THEO 011-10 “Introduction to Biblical Literature”  
SUMMER 2019 SYLLABUS  
June 3 – July 5, 2019

Professor’s e-mail:  
jw1353@georgetown.edu  
wimmer@starpower.net  
Home telephone (301) 937-4479  
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.
(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.

Class 2 (Tuesday, June 4) – The Ancient Near East and Israel. Formation of the Pentateuch: the Documentary Hypothesis (JEDP); newer theory of Erhard Blum.

Class 3 (Wednesday, June 5) – Genesis 1-11 as a theology of origins

Class 4 (Thursday, June 6) – 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, June 10) – The Sinai Covenant; ancient Israelite legislation; Exodus 19-24; 32-34; Leviticus 11-25; Numbers; Deuteronomy
Class 6 (Tuesday, June 11) – The Books of Joshua and Judges, Samuel and Kings; The Deuteronomic History

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

Class 8 (Thursday, June 13) – Book of Amos; Hosea; Isaiah 1-39; Jeremiah

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

Class 11 (Wednesday, June 19) – New Testament Interpretation; Literary Forms

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

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

K = did Jesus exist

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

Class 17 (Monday, July 1) – Paul’s Letter to the Romans

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

CLASS 19 (WEDNESDAY JULY 3) FINAL EXAM

**********************