

BIBHB500 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
Spring semester 2023
Draft

Room: 207
 Thursdays 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Professor: Julie A. Duncan (julie.duncan@garrett.edu) (773-749-7702)
 TA: Thehil Russelliah Singh (thehil.singh@garrett.edu) (312-885-3059)

Course Goals

The goal of this course is to orient you to major aspects of the study of the Hebrew Bible. These aspects include the following:

- The content of key blocks of Old Testament literature
- Their major theological emphases
- The historical context in which the Old Testament materials were written
- Methods of approaching the biblical text

Required Texts (to be purchased)

John J. Collins. *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, **3rd ed.** (2018).
ISBN 978-1-5064-4599-1. Cost \$42.71 at Amazon.com

Thomas Mann. *The Book of the Torah: The Narrative Integrity of the Pentateuch*, **2nd ed.** 2013. ISBN 978- 1-61097-895-8. Cost \$28.42 at Amazon.com

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Version with the Apocrypha, **5th ed.** 2018. **ISBN-13:** 978- 0190276089. Cost \$26.99 at Amazon.com

Additional Bible Resources

Eric Barreto and Michael J. Chan, *Exploring the Bible*. Fortress Press, 2016.
 Eric Barreto, *Thinking Theologically*. Fortress Press, 2015

English Translations of Ancient Near Eastern Sources

Michael Coogan and Mark Smith. *Stories from Ancient Canaan*. Louisville:
 Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

Stephanie Dalley. *Myths from Mesopotamia: Creation, The Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others*. Oxford: Oxford Press, 1989.

William Hallo and K. Lawson Younger (eds.). *The Context of Scripture*. New York:
 Leiden Brill, 1997.

Course Requirements

- Regular attendance **5%**
- Regular and prepared participation in class and small group discussion **20%**
- 5 Bible content quizzes **20 %**
- Midterm exam **20%**
- Exegetical Exercise: The Lament Psalm **15%**
- Short DTR assignment **5%**
- Short final exam **10%**

Bible Content Quizzes

The content quizzes cover the assigned reading in the Bible. Study for these by noting themes and figures that are highlighted in the biblical text. Be attentive to story lines and to the principal characters involved.

Exams

The midterm exam will take place on **March 16th** (first part of the class period). The basis for the exam will be readings assigned in the syllabus, small group discussion topics, and subject matter of the lectures. Study questions will be handed out in advance.

The final exam will be a take-home exam, due **May 11th**. It will focus only on the post-midterm material.

Class Schedule

February 2

I Introduction

J. Collins, *Introduction* (pages 1-14)

J. Collins, *The Near Eastern Context* (pages 19-31). Note especially the *Enuma Elish* (pp. 24-25).

M. Coogan, *Return from Exile* (pages 333-337) with attention to *The Priestly Source of the Pentateuch* (pages 336-337). Available on course site.

II Formation of the Pentateuch (Documentary Hypothesis)

J. Collins, *Nature of the Pentateuchal Narrative* (pages 33-42).

Genesis: Chs. 1-2 (begin)

February 9

I The Primeval Story: Genesis Chs. 1–3

J. Collins, *Review* (pages 45-50).

Thomas Mann, *Book of the Torah* (pages 1-27).

II Small group discussion: Biblical Interpretation

(see separate handout for discussion questions and assigned readings; assigned readings available on course site).

February 16**I The Primeval Story: Genesis 4-11**

J. Collins, *The Primeval History* (pages 50-52)

Thomas Mann, *Book of the Torah* (pages 27-41).

II Small group discussion: Genesis 6–9:17 (*the Flood story*)

(see separate handout for discussion questions and assigned readings; assigned readings available on course site).

February 23**I Israel's Ancestors: Genesis Chs. 12–50**

J. Collins, *The Patriarchs* (pages 53-64)

Thomas Mann, *Book of the Torah: Abraham cycle* (pages 41-64); *Joseph cycle* (pages 82-94).

II Small group discussion: Genesis 38 (*Tamar and Judah*)

(see separate handout for discussion questions and assigned readings; assigned readings available on course site).

Quiz 1: Genesis 1–9; 11–18; 45, 48, 50

March 2**I The Exodus from Egypt: Exodus Chs. 1-15**

J. Collins, pages 67-76.

Thomas Mann, pages 95-116.

II Small group discussion: Exodus 15

(see separate handout for discussion questions and assigned readings; assigned readings available on course site).

Quiz 2: Exodus 1–7 and 12–15

March 9**I Revelation at Sinai –Law and Covenant**

Exodus 19–24, 32–34; Leviticus 17; Deuteronomy 5–7, 11, 12, 17, 22, 24–26

J. Collins, *Revelation at Sinai* (pages 79-88) and *The Priestly Theology* (pages 91-101)

II Small group discussion: The Decalogue

(see separate handout for discussion questions and assigned readings; assigned readings available on course site)

March 16

I Midterm Exam (One hour and 35 minutes)

II The Deuteronomistic History (Part I)

Deuteronomy 1–4, 31–34; Joshua 1–12, 23–24; Judges 2–7, 11,12; II Kings 21–23
J. Collins, *Deuteronomy* (pages 103-113); Introduction (pages 117-118); *Joshua* (pages 121-133); *Judges* (pages 135-143).

March 23

Please listen to Dr. Brooke Lester's lecture on the Deuteronomistic History, available on course site, and submit short DTR assignment by March 24th to Ms. Thehil Russelliah Singh.

March 30

I The Deuteronomistic History (Part II: Monarchy)

I Samuel 1–12; 28–31; II Samuel 1-7, 11-12; I Kings 3, 5, 11-12, and II Kings 22.
J. Collins, *First Samuel* (pages 145-153) and *Second Samuel* (pages 155-165) and *First Kings 1–16* (pages 167-177).

II Small group discussion: 1 Samuel 12 (*The Transition to the Monarchy*)

(see separate handout for discussion questions and assigned readings; assigned readings are available on course site)

Quiz 3: I Samuel 1:1–2:10, 8–12; II Samuel 1–7, 11-12; I Kings 3, 11–12; II Kings 22

April 6th *Spring Break*

April 13

J. Collins, *First Kings 17– Second Kings 25* (pages 181-192) and *Prophecy* (197-199).

I Small group discussion: Prophets and Kings

(see separate handout for discussion questions and assigned readings; assigned readings are available on course site)

Bible Reading: I Samuel 15 (Samuel and King Saul); II Samuel 11–12 (Nathan and King David); I Kings 21 (Elijah and King Ahab).

II Amos, Hosea: Amos Chs. 1–3; 5–9; Hosea Chs. 1–2, 11

J. Collins, 201-213 (*Amos and Hosea*)

April 20

I Isaiah of Jerusalem: Isaiah Chs. 1–12, 36–39:8
J. Collins, *Isaiah* (pages 215-225)

II Jeremiah (*Guest lecturer*) Chs. 1–20; 29–32; 36–39:8;
Ezekiel Chs. 1–3, 36-37, 40
J. Collins, *Jeremiah and Lamentations* (pages 227-239) and *Ezekiel* (pages 241-252).

Quiz 4: Amos 1–3; 5–7; Hosea 1–2; Isaiah 5–9; Jeremiah 1–3; 7, 29:1–14

April 27

I Psalms: The Hymnbook of the Second Temple
Psalms Chs. 8, 95, 117, 136 (*Hymns of Praise*); Chs. 3, 6, 17, 22, 74 (*Laments*);
Chs. 92, 116 (*Songs of Thanksgiving*)
Bernard Anderson, *Understanding the Old Testament*, 5th Edition (pages 490-518)
available on course site.

II Return from Exile: Ezra 1–2 and Isaiah 40–55
M. Coogan, “Return from Exile” (pages 327-338) in *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament* (Available on course site).

May 4

I The Wisdom Literature: Proverbs 1–9, 12; Ecclesiastes 1–3, 8:10–9:12,
11-12; Job 1–3
J. Collins, *Proverbs* (pages 327-336) and *Job and Qoheleth* (pages 339-349)
For future reading: R. Murphy, “Lady Wisdom” (pages 133-147) and “Qohelet the
Skeptic?” (pages 49-63) in *Tree of Life*.

Quiz 5: Proverbs Chs. 1–3; 8–9; Ecclesiastes Chs. 1–2; 8:10 – 9:12; Job Chs. 1–3

II The Restoration: Judah in the Late Sixth and Fifth Centuries BCE: Ezra 3-
10, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1, 8

M. Coogan, “The Restoration” (pages 347-365) in *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament* (Available on course site).

Future Reading: B. Anderson, “The Unfinished Story” (pages 553-596) in
Understanding the Old Testament (Available on course site).

Short take-home exam due May 11th.

Friday May 20th – Exegetical Exercise due (resources on course site)

Institutional Academic Policies:

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the *Academic Handbook* for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

Writing

- Academic integrity and plagiarism: (See 19-20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The *Turabian Manual for Writers* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19-20 Handbook, 84)
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/student-life/student-services> "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

Attendance and Class Participation

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed.... All participants in the teaching- learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.

(See 19-20 Handbook, 9)

- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19-20 Handbook, 19)
- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

Academic Accommodations

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the *Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities* policy and process set out in the *Academic Handbook* (19-20 Handbook, 12). Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.

- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term. (19- 20 Handbook, 20)