

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2025 Spring – ONLINE

April 4-5 & May 2-3, 2025

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 at the same time) and “asynchronous” (through Populi discussion threads). For “synchronous” classes, we will meet for 4 hours (April 4-5) and 8 hours (May 2-3), a total of 12 hours via Zoom. For “asynchronous” online discussions (the portion counting 8 hours), everyone is expected to make online comments and responses, on Populi, in order to learn collectively and interactively.

Textbooks

Texts:

- Marvin A. Sweeney, *The Pentateuch* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2017)
- Terence E. Fretheim, *The Pentateuch* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996)
- Richard D. Nelson, *The Historical Books* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1998)

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:

- Shai Held, *The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion: Genesis & Exodus* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2017)

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** in the assigned textbook section that you find to be new, insightful, or inspiring to you, and in what ways (1 page);
- (b) one-line: only one sentence addressing/proposing one key question (constructive criticism) for all of us to discuss (1-sentence at the bottom of the page).

The amount of each online comment should be **1 page, single-spaced**, Times New Roman 12-size font.

Tracks A & B = we will divide each Track members evenly out of total members. Everyone should upload the Online Comments *both* in Assignments *and* in Discussions. It is because “online responses” can be made **ONLY** in “Discussions.” Each online comment is due by 11:59 pm of the specified date.

ONLINE RESPONSES: *Individually*, only within each Track, each member should make **only one response to only one member** within your Track. 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 days specified in the chart below by 11:59pm.

*Assignments Due Dates:

- 3/23 by 11:59 pm - online comment #1 is due on Torah/Pentateuch
(3/27 by 11:59 pm - *online response* #1 to 1 person in your group’s comments)
- 3/30 by 11:59 pm - online comment #2 is due on Torah/Pentateuch
(4/3 by 11:59 pm - *online response* #2 to 1 person in your group’s comments)
- 4/13 by 11:59 pm - online comment #3 is due on Former Prophets/Historical Books
(4/17 by 11:59 pm - *online response* #3 to 1 person in your group’s comments)
- 4/20 by 11:59 pm - online comment #4 is due on Former Prophets/Historical Books
(4/24 by 11:59 pm - *online response* #4 to 1 person in your group’s comments)
- 5/11 by 11:59 pm – exegesis paper is due [please see handout for more instructions]

EXEGESIS PAPER: By one week after the end of the term (due May 11), 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/Online Comments	Projects
Mar 15 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 16 – April 3	Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS + ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND ONE Torah/Pentateuch	Online Comment #1 = <u>Track A = Sweeney, pp. 1-28 AND pp. 29-52</u> [= “Genesis” + “Exodus”] (comment due March 23 → response due March 27)	
		Online Comment #1 = Track B = Sweeney, pp. 1-28 AND pp. 53-70 [= “Genesis” + “Leviticus”] (comment due March 23 → response due March 27)	
		Online Comment #2 = <u>Track A = Sweeney, pp. 71-92</u> [= “Numbers”] (comment due March 30 → response due April 3)	
		Online Comment #2 = Track B = Sweeney, pp. 93-114 [= “Deuteronomy”] (comment due March 30 → response due April 3)	
April 5 ZOOM (9:00 - 11:00 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creation, Sin, Grace ■ Call & Promise ■ Matriarchs & Patriarchs 	► Focus Texts: Genesis 1-4 Genesis 11-12 Genesis 16; 21 Genesis 29-33 Genesis 37-39 <i>Fretheim, pp. 39-100</i>	ZOOM (live session)
	Chapel (11:15 am – 12:00 pm)		
April 5 ZOOM (1:00 - 3:00 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exodus ■ Sinai & Covenant 	► Focus Texts: Exodus 1-4 Exodus 19-20 Exodus 32-34 <i>Fretheim, pp. 101-136</i>	ZOOM (live session)

April 6 – May 1	Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS + ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND TWO			Online Comment #3 = <u>Track A = Nelson, pp. 79-92</u> [ch. 5 = “The Book of Joshua”] (comment due April 13 → response due April 17)
				Online Comment #3 = Track B = Nelson, pp. 93-108 [ch. 6 = “The Book of Judges”] (comment due April 13 → response due April 17)
				Online Comment #4 = <u>Track A = Nelson, pp. 109-128</u> [ch. 7 = “The Books of 1-2 Samuel”] (comment due April 20 → response due April 24)
				Online Comment #4 = Track B = Nelson, pp. 129-148 [ch. 8 = “The Books of 1-2 Kings”] (comment due April 20 → response due April 24)
Former Prophets/ Historical Books				
4/25–5/1	(Work on the Exegesis Paper = April 25 ~ May 1)			
May 2 ZOOM (3:00 - 5:00 pm)	 In the Wilderness  Into the Land	 Focus Texts: Leviticus 1-2; 18-22 Numbers 26-27; 36 Deuteronomy 5-6 Deuteronomy 21-23 <i>Fretheim, pp. 137-170</i>	Zoom (live session)	
May 2 ZOOM (7:00 - 9:00 pm)	 Joshua: Conquest  Judges: Settlement  Deborah, Jael, Samson, & Delilah	 Focus Texts: Joshua 1-2 Joshua 6-7 Judges 1-2 Judges 4-5 Judges 13-16	Zoom (live session)	
May 3 ZOOM (9:00 - 11:00 am)	 Kings Saul vs. David  Divided Kingdom: Kings vs. Prophets	 Focus Texts: 1 Samuel 1-3 2 Samuel 11-13 1 Kings 1-3; 17-19 2 Kings 4-6	Zoom (live session)	
Chapel (11:15 am – 12:00 pm)				
May 3 ZOOM (1:00 - 3:00 pm)	 Eighth-Century Prophets	 Focus Texts: Amos 1-6 Micah 2-4	Zoom (live session)	
May 11	EXEGESIS PAPER DUE (May 11)			

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 sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

COSSO Attendance Policy

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the classroom work shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

Cancellation and Withdrawal: Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

NO SHOWS: Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.