

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study | New England Satellite School
April 22 -23 & May 13-14, 2016

Course: CS-221 Bible 2: Torah and Israel's History

Faculty: Yolanda Norton

ynorton@wesleyseminary.edu

This course will meet at The Rock UMC in New Hampshire. Students will receive logistically information from the COS office.

Course Goals:

This course interprets the critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Attention is given to the earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, and to other events up to the eighth century prophets.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a historical overview of the experience and faith of ancient Israel.
2. Exegete selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

Required Books:

Michael Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Historical & Literary Introduction*
Terrence Fretheim, *The Pentatuch*

Reference:

Oxford Bible Atlas

Bruce Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence Fretheim, David Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, 2nd Edition*

Assignment: due the first day of class (April 22)

1. You are leading a Bible study/Sunday school class on the creation narrative. In 5-7 pages describe how the two creation narratives reflect ancient Israelite cosmology and how it fits into cosmological perspectives in the ancient Near East. Be sure to explain how biblical creation narratives relate to one another, and how they relate to other ancient Near Eastern creation narratives. How does this new understanding of the creation narrative impact one's theological understanding of the purpose and intent of the narratives?
2. In 4-6 pages describe the various legal codes that are demonstrated in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. How did they function in the biblical material? What do they do for our understanding of how ancient Israel viewed social order? How does this understanding impact our understanding of how these legal codes impact our social order? Be sure to give specific examples of the various kinds of legal codes.