

THEO 011-10 “Introduction to Biblical Literature”
Rev. Joseph F. Wimmer, O.S.A., S.S.L., S.T.D.

SUMMER 2019 SYLLABUS
June 3 – July 5, 2019

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

Office Hours: 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.

Required Textbooks:

- (1) *Bible*, any translation, but not a paraphrase; **the Bible must be in book form. Use of computers or cell phones will not be allowed in the classroom.** Contemporary translations are preferred, especially the *New American Bible (NAB)*, the *Revised Standard Version (RSV)*, or the *New Revised Version (NRSV)*. Other versions may also be used, but note that students who do not regularly read the King James Version usually have trouble in class reading the text out loud.
- (2) 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)
- (3) Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-19-973570-9.
- (4) Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN 978-0-19-957527-5.
- (5) Required Readings which will be posted on Blackboard Documents

Course Assignments:

1. Two 2-page reviews of articles or book chapters from the course bibliography, either required or recommended, the first concerning the Hebrew Scriptures and the second paper concerning the New Testament. **The first review paper is due by Monday, June 17, 2019, and the second by Monday, July 1, 2019.** 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 written mid-term exam on Thursday, June 20, 2019;** a detailed study guide for the written exam will be provided at least one week before the exam itself.
3. **Final exam: A written final exam on Wednesday, July 3, 2019;** 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, June 3) – 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, June 4) – 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, June 5) – 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, June 6) – 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]

McDermott, John J., ch 7 “The First Israelites Were Canaanites”; ch 8 “Conclusions,” *Who Are They Saying About the Formation of Israel?* Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1998, pp.72-92 and notes, pp.101-103.

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

Class 5 (Monday, June 10) – 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, June 11) – 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; 328-333. [38 pages]

Class 7 (Wednesday, June 12) – Religious Life in Canaan; Israelite Worship and Prayer

Boadt, ch 11 “Canaan Religious Life and Culture”; ch.14, “Israelite Worship and Prayer,” *Reading the OT* (2012), pp.181-93; 230-53 [35 pages]

Class 8 (Thursday, June 13) – 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, June 17) – 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, June 18) – Proverbs; Job; Ecclesiastes (or Qoheleth); 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, June 19) – New Testament Interpretation; Literary Forms

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.1 “Approaching the New Testament”; ch.2 “The New Testament and history”; ch.3, “The resurrection experience”; ch.4 “The Process of Interpretation”; ch.5 “Literary forms,” *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/NY: Oxford University Press, 2010, pp.1-35 [34 pages]

Bauckham, Richard, ch.2 “The Sources,” *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp.6-17 [11 pages]

CLASS 12 (THURSDAY, JUNE 20) – MID-TERM WRITTEN EXAM.

Class 13 (Monday, June 24) – Jesus in the First Century; Gospel according to Mark

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.6 “The Synoptic Gospels,” on Mark. *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.36-42 [6 pages]

Bauckham, Richard, ch.3 “Jesus in his 1st-century context”; ch.4 “Enacting the kingdom of God,” *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp.18-34; 35-56 [37 pages]

K = did Jesus exist

Class 14 (Tuesday, June 25) – 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]

Bauckham, Richard, ch.5 “Teaching the Kingdom of God”; ch.6 “A question of identity,” *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp.57-83; 84-94 [36 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 [2 pages]

Class 15 (Wednesday, June 26) – The Gospel of John; The Letters of John; The Book of Revelation

Johnson, Luke Timothy, ch.9 “Johannine literature,” [on the Gospel of John] *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), pp.95- 113 [18 pages]

Bauckham, Richard, ch.7 “Death and a new beginning,” *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp.95-109 [14 pages]

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

Class 16 (Thursday, June 27) - 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]

Bauckham, Richard, ch.8 “Jesus in Christian Faith,” *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp.110-14 [5 pages]

Matera, Frank J., “The Worshiping Community,” [on 1 Corinthians 10-11]; “The Pattern of Christ’s Life” [on Philippians 2:6-11] *New Testament Theology: Exploring Diversity and Unity*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007, pp.129-34; 206-211[10 pages]

Class 17 (Monday, July 1) – 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 18 (Tuesday, July 2) – Colossians; Course Evaluation

Matera, Frank J., part of ch.7, “Colossians,” *New Testament Theology: Exploring Diversity and Unity* (2007), pp.216-28 [12 pages]

CLASS 19 (WEDNESDAY JULY 3) FINAL EXAM
