

Scriptural Foundations: Old Testament
THE 611: Course Syllabus
University of Sacramento

Date and Times

Term: Fall 2010
Class Dates: Wednesday, September 8-December 15
Class Time: 6:00-9:10

Instructor

Prof. Joseph Hollcraft. M.A.
Email: jhollmj@yahoo.com
Course Notes: stjohnthebaptistchico.org (click the Catholic Hour)

Course Description

An examination of the content and structure of Sacred Scripture, including a review of its historical development and authentic interpretation, which will provide the student with the foundational tools necessary to study, understand, pray and hand on the sacred text from a Catholic perspective. In addition, this graduate level course will introduce students to a systematic overview of the Old Testament. Particular attention will be given to the Pentateuch, The Kingdom of Israel, Wisdom literature, and the prophetic writings.

Course Objectives

The course will provide an overview of Catholic principles: inspiration, inerrancy and the hermeneutics of faith. An introduction to reading Sacred Scripture with *Dei Verbum* and the *Catechism* will also be presented. An examination of the Old Testament as God's covenant love will be considered in detail. Our response to God's Revelation of Himself will also pervade each teaching.

Required Texts:

The Bible (RSV translation suggested).

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd Edition.

Dei Verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. Vatican Council II, 1965 (Available online).

Barthelemy O.P., Dominique. *God and His Image: An Outline of Biblical Theology* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2007).

Nichols, O.P., Aidan. *Lovely Like Jerusalem* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2007).

Baker, Kenneth. *Inside the Bible: An Introduction to Each Book of the Bible* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2001).

Cavalletti, Sofia. *History's Golden Thread: The History of Salvation* (Chicago, IL: Sofia. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Publications, 1999).

Commentaries and suggested Long Term Resources

St. Ignatius Series/Navarre Series/ New Jerome Biblical Commentary/Bible Dictionary

Grading Policy

For grading scale see catalog

Attendance:

Attendance and class participation, while important for any learning environment, are essential at the graduate level. The student who expects an A or A- from this course, in addition to the requirements under *Assignments* stated below, will be diligent in class preparation, reading assignments, as well as active in class participation. Cf. University catalog attendance policy.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

Students will be evaluated according to the following:

- 1) Attendance and class participation (see above): 5%
- 2) Papers (2): 30%
- 3) Midterm examination: 25%
- 4) Final examination: 40%

Required reading between classes

Approximately 5-7 hours per week will be required for the reading assignments and homework outside of class. The reading is essential in order to come to appreciate the beauty and scope of the Old Testament and will be necessary to enter into classroom discussion.

Assignments

For your paper described below, what is required of the writer is a critical and prayerful exercise of the mind and heart that should result in an intelligent, thoughtful, penetrating reflection into Scripture. Aside from that, you should observe the following:

- (1) Papers should observe the standard format according to Turabian.
- (2) Observe proper grammar, syntax, spelling and proofread for typos (12 font and double spaced).
- (3) Demonstrate critical thinking through analysis, synthesis and clear conclusion.

Attendance and Class Participation: 5%

See *Attendance* above

First Paper (Due October 6): 15%

Reflecting upon *Dei Verbum*, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *handouts (excerpts)* and class notes, write a 2-3 page essay that discusses the meaning and interrelation of the senses of Sacred Scripture. How does this meaning and interrelation provide for the foundation of reading Sacred Scripture? See example.

Second Paper (December 1): 15%

Reflecting upon the CCC definition of faith, which builds itself on the biblical vision of faith, write a 2-3 page essay that demonstrates how an OT figure is a living example of this faith and in particular how your selected figure displays the personal abandonment that is required of faith.

Midterm (October 20): 25%

One question that will demonstrate your understanding of the overarching themes to covenant theology and its implication upon the scope of salvation history (this will be handed out two weeks before in preparation)

Final Exam (December 15): 40%

Two questions. The first question will be a review of the midterm with a tie to prophetic literature. Here, you will select a prophetic figure and situate him within the Economy of Salvation History. The second question will be an option of either (a) an examination of the themes of prayer, wisdom, courage, friendship and suffering, as discussed in class, or (b) St. John the Baptist as discussed in class (this will be handed out two weeks before the final—except in the case of St. John the Baptist).

Course Outline (Subject to Change):

Week 1: September 8 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time): Dei Verbum; God and His Image (GI): Introduction

- Divine Revelation itself: Faith and Reason
- Economy of Revelation
- Man's Response to God

Week 2: September 15 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time): (excerpts) Cardinal Dulles; PBXVI Forward in Jesus of Nazareth

- Transmission of Divine Revelation
- Sacred Scripture: Inspiration and Interpretation
- Covenant Theology
- Begin Treatment of Genesis

Week 3: September 22 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time): The Book of Genesis (Chs.1-3); Lovely Like Jerusalem (LJ) pp. 13-34; GI: pp. 1-55

- Genesis, with particular attention to chapter 1-3
- Patriarchs

Week 4: September 29 (26th Ordinary Time): The Book of Exodus; GI: pp. 55-102

- Exodus and the story of Moses

Week 5: October 6 (27th Sunday in Ordinary Time): GI: pp.103-128; Baker pp. 21-53 (*hand out midterm question*)

- Exodus cont'd...the rest of the Torah

Week 6: October 13 (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time): The Books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings; LJ: 35-43; GI: 128-145; Baker pp. 55-77

- Joshua to the Kingdom of David

Week 7: October 20 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time): Midterm Exam

--overview second half of course

Week 8: October 27 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time): The Books of Ruth, Esther, and Job; LJ pp. 61-74, 221-234

--Friendship, Courage and the Quest to Understand the Nature of Suffering

Week 9: November 3 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time): The Book of Psalms (Chs.2, 22, 45, 110; 23) and Proverbs (Chs.1-3, 8); Baker 112-121

--Understanding Prayer and Wisdom

--The “Todah” Prayer (OT Liturgy)

Week 10: November 10 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time): The Books of Isaiah (Chs.7, 9, 11, 53), Jeremiah (Ch.31); LJ: pp. 43-54; Baker pp. 143-175

--Prophecy: Nature and Function/Isaiah and Jeremiah

--Salvation, Woe and Doom

Week 11: November 17 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time): The Books of Ezekiel (Chs. 34 and 37), Daniel, Hosea and Amos; Baker pp.177-220

--Supernatural Visionaries

--The Minor Prophets with an emphasis on Hosea and Amos

--Unfaithfulness, and the Burden of Proof

Week 12: November 24 (Solemnity of Christ the King): Thanksgiving

Week 13: December 1 (First Sunday of Advent): The Book of Jonah; 1 Kings Ch. 18 and 19; article; (*hand out final exam questions*)

--Jonah

--Elijah and Mt. Carmel

Week 14: December 8 (Second Sunday of Advent): Von Balthasar (excerpt)

--John the Baptist: the Bridge between Covenant life

--Review for final

Week 15: December 15 (Third Sunday of Advent): Final Exam