

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO
Summer Intensive, 2010
August 9-20

COS 211 – Hebrew Bible I

Prof. Arlene Webb

helloarlenewebb@yahoo.com

614-209-0717

Purpose of the Course:

This course interprets the developing institutions and traditions of Israel and examines the varying ways in which the Hebrew people understood critical events of their history as acts of God. Attention is given to the earliest covenants, the Exodus, the rise of the monarchy, and other events up to the eight-century prophets.

Objectives of the Course:

1. Formation of a historical overview of the life and faith of ancient Israel.
2. Exegesis of selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.
3. Correlation of exegesis with its utilization in preaching and other pastoral functions.
4. Reflection upon ways in which God has been at work in the lives of people in these biblical materials.
5. Ongoing development of an exegetical methodology.
6. Application of these studies to the concerns and issues of the present day.

Required Texts (3)

Gottwald, Norman K. *The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-Literary Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985. (First paperback edition 1987)

OR

Gottwald, Norman K. *The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-Literary Introduction*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.

AND

Tiffany, Frederick and Sharon Ringe. *Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

AND

A good NRSV study Bible such as New Interpreter's, HarperCollins, or Oxford.

*** The 1985 (including 1987 paperback edition) and 2002 editions of Gottwald's book are fine and more readily available in both new and used editions. ***

Class Requirements:

Reflective Reading: 20% of grade. **This assignment is due the first day of class.** Review the daily class reading schedule. You will see that for each class session there are significant readings from the Bible. For this assignment, you are asked to read all of the biblical texts that are listed as Readings on the daily class schedule. As you read, make notes about significant issues and developments that you notice. Your notes should engage the following topics:

- What theological concepts do you see developing?
- How are issues of covenant explored? How are the people of Israel faithful or unfaithful to their covenants with God?
- What significant historical developments do you notice?
- Describe the people of Israel's developing understanding of God and their relationship with God.
- How do you see power distributed throughout the various chapters of Israel's history? (political power, economic power, cultic power, domestic power)

Please read in the order the readings appear in the schedule. Where there are duplications, read only once. Please no more than 3 paragraphs worth of notes for each class day's readings. Less is fine provided you demonstrate your thoughtful engagement with the text. You will not address all of the above topics for each day's reading. Apply the topics to the readings as they are appropriate. Typed is preferred however legible handwritten notes are acceptable. You are not expected to read the Gottwald text for this assignment, only the biblical texts. The purpose is for you to familiarize yourself theologically and historically with the text so that you are prepared to further engage the material during our class sessions. **This assignment is due on our first day of class.**

Bibliography: 10% of grade. Hand in a working bibliography for your exegesis paper. Proper formatting is required. **Due Monday, August 16.**

Article Presentation: 10% of grade. Brief presentation summarizing the article you read. Further guidelines will be discussed in class. This is due on the day the article is listed on the syllabus.

Exegesis Paper Presentation: 10% of grade. Brief presentation to share with the class the exegetical work you have done in preparation for final paper. Further guidelines to be discussed in class. These will be due the last day of class, depending on class enrollment.

Class Participation: 10% of grade. You are expected to come to class each day fully prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Final Assignment: 40% of grade.

Final assignment is due by 5 PM on Friday, August 27.

Exegesis Paper: This will be a seven-page exegetical analysis and interpretation of a selected biblical text. Further guidelines will be distributed and discussed in class. Seven pages, double-spaced, and typed.

Class Discussion, Assignment, and Reading Schedule:

A Note About the Readings: Please note that for each day there are several types of readings: a chapter from Gottwald (the primary text for the class), chapters from the Tiffany/Ringe text, biblical texts, and articles. Note: the articles with an asterisk (*) will be presented in class by students. The articles will be available in the library. **You are only required to read the (asterisk-ed) article that you signed up to present.** Focus texts are biblical texts that we will spend some time with in class.

Monday

Aug. 09

Introduction and Overview of Class

Methods of Biblical Scholarship

Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 1

Biblical Interpretation

Readings: Tiffany/Ringe, Introduction and Chapter 1

Reflective Reading Assignment Due

Choose article for article presentation. We will do this in class.

Tuesday

Aug. 10

Historical and Geographical Context

Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 2

Biblical Interpretation

Readings: Tiffany/Ringe, Chapters 2 & 3

Genesis 1-3

Mesters, Carlos, "The Use of the Bible in Christian Communities of the Common People"

Wednesday

Aug. 11

Literary History of the Hebrew Bible

Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 3

Brueggemann, Walter, "Trajectories in Old Testament Literature and the Sociology of Ancient Israel"

Biblical Interpretation

Readings: Tiffany/Ringe, Chapter 4

***Wielenga, Bastiaan, "Experiences with a Biblical Story"**

Genesis 32-33

Choose exegesis passage.

**Thursday
Aug. 12**

Traditions Re: Israel's Fathers and Mothers

**Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 3
Genesis 12-50**

Biblical Interpretation

**Readings: *Garcia-Treto, Francisco, "Crossing the Line: Three
Scenes of Divine-Human Engagement"
*De Vries, Simon J., "God's Provision for the Well
Being of Living Creatures in Genesis 9"**

**Friday
Aug. 13**

Traditions About Moses

**Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 5
Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers**

Biblical Interpretation

**Readings: Tiffany/Ringe, Chapter 6
*Pixley, George V., "In What Sense Did Yahweh Bring
Israel Out of Egypt?"
*Ringe, Sharon H. *Jesus, Liberation, and the Biblical
Jubilee*, pp. 16-32.**

**Focus Texts: Exodus 2:11-15:21, 19-20, 32-34, Leviticus 25-26,
Numbers 10:11-14, 33-36**

**Monday
Aug. 16**

Israel's Rise to Power in Canaan

**Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 6
Joshua, Judges**

Biblical Interpretation

**Readings: *Steinberg, Naomi, "The Deuteronomic Law Code and
the Politics of State Centralization"**

**Focus Texts: Joshua 5:2-11:23, Judges 1:1-2:23, 4:1-5:31, 6:1-8:35,
19:1-21:25, Deuteronomy 19-25**

Bibliographies due this day.

**Tuesday
Aug. 17**

United Kingdom

Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 7
1-2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11, Ps 2, 46, 48, 110, Proverbs 24

Biblical Interpretation

Readings: *Kim, Hyun Chul Paul and M. Fulgence Nyengele,
“Murder S/He Wrote? A Cultural and Psychological
Reading of 2 Samuel 11-12”

*Steinberg, Naomi, “Romancing the Widow: The
Economic Distinctions Between the *‘almana*, the *‘issa-*
‘almana and the *‘eset-hammet*”

Focus Texts: I Sam 6:1-10:27, II Sam 1:1-3:5, 5:1-7:29, 11-12, 20:1-26

**Wednesday
Aug. 18**

Northern Kingdom

Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 8
1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17, Amos, Hosea

Biblical Interpretation

Readings: Chaney, Marvin L., “Bitter Bounty: The Dynamics of
Political Economy Critiqued by the
Eighth-Century Prophets”

Focus Texts: I Kings 17-19, Amos 1-2, 5, Hosea 1-2, 11

**Thursday
Aug. 19**

Southern Kingdom

Readings: Gottwald, Chapter 9
2 Kings 18-25, Micah, Isaiah 1-39, Deuteronomy, Nahum,
Zephaniah, Habakuk, Jeremiah

Biblical Interpretation

Readings: *Tull, Patricia K, “Persistent Vegetative States: People
as Plants and Plants as People in Isaiah”

Focus Texts: II Kings 21-23, Deuteronomy 17-18, 26, 28-30, Isaiah 5-7,
Jeremiah 6:1-9:11, 22-23, 30-31

**Friday
Aug. 20**

Class Wrap-Up

Class Presentations

Readings: TBA

Bibliography for Supplemental Readings

These will be available on reserve in the library.

- Brueggemann, Walter, "Trajectories in Old Testament Literature and the Sociology of Ancient Israel." In *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*, eds Norman K. Gottwald and Richard A. Horsley. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993, pp. 201-226.
- Chaney, Marvin L., "Bitter Bounty: The Dynamics of Political Economy Critiqued by the Eight-Century Prophets." In *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*, eds Norman K. Gottwald and Richard, A. Horsley. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993, pp. 250-263.
- De Vries, Simon J., "God's Provision for the Well-Being of Living Creatures in Genesis 9." In *Literary Encounters with the Reign of God*, eds Sharon H. Ringe and H.C. Paul Kim. NY: T&T Clark International, 2004, pp. 87-105.
- Garcia-Treto, Francisco. "Crossing the Line: Three Scenes of Divine-Human Engagement in the Hebrew Bible." In *Teaching the Bible: The Discourses and Politics of Biblical Pedagogy*, eds Fernando Sergovia and Mary Ann Tolbert. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1998, pp. 105-116.
- Kim, Hyun Chul Paul and M. Fulgence Nyengele, "Murder S/He Wrote? A Cultural and Psychological Reading of 2 Samuel 11-12." In *Pregnant Passion: Gender, Sex, and Violence in the Bible*, ed Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003, pp. 95-116.
- Mesters, Carlos, "The Use of the Bible in Christian Communities of the Common People." In *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*, eds Norman K. Gottwald and Richard A. Horsley. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993, pp. 3-16.
- Pixley, George V., "In What Sense Did Yahweh Bring Israel Out of Egypt?" In *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*, eds Norman K. Gottwald and Richard A. Horsley. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993, pp. 86-91.
- Ringe, Sharon H. *Jesus, Liberation, and the Biblical Jubilee: Images for Ethics and Christology*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985, pp. 16-32.
- Steinberg, Naomi, "Romancing the Widow: The Economic Distinctions Between the 'almana, the 'issa- 'almana and the 'eset-hammet." In *God's Word for Our World: Volume I Biblical Studies in Honor of Simon John De Vries*, eds J Harold Ellens, et al. London: T&T Clark International, 2004, pp. 327-46.
- Tolbert, Mary Ann, "A New Teaching with Authority: A Re-evaluation of the Authority of the Bible." In *Teaching the Bible: The Discourses and Politics of Biblical Pedagogy*, eds Fernando Sergovia and Mary Ann Tolbert. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1998, pp. 168-189.

Tull, Patricia K, "Persistent Vegetative States: People as Plants and Plants as People in Isaiah." In *The Desert Will Bloom: Poetic Visions in Isaiah*, eds Everson, A. Joseph A. Everson and Hyun Chul Paul Kim. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2009, pp. 17-34.

Wielenga, Bastiaan, "Experiences with a Biblical Story." In *The Postcolonial Bible*, ed R. S. Sugirtharajah. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998, 189-198.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's district superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.



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 COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO
 COS 211
Hebrew Bible I
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Summer Intensive 2010

Required Books			Retail Price	Disc.	Clergy Price
_____	<i>The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-Literary Introduction</i>	Gottwald	45.00	0%	45.00
_____	<i>Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap</i>	Tiffany/Ringe	27.00	0%	27.00

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