

THEO 011 20 “Introduction to Biblical Literature”
Rev. Joseph F. Wimmer, O.S.A., S.S.L., S.T.D.

SUMMER 2018 SYLLABUS

July 9 – Aug 10, 2018

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Classes will meet Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Office Hours at Theology Department, New North: Room 120, by request

Course Goals: This course will serve as a brief introduction to the books of the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament in terms of current methods of study: historical-critical, archaeological, literary, religious and cultural. The nature of religious language will be discussed, along with such important theological themes as liberation, promise, law, creation, election and redemption, with a view towards understanding the Bible’s relevance for today’s world.

Textbooks:

Bible, any translation, but not a paraphrase; small enough to bring daily to class. Electronic Bibles may be used in class but not during the exams.

Boadt, Lawrence E. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. Revised and updated by Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2nd revised edition, 2012. ISBN 978-0-8091-4780-9 (alk. paper)

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-19-973570-9

Readings on Blackboard Documents

Course Assignments:

1. Two 2-page reviews of articles or book chapters from the course bibliography, either required or recommended, one from the Hebrew Scriptures and one from the New Testament. **The first review paper is due by Thursday, July 19, 2018, and the second by Thursday, August 2, 2018.** Each review is to be typed, double spaced, with a summary of the article or main point, concluding with a personal evaluation. On the top of the first page type your name, the name of the course, and the title of the article with its author. The review articles should be typed with footnotes and a bibliographical reference according to Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers* (6th edition 1997 or later) or bibliography and references in parentheses according to the MLA format. [Note: Instructions concerning both formats are posted on blackboard].
2. **Mid-term: A 2-hour written mid-term exam on Thursday, July 26, 2018;** a detailed study guide for the written exam will be provided at least one week before the exam itself.
3. **Final exam: A 2-hour written final exam on Thursday, August 9, 2018;** a detailed study guide for the written exam will be provided at least one week before the exam itself.
4. *Participation on blackboard’s Discussion Board:* Periodically a new topic will be posted for online class discussion. Please participate as regularly as possible.

Class attendance: Attendance policy is set by the University. Students will be expected to attend every class session, and to arrive on time. Four or more unexcused absences will automatically lower the final grade.

Grading: Class attendance and Discussion Board participation (10%); two reviews of articles or book chapters (20%); mid-term exam (35%); final exam (35%).

Plagiarism or cheating: Students are expected to give appropriate credit to others when using their writings and to do their own work. Penalties for plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the paper or exam.

LIST OF TOPICS

Class 1 (Monday, July 9) – General Introduction; contemporary science and the Bible; brief history of biblical archaeology; chronology of the biblical period of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Boadt, Lawrence, ch.1, “Introducing the Old Testament”; ch. 2, part A: “The Importance of ‘History’ and ‘Geography’”; ch.3, “Archaeology and the Old Testament,” *Reading the Old Testament*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2012, pp.1-14; 15-22; 35-50 [37 pages]

Class 2 (Tuesday, July 10) – The Ancient Near East and Israel. Formation of the Pentateuch: the Documentary Hypothesis (JEDP); newer theory of Erhard Blum.

Boadt, ch.4, “Literary Tools for Old Testament Study,” and ch.5, “The Pentateuch”; see also “The Theology of the Priestly Writers,” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.51-68; 69-85, and “Theology of the Priestly Writers,” pp.351-53 [37 pages]

Class 3 (Wednesday, July 11) – Genesis 1-11 as a theology of origins

Boadt, ch.6, “Genesis 1-11, The Preface to Israel’s Story,” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.86-107. [21 pages]

Class 4 (Thursday, July 12) – Gen 12-50, The Patriarchs; Exodus and the Formation of Ancient Israel

Boadt, ch.7, “Genesis 12-50, The Patriarchs”; ch.8, “The Exodus from Egypt,” *Reading the Old Testament* (2012), pp.108-143. [35 pages]

Dever, William G. “Chapter 10. Yet Another Attempt at Synthesis: Early Israel as a Frontier Agrarian Reform Movement,” *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003, pp.167-89. [22 pages]

Youtube Video: *NOVA: The Bible’s Buried Secrets: Part 1 (54:00 minutes)*

Class 5 (Monday, July 16) – The Sinai Covenant; ancient Israelite legislation; Exodus 19-24; 32-34; Leviticus 11-25; Numbers; Deuteronomy

Boadt, ch.9, “The Covenant and Journey to Canaan: Exodus 19 through Numbers,” parts of ch. 17, “... The Book of Deuteronomy,” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.144-163; **303-312, on the Book of Deuteronomy** [28 pages]

Class 6 (Tuesday, July 17) – The Israelite Possession of Canaan: The Books of Joshua and Judges, Samuel and Kings; The Deuteronomic History

Boadt, ch.10, “The Israelite Possession of Canaan: The Books of Joshua and Judges,”; ch.12, “A King Like Those of Other Nations”: The Books of Samuel and Kings”; also “The Deuteronomic History,” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.164-180; 194-210, and “The Deuteronomic History,” pp.328-333. [38 pages]

Class 7 (Wednesday, July 18) – Israelite Worship and Prayer; The Kingdom Split into Two

Boadt, ch.14, “Israelite Worship and Prayer”; ch.15, “The Kingdom Split into Two,” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.230-53; 254-69. [39 pages]

Class 8 (Thursday, July 19) – Book of Amos; Hosea; Isaiah 1-39; Jeremiah

Boadt, ch.16, “The Great Prophets of the Eighth Century”; ch.18, “Jeremiah and the Deuteronomic History,” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.270-95; 315-34. [44 pages]

Class 9 (Monday, July 23) – Prophecy during the Babylonian Exile: Ezekiel; Isaiah 40-55

Boadt, ch.19, “Prophecy during the Exile,” ch.20, “Sing Us a Song of Zion!” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.335-78. [43 pages]

Class 10 (Tuesday, July 24) – Proverbs; Job; Ecclesiastes (or Qoheleth); Sirach; The Book of Wisdom; Daniel and Apocalyptic

Boadt, ch.23, “The Cultivation of Wisdom”; from ch.24, “Faith Confronting New Challenges,” read Daniel (pp.440-48), *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.413-27; 440-48 [22 pages]

Class 11 (Wednesday, July 25) – The New Testament

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.1 “Approaching the New Testament”; ch.2 “The New Testament and history”; ch.3, “The resurrection experience,” *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/NY: Oxford University Press, 2010, pp.1-7; 8-15; 16-20 [20 pages]

CLASS 12 (THURSDAY, JULY 26) – MID-TERM WRITTEN EXAM.

Class 13 (Monday, July 30) – Interpretation; Literary forms; Gospel according to Mark

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.4 “The Process of Interpretation”; ch.5 “Literary forms”; ch.6 “The Synoptic Gospels,” on Mark. *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.21-27; 28-35; 36-42 [21 pages]

Lohfink, Gerhard ch.9, “Jesus’ Miracles,” *Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2012, pp.128-52 plus endnotes, 364-66. [26 pages]

Class 14 (Tuesday, July 31) – Matthew and Luke-Acts

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.6 “The Synoptic Gospels,” on Matthew and Luke-Acts. *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.42-59 [17 pages]

Spivey, Robert A., D. Moody Smith, and C. Clifton Black, “The Authority of Jesus: A Summary,” *Anatomy of the New Testament*. Fortress Press, 7th ed., 2013, pp.218-19.

Craig, William Lane, “Accounting for the Empty Tomb,” *America Magazine* April 1, 2013 [6 pages].

Class 15 (Wednesday, August 1) - Paul and his world; First Corinthians; Philippians

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.7 “Paul and his letters,” on Paul’s biography and First Corinthians, *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.60-73 [14 pages]

Matera, Frank J., “The Worshiping Community,” [on 1 Corinthians 10-11] *New Testament Theology: Exploring Diversity and Unity*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007, pp.129-34 [5 pages]

Matera, Frank J., “The Pattern of Christ’s Life,” [on Philippians 2:6-11], *New Testament Theology: Exploring Diversity and Unity* (2007), pp.206-211 [5 pages]

Class 16 (Thursday, August 2) – Paul’s Letter to the Romans

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.7 “Paul and his letters,” [on Romans] *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.73-83 [11 pages]

Class 17 (Monday, August 6) – The Letters and Gospel of John

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.9 “Johannine literature,” [on the Gospel of John] *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.95- [11 pages]

Bauckham, Richard, ch.6 “A question of identity”; ch.7 “Death and a new beginning,” *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/New York: oxford University Press, 2011, pp.84-94; 95-109 [25 pages]

Class 18 (Tuesday, August 7) – The Real Jesus

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.6 “The Real Jesus and the Gospels,” *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the historical Jesus and the truth of the traditional Gospels*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1996, pp.141-66. [27 pages]

Class 19 (Wednesday, August 8) – The Book of Revelation; Becoming the New Testament

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.9 “Johannine literature,” [on the Book of Revelation]; ch.10 “Becoming the New Testament”; ch.11 “The pertinence of the New Testament,” *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.108-113; 114-21; 122-25 [17 pages]

CLASS 20 (THURSDAY, AUGUST 9) FINAL EXAM
