

United Theological Seminary
 Bible II: Torah and Israel's History (COS 221)
 January 6-February 18, 2017
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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 (Torah) and the Former Prophets, through the Books of I and II Kings. This course will highlight the developing institutions and traditions of Israel and examine the varying ways in which the Hebrew people understood critical events of their history as acts of God. Attention is given to the traditions of origin in Genesis, the Exodus and giving of the law in the wilderness, and rise of the monarchy. Students will also be introduced to literary-critical methodology that bears on the interpretation of biblical texts. Prerequisite: None

Course Objectives

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 exegetical methodology.
6. Application of these studies to the concerns and issues of the present day.

Course Format

The course is a hybrid. This means that we will work in a combination of formats, both online and in the classroom. The classroom setting will take place in the first week, January 6-7. The following five weeks will be online instruction with forum discussions. The subject matter of the online forum discussions will be provided at the conclusion of the in-class instruction.

Required Texts

Michael Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Historical & Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. Third Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Terrence Fretheim, *The Pentateuch*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

NRSV Study Version of the Bible (Oxford; HarperCollins; Abingdon).

Recommended Reference Texts

Adrain Curtis. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. Fifth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Bruce Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence Fretheim, David Petersen. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, 2nd Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

Schedule of Class Meetings

Week One (January 6-7): In Class (Friday and Saturday); Syllabus for online instruction will be provided.

Friday, January 6, 2017

- 2:30-3:45 Introduction to the Course and the Book of Genesis
- A. 2:30-3:34 Genesis 1-11 The Stories of Creation
 Reading: Coogan, chap 1
 Coogan, chap. 3
 Fretheim, chap. 1, 2, 3, pp. 67-84
 Bible: Genesis 1-11
- 4:00-5:00 Genesis 12-50 The Stories of the Ancestors
 Reading: Coogan, chap. 6
 Fretheim, chap 3, pp. 84-100
 Bible: Genesis 12-50
- 5:00-6:00 Dinner
- 6:00-7:15 The Call of Moses and the Exodus (Exodus 1-15)
- Reading: Coogan, chap. 7
 Fretheim, chap 4.
 Bible: Exodus 1-15
- 7:30-8:30 The Revelation at Sinai (Exodus 19-40, Leviticus 1-16)
- Reading: Coogan, chaps. 8, 9, 10
 Fretheim, 5
 Bible: Exodus 19-40; Leviticus 1-16

Saturday, January 7, 2017

- 8:30-9:45 The Wilderness Journey into the Promised Land and the Revelation at Horeb in Deuteronomy
- Reading: Coogan, chaps. 11, 12
 Fretheim, chaps. 6, 7
 Bible: Numbers 11-21; Deuteronomy 1-5
- 10:00-11:00 The Entry into the Land in Joshua and Judges
- Reading: Coogan, chaps. 13, 14
 Bible: Joshua 1-12; Judges 1-9
- 11:00-1:00 Worship and Lunch
- 1:00-2:30 The Rise of the Monarchy
- Reading: Coogan, chaps 15, 16, 17
 Bible: 2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Kings 1-11

Weeks Two-Six (January 8-February 18): Online Forum on Specific Topics (from the class topics discussed on January 6-7).

Course Evaluation

In Class Attendance and Participation:	10%
Pre-Work Assignment (Due on First Day of Class)	20%
Five Forum Discussions: (14% per forum)	70%

Guidelines for Forum Participation

1. One post on the topic of reflection
2. Two critical and informative responses to classmates

Instruction for Pre-Work Assignment

Assignment: Comparison of Accounts of Revelation

The goal of this assignment is to compare two accounts of the revelation at the divine mountain in the Pentateuch. The two accounts are the Priestly version (P) and the account in Deuteronomy (D). In the Priestly version, Yahweh speaks to Israel from Mount Sinai; this version is concentrated in Exodus 19-40 and the book of Leviticus. In Deuteronomy (D) Yahweh speaks to Israel from Mount Horeb. The two accounts are grounded in the same events of salvation from Egypt and the revelation of God at the divine mountain; but they interpret these events differently. Compare and contrast the two accounts using the handout provided below. The handout contains central texts from the Priestly account of revelation at Mount Sinai (in Exodus) and the Deuteronomiac account (in Deuteronomy). Carefully compare the four sections: Revelation, Divine Cultic Presence, Sanctuary, and Sacramental Object. Write a 3-4 page paper, double-spaced concentrating on the following questions:

1. How is the same experience of revelation described differently in P and D? What happens at Mount Sinai? What does Israel see? Do they hear anything? What happens at Mount Horeb? What does Israel see--do they actually see anything? Do they hear anything? Be precise in your study. What words are used in each account? Is the experience of the Divine described differently? If so, how?
2. Does Moses function differently in the two accounts?
3. How is the experience of revelation translated differently in a sanctuary on earth? How is God present in the sanctuary in P and D. Compare and contrast the different views of the sanctuary. Would they look different? What is their architecture and how would we experience worship in each building?
4. What sacramental objects would we find in the different sanctuaries?

Comparison of Priestly Literature (Exodus, Leviticus) and Deuteronomy

Revelation on Mount Sinai (Exod 24:15-18)	Revelation on Mount Horeb (Deut 4:9-14)
15¶ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16The Kabod YHWH settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the Kabod YHWH was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.	9¶ But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—10how you once stood before YHWH your God at Horeb, when YHWH said to me, "Assemble the people for me, and I will let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me as long as they live on the earth, and may teach their children so"; 11you approached and stood at the foot of the mountain while the mountain was blazing up to the very heavens, shrouded in dark clouds. 12Then YHWH spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. 13He declared to you his covenant, which he charged you to observe, that is, the ten commandments; and he wrote them on two stone tablets.

	14And YHWH charged me at that time to teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy.
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Divine Cultic Presence: The Kabod YHWH in the Sanctuary (Exod 40:34-34; Lev 9:22-24)	Divine Cultic Presence: YHWH places the Name in the Sanctuary (Deut 12:1-6; cf. also 5, 11, 21)
Exod 40:34-35: 34¶ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the Kabod YHWH filled the tabernacle. 35Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the Kabod YHWH filled the tabernacle. Lev 9:22-24: 22¶ Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them; and he came down after sacrificing the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the offering of well-being. 23Moses and Aaron entered the tent of meeting, and then came out and blessed the people; and the Kabod YHWH appeared to all the people. 24Fire came out from YHWH and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar; and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.	Deut 12:2-6: 2 ¶ You must demolish completely all the places where the nations whom you are about to dispossess served their gods, on the mountain heights, on the hills, and under every leafy tree. 3Break down their altars, smash their pillars, burn their sacred poles with fire, and hew down the idols of their gods, and thus blot out their name from their places. 4You shall not worship YHWH your God in such ways. 5But you shall seek the place that YHWH your God will choose out of all your tribes as his habitation to put his Name there. You shall go there, 6bringing there your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and your donations, your votive gifts, your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and flocks.

Tabernacle Sanctuary (Exod 25:1-9)	Tent of Meeting Sanctuary (Deut 31:14-15; cf also Exod 33:7-11)
1¶ YHWH said to Moses: 2Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me. 3This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, 4blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair, ⁵ tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood, 6oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, 7onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece. 8And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. 9In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.	14¶YHWH said to Moses, "Your time to die is near; call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, so that I may commission him." So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting, 15and YHWH appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud; the pillar of cloud stood at the entrance to the tent.

Sacramental Object: Ark (Exod 25:10-22; 37:1-9; Num 7:89)	Sacramental Object: Ark (Deut 10:1-5)
Exod 25:10-22: 10¶ They shall make an ark of acacia wood; it shall be two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. 11You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside you shall overlay it, and you shall make a molding of gold upon it all around. 12You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side. 13You shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 14And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, by which to carry the ark. 15The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. 16You shall put into the ark the covenant that I shall give you. 17¶ Then you shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its width. 18You shall make two cherubim of gold; you shall make them of hammered work, at the two ends of the mercy seat. 19Make one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other; of one piece with the mercy seat you shall make the cherubim at its two ends. 20The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings. They shall face one to another; the faces of the cherubim shall be turned toward the mercy seat. 21You shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark; and in the ark you shall put the covenant that I shall give you. 22There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the covenant, I will deliver to you all my commands for the Israelites.	1¶ At that time YHWH said to me, "Carve out two tablets of stone like the former ones, and come up to me on the mountain, and make an ark of wood. 2I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you smashed, and you shall put them in the ark." 3So I made an ark of acacia wood, cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand. 4Then he wrote on the tablets the same words as before, the ten commandments that YHWH had spoken to you on the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly; and YHWH gave them to me. 5So I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark that I had made; and there they are, as YHWH commanded me.