

COS 221 HEBREW BIBLE II

Spring Heights, Spencer, WV
Fall 2019

First Weekend: September 20-22
Second Weekend: November 15-17

Instructor: The Rev. Donald W. Dotterer, PhD.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION (Goals & Objectives)

This course interprets the critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Attention is given to the earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, and to other events up to the eighth century prophets.

After completing the course, students will be able to

1. Articulate a historical overview of the experience and faith of ancient Israel.
2. Exegete selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

COURSE TEXTS:

1. *The Pentateuch: Interpreting Biblical Texts*, Terence E. Fretheim, Abingdon Press; (November 1, 1996), ISBN-10: 0687008425, ISBN-13: 978-0687008421
2. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*, Michael D. Coogan, Oxford University Press; 4th edition (2018), ISBN 9780190608652

REFERENCE TEXTS:

3. *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible* is recommended and is the one that the instructor will be using. Please choose a study Bible: the Harper Collins and New Interpreter's Study Bibles are recommended. Other translations may be used and can contribute to class discussions and understanding of biblical material.
4. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary (IOVC)*, Beverly R. Gaventa (Editor), David L. Petersen (Editor), Abingdon Press (July 1, 2010), ISBN-10: 068733411X, ISBN-13: 978-0687334117
5. *Oxford Bible Atlas*, Adrian Curtis, Oxford University Press; 4th edition (June 15, 2009), ISBN-10: 0199560463, ISBN-13: 978-0199560462.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS:

Genesis and Exodus, Everett Fox, Abingdon, (1998), ISBN 978-0-687 05765-8

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

First Weekend: September 20-22, 2019

Bible: Genesis 1-4, 6-9, 50. Exodus 32-34, Leviticus 1-2, 19, Numbers 20-21; Deuteronomy 5-6, 31 and the IOVC commentary on each passage. Read the IOVC “Overview” introduction to each of these books.

General Articles in IOVC

- How the Bible Was Created
- The Canon of the Old Testament
- The Culture of Early Judaism

The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture: chapters 1-12

The Pentateuch: Interpreting Biblical Texts

Oxford Bible Atlas: pages 37-82

Second Weekend: November 15-17, 2018.

Bible: Joshua 1-3, 6, 24; Judges 1-2, 4-5, 13-16; 1 Samuel 1-3; 2 Samuel 11-12, Psalms 118, 29, 68 and the IOVC commentary on each passage. Read the IOVC “Overview” introduction to each of these books.

General Articles in IOVC:

- Prophetic Literature
- Preaching the Bible
- Teaching the Bible

The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture: chapters 13-18, and 27.

Oxford Bible Atlas: pages 83-121.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Papers are due at the beginning of the first class. Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade.

First Weekend: September 21-23:

1. Read the Abraham stories in Genesis 12 - 24 and write a 2 page paper on the significance of the covenant with Abraham for the Christian church today.
2. Read Exodus 1- 20 and write a 2 page paper on the importance of the Exodus, the Passover and the Wilderness experience for the nation of Israel and the Christian church today.
3. Read Judges 1-3:6, 17-21, 1 Samuel 8-10 and write a 1-2 page paper on the differences between a theocracy and a monarchy.

Second Weekend: November 16-18:

1. Read 1 Samuel 3 and write a 2 page paper on the meaning of call in ancient Israel and today.
2. Exegete Exodus 34 and write a sermon on this passage. Hand in the written exegesis and sermon manuscript. The sermon can be also presented on video (DVD) or audio (CD) **in addition** to the manuscript.