

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2021 Spring – ONLINE

April 16-17 & May 14-15, 2021

COS 221 – Bible II: Torah & Israel's History

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Course Description

Welcome to the Bible II class!

This course interprets the critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Attention is given to the earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, and to other events up to the eighth century prophets.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a historical overview of the experience and faith of ancient Israel.
2. Exegete selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

This is a fully ONLINE course. We will work in a combination of two online formats – both “synchronous” (via Zoom) and “asynchronous” (through Populi discussion). For “synchronous” classes, we will meet for about 2 hours each day on April 16-17 and May 14-15 (a total of 10 hours via Zoom). For “asynchronous” online discussions, everyone is expected to make online comments and responses in order to learn collectively.

Textbooks

Texts:

- Terence E. Fretheim, *The Pentateuch* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996)
- Mark A. Leuchter and David T. Lamb, *The Historical Writings: Introducing Israel's Historical Literature* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016)
- R. W. L. Moberly, *God of the Old Testament: Encountering the Divine in Christian Scripture* (Ada, MI: Baker Academic, 2020)

Reference:

- Adrian Curtis, ed., *Oxford Bible Atlas* (4th ed.; Oxford: Oxford Univ Press, 2007)
- Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* (2nd ed.; Nashville: Abingdon, 2005)

Supplemental:

- John Barton, *A History of the Bible: The Story of the World's Most Influential Book* (London: Viking, 2019)

Requirements

ONLINE COMMENTS: *Individually*, each student is required to post your “online comments” on Populi **in alternating order** (Track A and Track B). Its main goal is to motivate you to gain broad background information from the key textbooks.

In most cases, the basic guideline is as follows – you are to address:

- (a) five key issues/arguments in the assigned textbook section (1 page);
- (b) one key insight that is new/inspiring to you,
- (c) one key question (constructive criticism) for all of us to discuss (b + c = ½ page).

The amount of each online comment should be no more than **1 + ½ pages, single-spaced**, Times New Roman 12-size font.

Track A = e.g., Groups 1, 2, 3 \ (we will divide each group evenly out of total members)

Track B = e.g., Groups 4, 5, 6 /

Everyone in “Track A” should upload your “online comment” on the designated date.

Everyone in “Track B” should upload the following designated date; and so on.

Each online comment is *due by 11:59 pm of the specified date*.

ONLINE RESPONSES: *Individually*, only within each group, each member should make **only one response for only one member** within your group. Be courteous and civil, but also feel free to share disagreeing/different perspectives, ask challenging questions, or address follow-up application/so-what issues.

Be sure to state (a) one positive feedback + (b) one constructive critique/food-for-thought.

The total amount of each response should be no more than **½ page, single-spaced**. All “online responses” are *due the day after the “online comments” due date by 11:59pm*.

EXEGESIS PAPER: By one week after the end of the term (due May 22), please turn in your exegetical interpretation of a selected biblical passage (TBA). The goal of this assignment is this: please focus on one specific passage and utilize insightful reading tools, which we will have introduced and explored, to interpret that passage.

Additional guideline will be uploaded on Populi; the amount of the paper should be 5 pages, Times New Roman, 12 font size, **double-spaced**.

GRADING:

Cyber Attendance/Virtual Participation	10%
Online Comments (four)	55%
Online Responses (four)	15%
Exegesis Paper (one)	20%

Class Schedule

Date	Subjects	Readings	Projects
March 27 ZOOM (9:15 - 9:45 am)	Orientation to course (syllabus, Zoom, assignments, resources, forming groups, etc.)	Syllabus (this Zoom “orientation” will be recorded and made available online in Populi)	ZOOM
March 28 – April 15	Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS + ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND ONE Torah/Pentateuch	<p>▶ <i>Fretheim, only skim but do not report, pp. 19-38, 67-100 (= ch. 1 + ch. 3)</i></p> <p>▶ Moberly, pp. 125-164 (= ch. 4 “The Inscrutable God – Genesis 4”)</p> <p>▶ <i>Fretheim, only skim but do not report, pp. 39-63, 101-120 (= ch. 2 + ch. 4)</i></p> <p>▶ Moberly, pp. 51-91 (= ch. 2 “The Mysterious God – Exodus 3”)</p> <p>▶ Fretheim, pp. 121-136, 152-170 (= ch. 5, Leviticus + ch. 7, Deuteronomy)</p> <p>▶ Fretheim, pp. 137-170 (= ch. 6, Numbers + ch. 7, Deuteronomy)</p>	<p>← Track A (due April 4 + 7)</p> <p>← Track B (due April 4 + 7)</p> <p>← Track A (due April 11 + 14)</p> <p>← Track B (due April 11 + 14)</p>
April 16 ZOOM (7:00 - 9:00 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creation & Sin ■ Call & Promise ■ Matriarchs & Patriarchs 	▶ Focus Texts: Genesis 1-4 Genesis 16; 21 Genesis 37-39	ZOOM
April 17 ZOOM (9:00 - 11:00 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exodus ■ Sinai & Covenant 	▶ Focus Texts: Exodus 1-4 Exodus 19-20 Exodus 32-34 Leviticus 1-2 Leviticus 18-22	ZOOM
April 17 ZOOM (1:00 - 3:00 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In the Wilderness ■ Into the Land 	▶ Focus Texts: Numbers 20-24 Numbers 26-27; 36 Deuteronomy 5-6 Deuteronomy 21-23 Deuteronomy 31-33	ZOOM
Apr 17	Chapel (11:15 am – 12:00 pm)		

<p>April 18 – May 13</p>	<p>Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS + ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND TWO</p> <p>Former Prophets/ Historical Books</p>	<p>▶ Leuchter/Lamb, pp. 21-58 (= ch. 2, Joshua: “1.Introduction ~ 4.8. Holy War or Genocide?”)</p> <p>▶ Leuchter/Lamb, pp. 93-132 (= ch. 3, Judges: “1.Introduction ~ 4.5.Supernatural Empowerment”)</p> <p>▶ Leuchter/Lamb, <i>only skim but do not report</i>, pp. 163-204 (= ch. 4, 1–2 Samuel: “1.Introduction ~ 4.4.Women and Wisdom”)</p> <p>▶ Moberly, pp. 165-202 (= ch. 5, “The Only God – 2 Kings 5”)</p> <p>▶ Leuchter/Lamb, <i>only skim but do not report</i>, pp. 251-321 (= ch. 5, 1–2 Kings: “1.Introduction ~ 4.5.4.Women”)</p> <p>▶ Moberly, pp. 203-237 (= ch. 6, “The Trustworthy God – Micah 3”)</p>	<p>← Track A (due April 25 + 28)</p> <p>← Track B (due April 25 + 28)</p> <p>← Track A (due May 9 + 12)</p> <p>← Track B (due May 9 + 12)</p>
<p>May 14 ZOOM</p> <p>(7:00 - 9:00 pm)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Joshua: Conquest ■ Judges: Settlement ■ Deborah, Jael, Samson, & Delilah 	<p>▶ Focus Texts:</p> <p>Joshua 1-2 Joshua 6-7 Judges 1-2 Judges 4-5 Judges 13-16</p>	
<p>May 15 ZOOM</p> <p>(9:00 - 11:00 am)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kings Saul vs. David ■ Divided Kingdom: Kings vs. Prophets ■ Eighth-Century Prophets 	<p>▶ Focus Texts:</p> <p>1 Samuel 1-3 2 Samuel 11-13 1 Kings 1-3 1 Kings 17-19 2 Kings 4-6 Micah 2-4</p>	
<p>May 15</p>	<p>Chapel (11:15 am – 12:00 pm)</p>		
<p>May 22</p>			<p>✚ EXEGESIS PAPER DUE (May 22)</p>

Academic Honor

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.