

COURSE # 314 HEBREW SCRIPTURES (3 credits) Fall Day 2001/Main Campus
Instructor: D.Anderson (Humanities Department/ext.867) M-W-F/11:00-11:50AM/H202

Catalogue Description: Students will explore the Hebrew Scriptures as expressions of the Jewish community, focusing on the historical contexts and literary forms of the scriptures as they share the story of God's call to covenant and community. Students will examine a variety of approaches to the study of and prayerful reflection upon these scriptures, as well as survey the important theological and ethical themes which form the foundation of later Jewish thought and practice. They will explore the dialogue between Jews and Christians on the meaning and importance of these scriptures in the development of rabbinical Judaism and the Christian canon of scriptures.

Goal: to introduce the God of Hebrew Scripture and explicate Israel's relationship with that God over an almost two-thousand year journey of faith, and two-thousand more years hence. This course seeks to foster critical insight into and appreciation for the sacred texts of Israel in whole and in part. Engagement in this enterprise seeks to birth greater understanding of contemporary Judaism, as well as understanding of the essential pre-history of Jesus of Nazareth and Christianity.

Objectives:

- 1) to highlight Israel's God-talk, the world in which that God is present and over which that God reigns, a God about which Israel has testimony to give as both witness and advocate
- 2) to trace the people's journey of faith as evidenced in the events, personalities, parties and practices of Israel, the memory of which is carried in writings that convey the revelational and responsorial words and deeds of Israel through her long history of salvation
- 3) to contextualize the faith practice of Israel within the socio-religious realities of other Ancient Near East peoples and cultures
- 4) to validate the central themes and motifs of Israel's liberation through faith as enduring realities that speak to the universal human condition in general and Christianity in particular
- 5) to foster critical use and interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures with regard to contemporary science and scholarship, biblical theology and interpretation

Requirements:

- 1) presence & participation in all scheduled classes for this course
- 2) completion of all assignments & projects as scheduled through the course
- 3) satisfactory completion of all examinations throughout the semester

Recommendations:

- 1) notebook for recording information during class presentations
- 2) research and reading of extra materials relevant to the course
- 3) attentive and participative class presence to foster learning attitude & aptitude

Important Notes:

Course Text: Reading the Old Testament (An Introduction) by Lawrence Boadt
New York/Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1984

Grading Method: 20% class presence & participation
40% mid-course examinations
20% final exam
20% course paper

Class Schedule: subject presentations may be amended as deemed necessary

Student Assignment: 5 page/typed/double-spaced paper on selected topic
relevant to the Hebrew Scriptures [due on last class date]

Make-up Exams: administered orally only after submitting an official excuse
for failure to be present at time of written exam

Class Department: students are asked to be in class at the start time with only
appropriate course material at desktop / all cellphones are
to be on silent mode / no getting up or walking about during
classtime / no leaving class without permission

Final Exam: scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2001 from 10:30-12:30

Teacher: available during posted office hours & at other times by appointment
[Homephone: 947-8922 / Humanities Office: ext #867]

* Thank you for your cooperation on all of the above matters *

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Course Material</u>
8/27	M	1	Introduction
8/29	W	2	The Book & The History [text: 1-51]
8/31	F		No Class (Convocation)
9/3	M		No Class (Labor Day)
9/5	W	3	The Land & The People
9/7	F	4	Archeology [text: 52-88]
9/10	M	5	Structure & Composition of the Pentateuch [text: 89-108]
9/12	W	6	Genesis 1-11 (I) [text: 109-132]
9/14	F	7	Genesis 1-11 (II)
9/17	M	8	Genesis 12-50 [text: 133-154]
9/19	W	9	Exodus (I) [text: 155-172]
9/21	F	10	Exodus (II) [text: 173-194]
9/24	M	11	Joshua & Judges (I) [text: 195-225]
9/26	W	12	Film (I)
9/28	F	13	Film (II)
10/1	M	14	Monarchy & Kings (I) [text: 226-244]
10/3	W	15	Monarchy & Kings (II) [text: 245-291]
10/5	F	16	Monarchy & Kings (III) [text: 292-308]
10/8	M		No Class (Discovers' Day)
10/10	W	17	Review
10/12	F	18	Mid-Course Exam I
10/15	M	19	Prophets (I) [text: 309-382]
10/17	W	20	Prophets (II)
10/19	F	21	Prophets (III) [text: 383-430]
10/22	M	22	Psalms (I)
10/24	W	23	Psalms (II) [text: 431-470]
10/26	F	24	Wisdom Writings (I) [text: 472-516]
10/29	M	25	Wisdom Writings (II)
10/31	W	26	Post-Exilic History [text: 517-542]
11/2	F	27	Apocalyptic
11/5	M	28	Themes of Hebrew Theology (I) [text: 543-552]
11/7	W	29	Themes of Hebrew Theology (II)
11/9	F	30	Themes of Hebrew Theology (III)
11/12	M		No Class (Veterans' Day)
11/14	W	31	Judaism & Jesus of Nazareth
11/16	F	32	Judaism & Christianity
11/19	M	33	Rabbinic Judaism
11/21	W	34	Hebrew Scriptures in Liturgy & Life
11/23	F		No Class (Thanksgiving Recess)
11/26	M	35	Review
11/28	W	36	Mid-Course Exam II
11/30	F	37	Hebrew Scriptures in History & Politics
12/3	M	38	Film (I)
12/5	W	39	Film (II)
12/7	F	40	Conclusion: Overview/Summary/Evaluation