

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

INSTRUCTOR	Brandon Grafius 
INSTITUTION	Central Baptist Theological Seminary
COURSE TITLE	HB 501: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible I
SEMESTER	Fall 2014

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HB501 is a course designed to serve as an orientation to a critical study of the Hebrew Bible (HB). This orientation revolves around two cluster issues: (1) the content of the HB and (2) the interpretation of the HB. The study of content includes such matters as canon formation, textual history and transmission, socio-literary composition, and rhetorical structure of the HB. Whereas the matter of interpretation focuses on the interpretive history, analysis of methodological approaches employed by past and present interpreters, and an exploration of problems (i.e. race, class, sex, gender, age, sexual orientation, etc) and hermeneutical methods involved in contemporary readings of the Hebrew Bible (HB). These foci are intended to provide an introduction to the HB for the purposes of religious education and Christian theology in particular.

GOAL: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the foundational knowledge of the Hebrew Bible necessary for a variety of ministry settings. This includes knowledge of the contents of the biblical books, the ability to relate this literature to Israelite history, a broad understanding of the history of biblical interpretation, and skill in using a variety of critical tools and methodologies to exegete texts.

OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will work to meet the following objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the contents of the Hebrew Bible and how these contents relate to Israelite history.
2. Develop the ability to think critically about biblical texts using a variety of methodologies and use exegetical tools to analyze individual passages.
3. Articulate an informed perspective on the authority of the Hebrew Bible and its relationship to modern Christian life.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Collins, John. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, 2nd ed. Fortress Press, \$65.00, 978-1451469233.
2. *Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*, NRSV Version. 4th edition. Oxford University Press, \$35.00. 978-0195289602.
3. Soulen and Soulen. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*, 4th edition. Westminster John Knox Press, \$30.00. 978-0664235345.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Subject	Primary Texts	Secondary Literature	Handbook Topics	Assignment Due
8/28	Introduction to the Course; Intro to Biblical Studies				None
9/4 – Online	The Documentary Hypothesis; Genesis	Genesis	Collins 49-108	Canon; Source Criticism; Graf-Welhausen Hypothesis; Historical Critical Method; Historical Criticism; Myth	Online writings and responses
9/11	Exodus and Priestly Writings	Exodus and Leviticus	109-162	J; E; P; Exegesis; Tetragrammaton; Holiness Code; Law	None
9/18 – online	Priestly Writings and Deuteronomy	Numbers and Deuteronomy	163-188	Biblical Criticism; D; Decalogue; Shema	Online writings and responses
9/25	Joshua-Judges	Joshua-Judges	189-226	Deuteronomist; Noth, Martin; Historiography	None
10/2 – online	1 and 2 Samuel	1 and 2 Samuel	227-258	Textual Criticism; Dead Sea Scrolls	Online writings and responses
10/9	1 and 2 Kings	1 and 2 Kings	259-303	Hermeneutics	Mid-term Exam

10/16 – online	8 th and 7 th Century Prophets	Amos, Hosea, Isaiah 1-39, Micah, Nahum and Zephaniah	305-348	Prophets	Online writings and responses
10/23	Babylonian Era	Habbakuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations	349-394		None
10/30 – online	Exilic Period and Post-exilic Prophecy	Ezekiel, Obadiah, Isaiah 40-66, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel, Jonah	395-443	Deutero-Isaiah	Online writings and responses
11/6	Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles; Psalms and Song of Songs	Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles, Psalms, Song of Songs	447-506	Second Temple Period	None
11/13 – online	Intro to Wisdom Literature; Proverbs and Job	Proverbs, Job	507-537	Wisdom Literature	None
11/20	Hellenistic Literature and short stories	Ecclesiastes, Daniel, Esther, Ruth	537-592	Narrative	Book Review and presentation
Thanks- giving		None	None		None
12/4	Deuterocanonical Books and the Canon	None	593-616		Final Paper