

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

Spring, 2007
Room: D224
Thursdays 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Instructor: Margaret Schreiber, OP
L 31 – Resource Center
Office Hours:
T/R 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
W 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
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Old Testament
REL. 216-70 (IAI: H5 901)

I. Course Description

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

II. Required Texts

- *Bible* (If you need to purchase a Bible, I suggest *The New Revised Standard Version* from Oxford Press)
- John Tullock and Mark McEntire. *The Old Testament Story*, 7th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall Press, 2006.

III. Mission Statement

The mission of 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. Goal, Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

A. Goal

- Upon successful completion of this course students will have a general understanding of the religious experience of the Hebrew people and their impact on the Christian Tradition.

B. Objectives

- Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning) CK-1. Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter.
- Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) CS-1. Communicate effectively in oral and written forms.
- Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) PS-2. Seek information and develop an in-depth knowledge base, grounded in research.
- Global Perspectives (Diversity) GP-1. Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities and cultures.

C. Student learning outcome

- Upon completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate their mastery of the following learning outcomes, addressing the following CLSOs (in parentheses):
- CBSLO-1. To define the religious experiences and contributions of the Hebrew people to the Christian tradition. (CK-1, CS 1, GP-1).
- CBSLO-2. To describe the various books of the Old Testament according to their genre. (CK-1, CS-1).
- CBSLO-3. To articulate how the religious experiences and contribution of the Hebrew people relates to the Christian tradition. (CS-1, GP-1).
- CBSLO-4. To apply various methods of scriptural study. (CK-1, PS-2).
- CBSLO-5. To evaluate the importance of the Old Testament for the world today (CK-1, CS-1, GP-1).

V. Teaching methods

- Lecture
- Class discussion
- Group activities

VI. Course requirements

- Regular attendance is required. Students are to notify the instructor via email regarding an absence and are personally responsible for getting class notes from another student. All unexcused absences will result in a reduction of 1 point.
- Cell phones are to be turned off before entering the classroom. If a cell phone rings during class the student is to leave the classroom and not return. An unexcused absence will result.
- Class participation, which involves both active listening and appropriate verbal expression of ideas, is expected.
- 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 4-5 page paper on the religious experience and contribution of the Hebrew people found in one of the following Books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings (CBSLO 3, 5).
 - A 4-5 page paper on one of the Prophetic books of the Bible describing how the Prophet's message to the Hebrew people relates to Christian living today (CBSLO 3, 5).
- Reading assignments
- Reading assignments for each session are included under Topical Course Outline (VIII).

VII. Means of Evaluation

- The total number of points is 300
 - Exams: mid-term (100 points) final (100 points)
 - Reflection papers (34 points for each for a total of 68 points)
 - Class participation (32 points—1 point for each hour of class)

Grade	Points
A	279 - 300
B	253 - 278
C	222 - 252
D	195 - 221
E	0 - 194

VIII. Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is defined as the passing off of another's ideas, writing, or invention as one's own (*The Oxford Reference Dictionary*, s.v. "Plagiarism."). Plagiarism includes cheating on exams and failure to acknowledge the author and source of material used in written assignments that is not the student's own. Any student who submits plagiarized work will receive 0 points for the assignment or exam.

IX. Assessment

- Goals, objectives, and learning outcomes that will be assessed in this course are stated in Sections I and III of this syllabus. Pretests and posttests will be used, background knowledge probes, directed paraphrasing or other Classroom Assessment Techniques as they deem necessary in order to provide continuous improvement of instruction. Assessment is required for accreditation of SCI's courses. Student achievement of written communication and critical reading competencies stipulated by the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) is a General Education goal for all SCI students and will also be assessed with the college-wide CAAP (Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency) test in the spring of the sophomore year. Students are required to take part in all assessment measures.

X. Topical Course Outline

- **Assignment for first class:** read pages 1-59 in the textbook.
- Thursday, March 8
 - Introductions
 - Review syllabus and give an overview of text
 - The Development of the Old Testament
 - Chapter 1: The Book and Those Who Study It
 - Origins of the Old Testament and how it developed, the work of scholars and tools for understanding scripture
 - Setting for the Old Testament
 - Chapter 2: The Geographical and Historical Setting for the Old Testament Prior to 1200 BCE
 - The Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Egypt, Syria-Phoenicia, and Palestine
 - The Beginning of Israel as a Nation
 - Chapter 3: Israel Looks at the beginnings
 - The origin of Israel
 - Abraham and the Covenant, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Joseph, Cain and Abel.
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 62-123.
- Thursday, March 15 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
- Thursday, March 22
 - The Exodus
 - Chapter 4: Israel Becomes a People: Exodus and Wilderness
 - Literary structure of the Book of Exodus, the importance of the story, Moses and Exodus
 - Trouble in the wilderness, Law codes
 - Giving of the Law and movement into the Promised Land
 - View of How Israel Acquired the Promised Land
 - Chapter 5: Israel Gains a Home: Joshua and Judges
 - Invasion of Canaan, the invading of the land, the renewal of the covenant
 - Period of the Judges, the stories about having no king in Israel, recent studies
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 125-170
- Thursday, March 29
 - Samuel and Saul
 - Chapter 6: Israel Demands a king: Samuel and Saul
 - Judge Samuel appoints a king, end of judges and beginning of kings Saul and David
 - Solomon
 - Chapter 7: Israel's Time of Glory: David and Solomon
 - David as King of Judah and all Israel, the court history of David
 - Solomon and his riches, wisdom and foolishness
 - Assignments
 - Read text pp. 172-209
 - Study for mid-term
- Thursday, April 5 HOLY THURSDAY
 - Mid-term exam
 - Israel is Divided into Two Kingdoms and the Prophets Amos and Hosea
 - Chapter 8: Israel becomes Two: The History of the Northern Kingdom
 - Problems with chronology. Division of the kingdom, Omri, Jehu, Jeroboam II
 - Principles of Hebrew poetry, the literary structure of the books of the minor prophets, Amos and his message

- Assignments
 - Read text pp. 211-265
 - Complete first paper and prepare to discuss it

- Thursday, April 12
 - Discussion of Papers
 - The Kingdom of Judah 933-687 BCE and the Books of the Prophets Isaiah and Micah
 - Chapter 9: Judah: Rehoboam to Hezekiah (922-687 BCE)
 - After the break up of the kingdom, the eighth century prophets from Judah, Isaiah and the kings of Judah, literary structure of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
 - Background for the Book of Isaiah, its content, Micah and his message
 - The Kingdom of Judah after 687 BCE and Jeremiah and the Last Days of the Land of Judah
 - Chapter 10: Judah; Manasseh to Zedekiah and the Exile
 - Time of struggle under Manasseh, the prophet Zephaniah, changes under Josiah, the prophets Nahum and Habakkuk
 - Literary structure of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, Jeremiah's life, call message and fate and the destruction of Jerusalem
 - Assignment
 - Read text pp. 267-322

- Thursday, April 19
 - The Exile and the End of the Babylonian Empire
 - Chapter 11: The Exile: Judah's Dark Night of the Soul
 - After the fall of Jerusalem, the literary structure, characteristics and content of the Book of Lamentations, the Babylonian Exile, the literary structure of and oracles in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel
 - The fall of the Babylonian Empire, the restoration of the land to Israel, the message in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the Servant Songs, Oracles of a restored people, poem about Zion
 - After the Exile
 - Chapter 12: The Post-Exilic Period: Judah Revived
 - Conquest of Babylon, the community restored, the prophets Ezra and Nehemiah
 - Assignment
 - Read text 324-392

- Thursday, April 27
 - Wisdom Literature
 - Chapter 13: A Legacy of Israel: Wise Men and Psalm Singers
 - Literary structure of the Book of Proverbs and Job
 - Song of Songs, and the literary structure of the Psalms
 - The Last Days of Persia
 - Chapter 14: The Time of Silence; Judah in Eclipse
 - The historical situation of the Persian Empire, the Maccabean Revolt, the last of the prophets, the Apocalyptic writers, the literary structure of Daniel, Esther, Ruth , and Jonah
 - Life in the Jewish Community
 - Chapter 15: Epilogue: The Continuing Story
 - Rise of parties and sects, literary developments, Judaism's oral tradition
 - Assignment
 - Study for final exam
 - Complete second paper and prepare to discuss it

- Thursday, May 3
 - Discuss papers
 - Final exam

XI. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Springfield College in Illinois/Benedictine University provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs activities and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or to meet course requirements should contact the Director of the Resource Center as early as possible.

XII. Illinois Articulation Initiative

- REL 216 has been approved by the Illinois Articulation Initiative as meeting the criteria stipulated for iTransfer Course HF 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.