

Springfield College in Illinois

Spring 2006, Session B

Old Testament

6:00 to 10:00 p.m. – Wednesdays

March 8 – May 3, 2006

Bill Smith

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Old Testament

REL 216-70

I. Course Description:

A literary and historical study of the Old Testament. This course focuses on the religious experiences and lasting contributions of the Hebrew people as these relate to Christian tradition.

II, Textbook and Materials:

New American Bible

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Understanding the Scriptures, Scot Hayn

III Mission Statement

The mission of the Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.

IV. **Goals, Objectives, and student Learning Outcomes:**

A. **Goal:**

Upon completion of this course students will have a general understanding of the covenant theology and salvation history of the Old Testament.

B. **Objectives:**

* Content knowledge (lifelong learning) CK-1. Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter.

* Problem Solving Skills (lifelong learning and leadership) PS-2 Seek information and develop an in-depth knowledge base.

*Global Perspective (diversity) GP-1. Recognize the importance of diversity of opinions, abilities, and cultures.

C. **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the following learning outcomes:

CBSLO-1: To define the thematic theology of Covenant of the Old Testament. Students will also be competent to explain the Salvation History revealed in the Old Testament.

CBSLO-2: To describe the foreshadowing and types of Christ and His Church in the Old Testament.

CBSLO-3 To articulate what the Church teaches in relation to the Old Testament.

V. **Teaching Methods:**

- * Lecture
- * Class discussion
- * Group activities

VI. **Course requirements:**

*Regular attendance is required. Students are to notify the instructor via e-mail regarding an absence and are personally responsible for getting class notes from another student. All unexcused absences will result in the reduction of one point.

*Cell phones are to be turned off before entering the classroom. If the cell phone rings during class the student is to leave the classroom and not return. An unexcused absence will result.

*Class participation

*Written examinations

*Mid-term and final exams will be a combination of objective and essay questions (CBSLO 1,2,3,4,5)

*Written assignments

*A reflection paper (4-5 pages) due March 30, 2006

*A reflection paper (4-5 pages) due April 19, 2006

*Reading assignments

*Reading assignments for each session are included under Topical Course Outline.

VII. **Means of Evaluation:**

*Exams: mid-term (62 points); final (62 points)

*Reflection papers: each is worth 25 points with a total of 50 points

*Class participation: 6 points

*Quizzes: each is worth 10 points with a total of 20 points

*The total number of points is 200

Grade	Points
A	192-200
A-	184-191
B+	176-183
B	172-175
B-	168-171
C+	162-167
C	156-161
C-	148-155
D+	140-147
D	136-139
D-	130-135

***Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as follows: “The deliberate and knowing presentation of another person’s original ideas or creative expressions as one’s own. Generally, plagiarism is immoral but not illegal. If the expression’s creator gives unrestricted permission for its use and the user claims the expression is original, the user commits plagiarism but does not violate copyright laws, even if the credit goes to the creator. And if the plagiarism results in material gain, it may be deemed a passing-off activity that violates the Lanham Act.” Black’s Law Dictionary, 8th ed. (2004), p.1187. [The Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C., is the federal law regulating trademarks.] Also useful to establish guidelines for delineating plagiarism is Diana Hacker’s definition: “Three different acts are considered plagiarism: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.” (A Writer’s Reference, by Diana Hacker, Bedford St. Martin’s Press, 2003, page 331.) Some instances of plagiarism may, in fact, be violations of copyright law and subject to prosecution. The SCI Student Handbook lists plagiarism as a serious breach of standards and will result in disciplinary action.

VIII. Topical Course Outline:

*March 8

- *Introduction to the course
- * Overview of the course
- * Outline of Old Testament History
- * Old Testament Literature: Law, History, Wisdom, and Prophecy
- * The Senses of Scripture
- * Assignment:
 - * Read Genesis and Revelation 21-22
 - * read Catechism articles 292, 1094, 2465

March 13-19 SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES

*March 22

- * What is Typology
- * Creation
- * Death, spiritual and spiritual
- * The first Gospel and covenant
- * Assignment:
 - * Read Exodus 1-20, 25-30, 32-34, and 40.
 - * read CCC articles 205, 1334, and 2574

*March 30

- * The Law
- * the Tabernacle
- * The Exodus then and now
- * significance of The Tabernacle Furnishings
- * Assignment:
 - * read Joshua 3:9-17, 5:2-9, 6:1-21, 24:14-25,
Judges 2:11-23, I Samuel 8:4-22, 15:13-23, 16:1-13
I Samuel 8: 4-22, 15:13-23, 16:1-13

* April 5

- * The Conquest
- * The Cycle of Judges
- * Kingdom of Saul

- * Assignment:

* read I Samuel 26:6-11, II Samuel 6:1—7:29,
11:1-12:14, Psalm 89

* April 12

* The Davidic Kingdom and the Davidic Covenant

* Liturgy of the Hours

* Psalms and prayer

* Assignment:

* read II Chronicles 1:1-2:6, I Kings 10:1-10, 11:1-13
Proverbs 10

* April 19

* The Solomonic Kingdom

* Wisdom Literature

Assignment:

* read I Kings 12:1-20, 12:25-30, 18:17-40; 19:9-18,
II Kings 2:1-14, 17:6-8, Jonah 1-4, II Chronicles 33:1-3
34:14-33

* April 26

* Exile and Return

* Assignment:

* read I Maccabees 1:41-2:28, II Maccabees 6:18-7:42,
12:39-45

* May 3

* The Revolt of the Maccabees

* Last things

IX. Americans with Disabilities Act

Please note: Springfield College in Illinois provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor as early as possible.

X. Assessment.

Goals, objectives, and learning outcomes that will be assessed in the class are stated in this syllabus in sections IV and VI. Instructor will use background knowledge probes, one-minute papers, reflective essays and/or other Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary in order to provide continuous improvement of instruction. Students are required to take part in all assessment measures.

XI. Illinois Articulation Initiative.

REL 216 has been approved by the Illinois Articulation Initiative as meeting the criteria stipulated for iTransfer Course H5 901 (as follows) H5901: Foundational Religious Texts (3 semester credits). The humanistic study of one or more of the foundational documents of the world's major religions, such as the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Qur'an (Koran), or the Vedas.

First Assignment:

Students are to have read Genesis 1-3 and articles 78, 80-84, 95, 102, 134-141, in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students are also to find and choose 3 other articles from the CCC they find helpful in regards to the Old Testament. Notes and readiness to participate in class discussion is expected.