

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study
Term 1 | July 8-18, 2019

CS-221: Bible II: Torah and Israel's History

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Please read this study guide *carefully*. We have split the previous pre-course work up into two parts. **Everyone will have one assignment due by June 1 submitted via Blackboard and one assignment due the first day of class, also submitted via Blackboard.**

Please schedule time each week to work on your pre-course work. If you are able to do this you will have the opportunity to come to DC next summer and enjoy some Sabbath time with us. Please let Sara Sheppard know if we can help you with this in any way.

Objectives:

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.

Goals:

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.

Textbooks: To obtain textbooks or view the list go to **My Wesley** on the website (<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/MyWesley>) and click on the button that says "Textbooks" From there select your program (Course of Study Summer Intensive), then select your course number. You may order books on-line directly from our e-store.

You may also order your books from Cokesbury or any other bookseller or borrow from friends.

REQUIRED:

Birch, Bruce, Walter Brueggemann, Terence Fretheim, David Peterson. A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, 2nd edition.

Coogan, Michael. The Old Testament: A Historical & Literary Introduction

Fretheim, Terrence. The Pentateuch

****Also see documents posted on blackboard by the professor.****

Assigned Reading:

It is expected that you will have completed all of the assigned reading before the first day of class in order to complete your pre-class assignments.

Pre-Class Assignment Instructions:

- Please type your papers, double-spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman.
 - **Be sure to refer to all textbooks and reference books** in your answers.
 - Don't use footnotes when you quote but simply give the author and page number in parentheses after the quote, e.g. (Coogan, 49).
 - Pay attention to page limits; I will stop reading once I've reached the posted limit.
 - Essay will be marked down 5 points for each day that it is late (unless you have permission from me for an extension).
 - Please submit your essay to Blackboard. To submit, click on Assignments in the categories box on the left of the page, then under PreClass 1 click on the underlined PreClass1, click on Browse your computer, attach your document, then click Submit at the bottom right corner of the page.
 - Put your name on your submission, either on top of the first page or in a header (Mac users).
 - Put your name in the file name of your document in this format: FirstInitialLastName PreClass1. Ex: AJones Preclass1.docx. Points off for not following directions.
 - Answer all questions in a single document instead of separate files for each question.
 - I will only accept .docx, or .doc formats.
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Due June 1, 2019. Please post on Blackboard under Assignments

1. Describe the call narrative of Moses in Exodus 3. List the parts of the call narrative but also comment on the significance of each part in terms of what it says about God and about Moses. What does this call narrative say about the relationship between God and Moses? How is your call like or unlike the call of Moses? (2 pages, 20 points)
2. What does Israel remember about God and itself in the wilderness, that is, what are the basic themes of the story about Israel in the wilderness? Illustrate each theme you list with texts from Exodus and Numbers. Reflect on 'wilderness' as a metaphor for your life before God. (2 pages, 20 points)
3. **A.** The Decalogue expresses the essence of the Sinai covenant. Define the word "covenant," showing that you have consulted all of the textbooks and the reference books. Discuss the form and content of the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments). Choose one commandment and tell why it is important today.
B. How do Exodus and Leviticus understand the nature of 'holiness'? (3 pages, 30 points)

4. What are some different ways of interpreting Israel's entry into the land of Canaan as presented in Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges? How do you understand Israel's entry into the land? How do you explain the violence of conquest in the book of Joshua? Be sure to reflect upon Robert Warrior's article here: "Canaanites, Cowboys, and Indians" (I have posted it on Blackboard under Content). What message does Israel's settlement in the land have for us today? (3 pages, 30 points)

Due first day of class, July 9, 2019. Please post on Blackboard under Assignments.

1. Describe the rise of the monarchy, starting from the time of the period of the judges leading up to the first king, Saul. What brought about the emergence of the monarchy and what theological and political tensions surfaced in the process? Draw upon at least 5 texts (don't quote; just cite chapter and verse) from the books of Judges through Samuel to support your answer. (4 pages, 40 points)
2. Discuss the rise of David as king (1 Sam 16:1 – 2 Sam 7) and the development of a royal theology, being sure to discuss 2 Sam 7 and the tension between conditional and unconditional covenant. Discuss also the concerns of the Succession Narrative in 2 Sam 9-20 and 1 Kings 1-2. What are the good and bad aspects of David's kingship? What human vulnerabilities of David do these chapters reveal? (3 pages, 35 points)
3. According to Brueggemann (please see the chapter from Brueggemann's *Prophetic Imagination* that I have posted on Blackboard under Content), what are the 3 aspects or dimensions of the Solomonic achievement (or enlightenment) that summarize the dominant culture of Solomon's kingship? How are these 3 dimensions challenged by the culture of Moses and the Sinai Covenant? (2 pages, 25 points)

Course Outline:

July 11: Exodus and Moses
July 12: Guidance in the Wilderness
July 13: Sinai and Covenant
July 14: The Ten Commandments
July 17: Israel in Canaan
July 18: Rise of the Monarchy: Samuel and Saul
July 19: David and 2 Sam 7
July 20: The Succession Narrative
July 21: Solomon and the Divided Monarchy