THEO 011 20 “Introduction to Biblical Literature”

SUMMER 2018 SYLLABUS
July 9 – Aug 10, 2018

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Home telephone (301) 937-4479

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.

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.**


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


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


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


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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLASS 20 (THURSDAY, AUGUST 9) FINAL EXAM

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