

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:20111 (January 2011)

PROFESSOR: Shawn W. Flynn

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____

UNLIMITED _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this course is to give students an appreciation for the Old Testament as an expression of the Israelites' relationship to their God. We will begin with the Old Testament's own context which will become a foundation to allow the student to begin thinking exegetically. The focus of the course will be on reading the primary text. Each student will be given a series of tools with which to approach the text such as critical methods, ancient Near Eastern contexts, and identifying different genres in the Old Testament (narrative, law, poetry, wisdom, prophecy). Attention will be given to the Catholic framework for approaching scripture.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

After careful attention to readings and assignments the student should be able to:

- Provide examples for the role of historical contexts in understanding the authors of the Old Testament.
- Have a basic understanding of Israelite history and Israel's relationship, use of and response to the leading major cultures of its day.
- Articulate the major theological themes of various Old Testament books.
- Recall significant people, places and events in the Old Testament.
- Have a sense and some competence in exegetical method and its associated tools.
- Be able to apply the results of exegesis to faith and articulating the faith in various preaching ministries.
- Have a basic understanding of the Catholic position on biblical studies and critical exegesis as expressed in Church documents.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1) John J. Collins, *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.
- 2) A modern English translation of the Bible such as the *New Revised Standard Version* or the *New American Bible. The Catholic Study Bible*. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press, 2006. (NAB Translation)

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Quizzes:	10%
Test 1	30%
Essay:	30%
Part I	15%
Part II	15%
Test 2:	30%

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Israelite Religion/Historical Context

Dearman, J. Andrew. *Religion and Culture in Ancient Israel*. Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1992.
de Vaux, R. *Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions*, Darton, Longman and Todd, 1961.
King, Phillip J. and Lawrence E. Stager, *Life in Biblical Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel; Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
Hallo W.W., et al. (ed.), *The Context of Scripture*. 3 vols. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1997.
Pritchard, J.B. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, Princeton UP, 1969.
www.kchanson.com

Introductions

Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. New York: Paulist Press, 1984.
Childs, B.S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Fortress, 1979.
Robert Kugler and Patrick Hartin, *An Introduction to the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI; Eerdmans, 2009.

Commentaries

Anchor Bible Commentary, Berit Olam, Eerdmans Critical Commentary, New Century Bible, Old Testament Library, Word Biblical Commentary

Examples:

The Anchor Bible Commentary

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Isaiah 56-66, A New Translation and Commentary*. The Anchor Bible. Vol. 19B. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Old Testament Library

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Ezra-Nehemiah*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.

Word Biblical Commentary

Allen, Leslie. *Ezekiel 20-48*. Word Biblical Commentary. Vol 29. Texas: Word Books, 1990.

New Century Bible

Whybray, R.N. *Isaiah 40-66*. New Century Bible. London: Oliphants, 1975.

Old Testament Message Series

Scullion, John. *Isaiah 40-66*. Old Testament Message: A Biblical-Theological Commentary. Vol. 12. Michael Glazier: Delaware, 1982.

Journals

Biblica, Journal of Biblical Literature, Revue Biblique, Catholic Biblical Quarterly
Vetus Testamentum, Biblical Theology Bulletin, Journal for the Study of the Old Testament

Dictionaries

Farmer, William. *International Bible Commentary: A Catholic and Ecumenical Commentary for the Twenty-First Century*. Edited by et al. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998.
Encyclopedia Judaica. Jerusalem, 1972.
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.
New Jerome Biblical Commentary. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1990.
Soulén, Richard N. and R. Kendall Soulén. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*. 3rd ed. John

Knox Press: London, 2001.

Exegesis and Method

- Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984.
- 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.
- 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.
- Just, Felix. S.J. "Catholic Church Documents related to Biblical Studies"
<http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/index.html>
- Stuart, Douglas, *Old Testament Exegesis: a Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3rd ed. Westminster /John Knox Press, 2001.

Other

- Bright, John A *History of Israel*. 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
- Beckwith, Roger T. and Martin J. Selman. Ed. *Sacrifice in the Bible*. Grad Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1995.
- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- The Pentateuch: An Introduction to the First Five Books of The Old Testament*. (New York: Doubleday, 1992)
- Wisdom and Law in the Old Testament*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995
- Sage priest and Prophet: religious and intellectual leadership in ancient Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995
- Prophecy and Canon: a Contribution to the Study of Jewish Origins*. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1977.
- Treasures Old and New: Essays in the Theology of the Pentateuch*. Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans, 2004.
- Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *An Introductory Bibliography for the Study of Scripture* (Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1981)
- Fohrer, Georg. *History of Israelite Religion*. Translated by David E. Green. New York, Abingdon Press, 1972.
- Harrington, Daniel J. *An Invitation to the Apocrypha*. Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans, 1999.
- Kaufmann, Yehezkel. *The Religion of Israel: From Its Beginnings to the Babylonian Exile*. Trans and Abridged Moshe Greenberg. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969.
- Miller, Patrick D. *The Religion of Ancient Israel*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2000.
- Prichard, James B. Ed. *The Ancient Near East in Pictures: Relating to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Princeton UP; New Jersey, 1969.