

COS 221 HEBREW BIBLE II

ONLINE

Course of Study School of Ohio: West Virginia Extension

Fall 2021

September 11–November 29

Instructor: The Rev. Donald W. Dotterer, PhD.
412-334-7408

1240 Catalina Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146
dondotterer@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

After completing the course, students will be able to

- articulate a historical overview of the experience and faith of ancient Israel
- exegete selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel
- apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS

Synchronous sessions are class meetings on the Zoom online platform. Our five synchronous sessions are scheduled for four Saturdays, Eastern Time:

September 25: 9:00–11:00 AM

October 16: 9:00–11:00 AM

October 30: 9:00–11:00 AM and 1:00–3:00 PM

November 13: 9:00–11:00 AM

Note that there are two sessions on October 30.

COURSE TEXTS:

Print copies are preferable to electronic versions because they make it easier to locate selected readings in the texts.

1. Coogan, Michael D. and Cynthia R. Chapman. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*, 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-19-060865-1.
2. Curtis, Adrian. *Oxford Bible Atlas*, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-19-956046-2.
3. Gaventa, Beverly R. and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary (IOVC)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-687-33411-7.
4. Fretheim, Terence E. *The Pentateuch: Interpreting Biblical Texts*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996. ISBN 978-0-687-00842-1.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT:

Fox, Everett. *Genesis and Exodus*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998. ISBN 978-0-687-05765-8.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

First Synchronous Session, September 25: “Genesis: Creation, Murder, Flood, Dispersion”

Bible: Genesis 1–4, 6–11. Read the *IOVC* “Overview” and “Outline” for Genesis.

Articles in *IOVC*:

“How the Bible Was Created,” p. 943.

“Canon of the Old Testament,” p. 944.

“Chronologies,” p. 1000.

The Old Testament, chapters 1–5.

The Pentateuch, pp. 11–84.

Oxford Bible Atlas, pp. 37–71.

Second Synchronous Session, October 9: “Genesis: the Patriarchs”

Bible: Genesis 27, 32, 37, 50.

The Old Testament, chapter 6.

The Pentateuch, pp. 84–100.

Oxford Bible Atlas, pp. 73–76.

Third Synchronous Session, October 30, am: “Moses, Exodus, Law and Covenant”

Bible: Exodus 1–20, 32–34; Leviticus 1–2, 19; Numbers 20–21:1–9; Deuteronomy 5–6, 34.

IOVC, “Culture of Early Judaism,” p. 979.

The Old Testament, chapters 7–12.

The Pentateuch, chapters 4–7.

Fourth Synchronous Session, October 30, pm: “Conquest and Settlement”

Bible: Joshua 1–4, 6, 24; Judges 1–5, 13–16. Read the *IOVC* “Overview” and “Outline” for each of these books.

The Old Testament, chapters 13–14.

Oxford Bible Atlas, pp. 83–88.

Fifth Synchronous Session, November 13: “Kings and Prophets”

Bible: 1 Samuel 1–3; 8–10, 15–16; 2 Samuel 2, 6, 11–12; 1 Kings 1–4, 11–12, 17–19; 2 Kings 2, 4, 24–25. Read the *IOVC* “Overview” and “Outline” for each of these books and the article “Prophetic Literature,” p. 956.

The Old Testament, chapters 15–18.

Oxford Bible Atlas, pp. 88–108.

Post-course reading:

Articles in *IOVC*:

“Preaching the Bible,” p. 995.

“Teaching the Bible,” p. 998

ASYNCRONOUS ASSIGNMENTS

The Course of Study program requires ten hours of asynchronous learning.

Discussion Board. There is a discussion board for our class set up under “Groups” on Facebook. The purpose of the discussion board is to promote conversation among the students about the assigned material. The instructor will enter your name from the roster as a participant. Students are required to post two responses by midnight Sunday evening every week from September 11–November 29. A question of the week will be posed by the instructor. Each student should post a 4–5 sentence paragraph response to the question plus a 2–3 sentence response to a fellow student's post. The first response is due at midnight on Thursday; the response to another student's post is due at midnight, Sunday. The first posts are due September 16; responses to a fellow student's post, September 19.

Video: The first week's discussion board question will be based upon the video on YouTube, “Why the Old Testament Must Not Go Away.” This is the Fretheim lecture by Walter Brueggemann, given September 22, 2014 at Luther Seminary. Contact the instructor if you have trouble locating it.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- **Try to utilize the assigned books as sources for your papers.**
- **Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word and sent as email attachments to dondotterer@gmail.com. Be sure to keep a copy.**
- **The Course of Study program's expectation is that there be a total of twenty pages of writing for every class. Your writing needs to meet or exceed that expectation.**

Due September 25

Read the Abraham stories in Genesis 12–24 and write a three-page paper on the significance of the covenant with Abraham for the Christian church today.

Due October 16

Write a three-page paper on the importance of the Exodus, the Passover, and the wilderness experience for the nation of Israel and the Christian church today.

Due October 30

Read 1 Samuel 3 and write a three-page paper on the meaning of call in ancient Israel and today.

Due November 13

Select a passage from Exodus 34 and write an exegesis and sermon on that passage. Exegesis and sermon combined should be at least eleven pages.

Grades

Each of the three-page papers is worth 15%, exegesis and sermon, 40%, discussion board, 15%.

Criteria for grading:

1. How well the subject matter is understood.
2. How well the ideas in the paper are expressed. Clarity counts.
3. How well sources are used and how well the paper is documented.

Syllabus requirements are subject to change