
- Brown, Raymond E. *The Critical Meaning of the Bible: How a Modern Meaning of the Bible Challenges Christians, the Church and the Churches*. Ramsey, N.Y.: Paulist Press, 1981.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Texts Under Negotiation: The Bible and Postmodern Imagination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Ceresko, Anthony. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: A Liberation Perspective*. New York: Orbis, 2001.
- Encyclopedia Judaica*. Jerusalem, 1972.
- Eskenazi, Tamara Cohn and Andrea Weiss, eds. *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. New York: URJ Press, 2007.
- Fishbane, Michael. *Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985.
- Freedman, David Noel, ed. *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Freedman, David Noel, ed. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.
- Haynes, Stephen R. and Stephen L. McKenzie, eds. *To Each Its Own Meaning: An Introduction to Biblical Criticisms and Their Application*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1993.
- International Bible Commentary: A Catholic and Ecumenical Commentary for the Twenty-First Century*. Edited by William Farmer et al. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998.
- Levenson, Jon. *Sinai and Zion: An Entry Into The Jewish Bible*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.
- Meyers, Carol, ed. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books And the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.
- Miller, James M. and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986.
- New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1990.
- Newsom, Carol A., and Sharon H. Ringe, eds. *The Women's Bible Commentary*. Expanded Edition with Apocrypha. London: SPCK, 1998.
- Sugirtharajah, R.S. *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. Revised Edition. Maryknoll: Orbis books, 1995.