

SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary

3535 Commerce Road

Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324

Course Syllabus

SS 610 Pentateuch and Deuteronomic History

“Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.” (Leviticus 19:2)

Professor: Rev. Leonard Obloy, S.S.L. S.S. D. (Cand.) lobloy@sscms.edu

Course Credits, Time and Location: 3 Credit Hours Thursdays, 9:00am to 11:50am CAC 109

Office and Hours: Office hours by appointment. I am available every day of the week and throughout most of the day. Please email, call or simply see me in class to arrange a mutually convenient time. My office is on the first floor of the Seminary administration building at the southwest corner.

Course description:

A study of the historical context, composition and theology of the historical narrative. Special attention will be given to the Deuteronomistic redactor. The books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles will be included. Theological themes, such as creation, promise, election, covenant, the cycle of sin, judgment, repentance, salvation, the rise of the monarchy, the great kings and other characters will be examined.

Course SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes)

In accord with the SLOs of the degree programs offered at SSCMS, at the completion of the course, students should be able:

To understand contemporary Catholic biblical scholarship with regard to the early narrative of the Old Testament;

To understand how the narrative came to be composed and the theological view points of the biblical authors and the context for the composition;

To better inform the student’s use of Sacred Scripture in homilies (where applicable), scripture study groups, teaching (both about the Bible itself and using scripture when teaching in other theological disciplines) in catechetical and sacramental programs;

To enhance one's own spiritual life by a greater appreciation of the Bible and using it for private reading;

To become cognizant of other interpretations and their relation to Catholic positions;

To become aware of controversies about the Bible, the reasons for them and possible solutions;

To learn the process of how exegesis is done by actually researching a specific text and applying a scientific methodology;

Required Texts:

The only required text is the Bible itself. Any modern English language translation may be used. Different translations are encouraged and will sometimes be referred to in class to show how certain passages may be interpreted due to how they are translated. Recommended books will be mentioned in class.

Optional Texts

Brown, Raymond E., ed. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1990.

Jensen, J. *God's Word to Israel*. (rev. ed.) Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990..

Church Documents:

It is presumed that the student is familiar with the following Church documents:

1. Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. *Providentissimus Deus*
3. *Divino Afflante Spiritu*
4. *Dei Verbum*
5. *Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

Course Delivery Method(s)

The course will be presented on-ground in the traditional lecture format. Questions and discussions are encouraged. Materials will be available on the Populi platform. Additional discussion topics will also be posted on this platform. In addition, audio recordings of all lectures will be posted on the Populi platform for review.

Course of Studies

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Ruth
Judith
I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles

Course Calendar

This is subject to change based upon the student pace and discussions.

Week 1 Thursday, 12 January 2017

Lesson 1

Introduction and review of history as necessary

The formation of the Pentateuch and early historical narrative; DTR

Week 2 Thursday, 19 January 2017

Lesson 2

God's name; spirit; word; anthropomorphisms

The idea of myth; Other cultures

Week 3 Thursday, 26 January 2017

March for life

Week 4 Thursday, 2 February 2017

Lesson 3

Covenant (**Exegesis approval due**)

Law, sin, salvation, eschatology

Week 5 Thursday 9 February 2017

Lesson 4

Exam 1

Literary aspects; relation of the narrator and reader

Week 6 Thursday 16 February 2017

Lesson 5

Genesis: creation, the fall and the flood (handouts available)

Patriarchs

Week 7 Thursday, 23 February 2017

Lesson 6

The Joseph story: an example of narrative technique

The Joseph story: conclusion

Week 8 Thursday, 2 March 2017

Spring Break

Week 9 9 March 2017

Lesson 7

Call of Moses

Plagues and Exodus

Week 10 Thursday, 16 March 2017

Lesson 8

Exam 2

Sinai

Week 11 Thursday, 23 March 2017

Lesson 9

Leviticus; Holiness (**Exegesis due**)

Numbers

Week 12 Thursday, 30 March 2017

Lesson 10

Deuteronomy

Joshua; Judges

Week 13 Thursday, 6 April 2017

Lesson 11

Exam 3

Ruth, Judith

I Samuel; the monarchy, King Saul

Week 14 Thursday, 13 April 2017

Easter Break

Week 15 Thursday, 20 April 2017

Lesson 12

II Samuel: King David

II Samuel: King David continued, the rebellion

Week 16 Thursday, 27 April 2017

Lesson 13

I & II Kings King Solomon

I & II Chronicles

Week 17 Thursday 4 May 2017

Lesson 15

Exam 4

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

The final grade will be determined by the result of four examinations and the exegesis paper being averaged equally.

The following grade scale is published in the Catalog.

Grade Interpretation

Grade	Honor Points	Percent	Interpretation
A	4.0	100-94	Exceptional/Outstanding performance
A-	3.7	93-90	Superior
B+	3.3	89-87	Very Good
B	3.0	86-83	Good/Graduate level performance
B-	2.7	82-80	Average
C+	2.3	79-76	Below Average/Below graduate performance
C	2.0	75-70	Minimum Acceptable
C-	0	69 and below	Fail
F	0		Failing - In Pass/Fail courses no honor points
P	0		Passing - In Pass/Fail courses; no honor points
W	0		Withdrawal - No credit or honor points
I	0		Incomplete - No credit or honor points

Incomplete Grades - An Incomplete, "I," grade is given in exceptional situations to a student whose course work has been satisfactory, but who because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has been unable to complete all course requirements. The student must request the "I" from the instructor before the final class of the course. *A Petition for an "I" Grade* is filed with the Academic Dean's Office and Registrar's Office. The work is to be completed no later than eight weeks from the end of the term. If an "I" is not removed by the final designated date, it automatically becomes an "F."

Drop/Add Withdrawal - A student may drop, add or withdraw from this course only after having complied with all the procedures outlined in the current Catalog.

General Guidelines

Guidelines for Academic Study - Students are expected to devote at least 2-3 hours of study per week, per credit. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit and research writing of about 5 pages per credit.

Standards for Written Assignments - Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (latest edition). The manual is available in the Campus Bookstore and Library. Students are required to reference the *Student Writing Guide* posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments. Non native English speaking students must use the Writing Center located in the Campus Academic Center, Room 107.

Disabilities Accommodation – Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should contact the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course materials and interaction in modes in which they can receive them.

Class recording – Prior permission to record class lectures must be obtained. A signed affidavit may be required. Consult the professor before any recording takes place.

Class Attendance – Seminarians are required to be punctual and regularly in attendance at class sessions. Non-seminarian students enrolled in online courses may chose, at their discretion, to attend classes in person or online in real time or time shifted. At the opening of a term, instructors will inform students of any specific policies governing attendance. Frequent absences may result in an academic penalty and/or failure in the course. Students should confer with the instructor concerning foreseen absences.

Inclement Weather - Students are expected to exercise good judgment and precaution in determining the safety of travel from their areas. Classes that have resident faculty and students exclusively will meet.

Academic Integrity - Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed*, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor *suspects* a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.

2. If the instructor has *evidence* that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a “0” for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.
4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student’s file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student’s mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student’s plagiarism and a faculty member of the student’s choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as “to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death>*intransitive verb*: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards><cheating on a test> (“cheat.” Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 5 May 2010 <http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, “cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game” (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence,1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;

- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam or preparing an assignment;
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;
- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
- i. using another person's paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;
- j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.

(The term "exam" may be substituted with "quiz," "paper," or "presentation" as the case may be.)

Notice of Change

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.

Bibliography:

Students are encouraged to use the many on-line resources available through the campus library or any other modern library.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Anchor Bible

Anchor Bible Dictionary.

Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament*. New York: Paulist Press, 1984.

Brown, Raymond E., ed. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1990.

Elenchus of Biblica. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Press.

Hermeneia Series

Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (rev. ed.)

Jensen, J. *God's Word to Israel*. (rev. ed.) Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990.

McCarthy, Dennis J. *Old Testament Covenant: a Survey of Current Opinions*. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1972.

Obloy, Leonard. "The Holiness of God in the Old Testament". *The Journal of Dharma*. 1983.
Old Testament Message Series

Pritchard, James. *The Ancient Near East Text*. Princeton: University Press, 1969.