I. Textbooks and Required Reading


In this course I will be using the New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 4th edition. This is an excellent study Bible which provides a good introduction to each book of the Bible and also good study notes. Students are not required to use this version of this Bible. Students are required to bring their Bible to class each week. Reading from another student’s Bible is not allowed.

Students will be required to read the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy during the quarter. Previous reading of the biblical books does not count for credit in this class.

B. Textbooks


5. Claude F. Mariottini, Class Notes.
C. Required Use for the Research Paper


Note: Although Turabian is required for the preparation of the research paper, students do not have to buy this book. Guidelines on using Turabian will be distributed in class.

II. Course Objectives

1. The course will help students understand the content of the first five books of the Old Testament.

2. The course will provide students with guidelines for the interpretation of the biblical material in its literary, historical, cultural, and social contexts.

3. Students will gain a better understanding of the biblical narrative through the study of major events and major characters in the Pentateuch.

4. Students will gain a better understanding of God’s mission in the world through reading and discussion of John Bright’s book The Kingdom of God.

5. The course will help students develop an appreciation for the Old Testament as an integral part of the Bible.

III. Course Description

1. This course will introduce students to the Old Testament, to the methods, work, and results of biblical archaeology, and to the discipline of biblical criticism.

2. This course will introduce students to the content of the Pentateuch and to the many historical, political, religious, and social events that shaped the history of the patriarchs and that molded later Israelite society.

IV. Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to attend all meetings of the class, unless hindered by circumstances beyond his or her control. Any student who misses 20% of the classes (2 classes) will fail the course. Note: if you come late or leave early it will count as missing half of a class.
2. There will be several quizzes during the quarter. The times for the quizzes will be announced in class. The quizzes will be averaged and their average will be worth one-third of the final grade. **There will be no make-up for the quizzes.**

3. Each student will be required to write two 7-8 pages paper during the quarter. Each paper will be worth 1/3 of the grade. The paper shall be 7-8 pages (minimum) in length and will be due on **Tuesday, November 4 and on Tuesday, December 2, 2014.**

4. The research paper must follow Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Additional information and requirements will be found in *How to Write an A+ Research Paper*. This guideline will be distributed in class. Read the guidelines before writing your paper.

5. **The Mission of God:** Students must present a 3-page review of the book *The Kingdom of God*. The report will be due in class on **Tuesday, October 21, 2014.** The value of the review will be to one of the quizzes. **Late book reviews will not be accepted.** In writing your book review, follow the guidelines to be distributed in class.

   Note: It is recommended that you begin reading the book and writing your review before you come to class. If you want to write the review early, send me an email and request the guidelines for writing the book review.

6. Students are expected to make preparation for each class meeting by reading the pages assigned in the required reading. *The reading of the biblical books is mandatory.* The reading report will be graded as one of the quizzes.

7. Any work missed will have to be made up and prior approval by the professor is required for makeups. Overdue work must be turned in. There will be a penalty for any overdue work. Students who fail to present the research paper on the due date will lose a letter grade for the paper.

**V. Technology Use in the Classroom**

Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from cell phone or laptop use during class. Checking emails or using the Internet during class is not allowed. Students who violate class policy will not be allowed to use computers in class.

**VI. Course Evaluation**

Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.edu](http://moodle.edu) in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week, the last week of the term. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to [moodlehelp@seminary.edu](mailto:moodlehelp@seminary.edu).
VII. Grading

1. The total amount of points to be given in class is 300.

2. Each paper will be worth 1/3 of the grade.

3. The quizzes will be averaged and its total will be worth 1/3 of the grade.

4. The grade for reading the biblical books will be equivalent to one of the quizzes.

5. No incomplete will be granted for this class. An incomplete may be granted (at the discretion of the professor) in case of a dire emergency.

6. Grading scale:

   A = 100-95
   A- = 94-90
   B+ = 89-87
   B = 86-83
   B- = 82-80
   C+ = 79-77
   C = 76-73
   C- = 72-70
   D+ = 69-67
   D = 66-63
   D- = 62-60
   F = 59 and below

VIII. Office Hours

I am available to students who wish to discuss any problem related to class work, test, research paper, or any other matter related to personal problems or seminary work. This quarter my office hours are:

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

It is very important that you call my office and make an appointment before you come to see me. If you cannot come in at these times, please call and make an appointment to see me at another time. You can also contact me at any time by email: cmariottini@faculty.seminary.edu.

IX. Weekly Assignments

1. September, 23 An Introduction to the Old Testament

   Flanders, 3-46
Mariottini, “The Invented History of Israel” (Moodle)
Mariottini, “Mario Liverani and the History of Israel” (Moodle)

2. **September 30**
   **An Introduction to Biblical Criticism**
   Bright, 23-44

3. **October 7**
   **An Introduction to the Pentateuch**
   Flanders, 48-84
   Bright, 47-56

4. **October 14**
   **Primeval History – Part 1**
   Flanders, 85-132
   Bright, 56-66
   Mariottini, “The Creation of Animals in Genesis 2:19,” 3-6
   Mariottini, “The Serpent Was Right,” 7-10
   Mariottini, “The Seed of the Woman,” 11-16

5. **October 21**
   **Primeval History – Part 2**
   Discussion of John Bright's Book, *The Kingdom of God*
   Flanders, 85-132
   Bright, 56-66
   Mariottini, “The Anakim and the Nephilim (Moodle)
   Mariottini, “Were They Really Giants,” 17-19

6. **October 28**
   **The Patriarchs and the Matriarchs of Israel**
   Flanders, 133-168
   Bright, 67-103
   Mariottini, “Ur and Haran: Abraham’s Background,” (Moodle)
   Mariottini, "Laban," *ABD* 4:113-14 (Moodle)
   Mariottini, “As Far as Dan’ (Gen 14:14,” 20-22
   Mariottini, “Abraham and the Promises of God,” 23-25
   Mariottini, “The Sacrifice of Isaac,” 26-28
   Mariottini, “The Rape of Bilhah,” 29-34

7. **November 4**
   **The Book of Exodus**
   Second Research Paper is due today
   Flanders, 169-198
   Bright, 107-120
Sarna, ABD 2:689-700 (Moodle)
Mariottini, “Pharaoh's Army,” Biblical Illustrator Fall 1998. (Moodle)


Flanders, 198-211
Bright, 120-143

9. November 18  The Book of Leviticus

Flanders, 211-217
Levine, ABD 4:311-320 (Moodle)
Mariottini, “Azazel,” 35-37

10. December 2  The Book of Numbers

Second Research Paper is due today

Flanders, 218-221
Milgrom, ABD 4:1146-1155 (Moodle)
Mariottini, "Numbers, Book of," Mercer Dictionary of the Bible, 621 (Moodle)
Basic information about your research paper:

1. Each student will be required to write two 7-8 pages paper during the quarter. Each paper will be worth 1/3 of the grade. The paper shall be 7-8 pages (minimum) in length, not counting endnotes and bibliography and will be due on **Tuesday, November 4 and on Tuesday, December 2, 2014**.

2. The assignment for the research paper will be given during the first day of class. Students who desire to begin writing the papers before the first day of class must contact the professor for the assignment. If you want to receive your topic before the first day of class, send me an email and request your assignment. My email is cmariottini@faculty.seminary.edu.

3. The paper should be typed with double space and 12pt type and with 1 inch margin on all sides. You must use Times New Roman font in the preparation of your paper.


4. The research paper also must follow the guidelines found in *How to Write an A+ Research Paper.* This guideline will be distributed in class.

5. Plagiarism. In this class we follow the policies of the seminary on plagiarism as outlined in the Northern's catalog.

6. Submission of the paper
   a. You must submit your paper by email. You must use Word format. Email address: cmariottini@faculty.seminary.edu
   b. Students who fail to present the research paper on the due date will lose a letter grade for the paper.
POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact ithelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

Class Attendance Policy
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

Class Tardiness Policy
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

Late Work Policy
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

Turabian Format
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th ed., 2013.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one's own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Electronic Format
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).