

COS 221 Syllabus
Hebrew Bible II Torah & Israel's History
January 15 – February 27, 2016
United Theological Seminary

Instructor: Vanessa Oliver Ward

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Course Description

This is an introductory course to the Old Testament. The focus will be on the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Pentateuch) through the Books of I and II Kings. Students will learn to read closely the Word of God. Students will further be introduced to some of the literary, cultural, and historical issues that come to bear on the interpretation of these texts. Prerequisite: None

Course Objectives

1. To introduce the central story lines, historical settings and theological themes of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Pentateuch) through the Former Prophets.
2. To gain greater familiarity with a number of the great passages in the designated books.
3. To learn to employ the elements of biblical exegesis to interpret biblical texts assigned.
4. Exploration of the assigned passages as relevant for preaching, mission, and ministry by today's pastor and congregation.

Course Textbooks

NRSV Study Bible

Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, Fourth Edition. Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth, 2009. (BLB in Syllabus)

Gorman, Michael J. Gorman. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Rev. Ed. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2009.

Course Requirement

In-Class Instruction

1. Assigned Readings
2. Class Participation

On-Line Instruction

1. Two postings per week on the assigned texts
2. Two substantive responses per week to another person's post

Course Schedule

In Class Instruction: January 15-16

January 15

Part 1: 2:30pm – 5:00pm

Assigned Reading for Tonight: Bandstra, pp. 1-76; Gorman, pp.9-33

1. Reading the Bible
2. Elements of Exegesis
3. Genesis 1-3; 6:5-7:24; 12:1-3; 25:21-34; 37:1-11

Topic: The “Genesis”: Written Text, Ancestral People, Land & Story

Part II: 6:00pm – 8:30pm

1. Exodus 3:1-6; 12:1-13:16; 20:22-23:33; 34
2. Leviticus 16:6-10; 23:4-8;
3. Numbers 9:1-14; 12:1-9; 28:16-25
4. Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 12:2-7; 16:1-8

Topic: Deliverance, Covenant and Law

Reflect on the following: After reading again Deuteronomy 12:2-7 and following the handout provided in class, what would an outline of this pericope look like? We will discuss this tomorrow.

January 16

Part I: 8:00am– 9:45am

Assigned Reading for tonight: Bandstra, pp.186-238; Gorman, pp. 75-114

1. Joshua 1:1-9; 8:30-35; 11:15-23
2. Judges 2; 3
3. Elements of Exegesis: Historical & Literary Analyses

Topic: Deuteronomistic History; Conquest, Conflict and Security of Land

Part II: 10:00 – 11:15am

1. I Samuel 4:1-7:1; 9:1-11:15; 20-24
2. II Samuel 7; 12

Topic: The Rise of Kingship

Part III: 11:30 – 12:30 pm

1. I Kings 1-11; 12-16
2. II Kings 14-20

Topic: Kings and Prophets

Online Instruction: January 18 - February 27

Week 1 (January 18- January 24)

Exegesis of Genesis 22:1-10

Week 2 (January 25- January 31)

Exegesis of Exodus 3:9-15 or 19:10-20
Deuteronomy 27:1-10

Week 3 (February 1-February 7)

Exegesis of Joshua 1:1-9 or 6:1-5, 21
Judges 2:6-15

Week 4 (February 8 – February 14)

Exegesis of I Samuel 10:17-27
II Samuel 22

Week 5 (February 15 – February 21)

Exegesis of I Kings 8:22-30

Final Assignment is due February 26, 2016 at midnight

SEMINARY STANDARDS:

A. Inclusive Language

United Theological Seminary has an official policy regarding the use of inclusive language. The policy may be found in the Seminary Catalog and further explained in the Student Handbook. If you have specific questions, please see the instructor.

B. Academic Integrity

Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the Seminary community. A detailed policy regarding what constitutes a violation of academic integrity can be found in the Student Handbook.

C. Online Confidentiality

One of the highlights of the online classroom is that students can draw from the experiences shared during class discussions and in written work. However, it is imperative that students do not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. In addition, students are expected to honor the privacy and confidentiality of their classmates by not disclosing online conversations with those outside of the classroom.

I. USING ONLINE RESOURCES:

For information about how to access VirtualUnited and where to find help if you need it may be found on the seminary website at <http://www.united.edu>. Help guides are also in the student computer lab and in the Student Handbook.

II. EVALUATION

A. Assignments

- (2) Two postings per week on the assigned texts
- (2) Two substantive responses per week to another person's post

All posts and responses are due by midnight Monday evening of the Assigned week.

B. Method of Determining Grade:

In Class Participation	10%
Weekly Posts	30%
Weekly Responses to Colleagues	25%
Final Exegetical Paper	35%

C. Grading Scale:

Excellent (Exceptional achievement)

- A (4.00)
- A- (3.67)
- B+ (3.33)

Good (Extensive achievement)

- B (3.00)
- B- (2.67)
- C+ (2.33)

Satisfactory (Acceptable achievement)

C (2.00)

Failure (Inadequate achievement)

F (0.00)

III. STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

It is very important for students to submit a course evaluation toward the end of the semester. Instructors do not see the student evaluations at all until after the instructors have submitted the students' final official grades. Students should feel free to evaluate the course without any negative ramifications.