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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>Pamela Hedrick</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>INSTITUTION</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s College of Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>COURSE TITLE</td>
<td>TH 555: Introduction to the Old Testament</td>
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<td>SEMESTER</td>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
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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


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