

SAMPLE SYLLABUS: CURRENT USERS
Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Second Edition
John J. Collins

INSTRUCTOR	Pamela Hedrick
INSTITUTION	St. Joseph's College of Maine
COURSE TITLE	TH 555: Introduction to the Old Testament
SEMESTER	Fall 2014

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. *Describe* the history (major time periods), literature (genres) and theologies of the Old Testament, as well as modern methods for studying them.
2. *Explain* the meanings of these ancient Israelite sacred texts by learning to discriminate among the literary, social, and religious dimensions of the texts.
3. *Demonstrate* the method of “close reading” of particular passages in the Old Testament, with special attention to genre, using relevant secondary resources.
4. *Explain* the ways that the canon of the Old Testament is joined with the New Testament as “The Bible” and some ways in which the Old Testament has been and might be used as Scripture within the Catholic community.
5. *Display* critical thinking and communication skills through formal writing assignments and discussion opportunities.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Course pack
2. Brown, R. E., Fitzmyer, J. A., Murphy, R. E., editors. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. (3rd. ed.). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999. ISBN #0138598363.
3. Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004. ISBN #080062991-4.
4. Coogan, Michael, ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible. New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha Fourth Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. ISBN 9780195289558.
5. *Dei Verbum*, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Documents of Vatican II. <http://www.ewtn.com/library/COUNCILS/V2REVEL.HTM>
6. Pontifical Biblical Commission. *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*. 1994. <http://www.ewtn.com/library/CURIA/PBCINTER.HTM>
7. Pontifical Biblical Commission. *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*. 2001.
8. http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb_documents/rc_con_cfaith_d oc_20020212_popolo-ebraico_en.html

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Modern Study of the Bible and Genesis

Lesson 1: *Modern Methods of Old Testament Study: Who Cares?*

Lesson 2: *Chaos, Order, and the Primeval History*

Lesson 3: *The Patriarchs*

Unit 2: The Pentateuch, Continued

Lesson 4: *Movers and Shakers? The Matriarchs*

Lesson 5: *Exodus: History and Identity*

Lesson 6: *Life as Sacred in the Priestly Visions*

Unit 3: Life in the Promised Land: The Deuteronomic History

Lesson 7: *Entry and Establishment (Finally)*

Lesson 8: *Monarchy, Ups and Downs*

Lesson 9: *Destruction*

Unit 4: The Prophets

Lesson 10: *Early Prophecy through the Eighth Century*

Lesson 11: *Prophets of Destruction, Prophets of Hope*

Lesson 12: *Restoration*

Unit 5: The Writings

Lesson 13: *Poetry in Worship: Psalms and Songs*

Lesson 14: *Who Speaks for Israel? Wisdom and Apocalypse*

Lesson 15: *Exploring Identity: The Israelite Short Story*

Unit 6: The Living Tradition

Lesson 16: *Jesus the Jew: Linking the Testaments*

Lesson 17: *The Old Testament in the Christian Mystical Tradition*

Lesson 18: *Receiving the Old Testament as Church*