

Wesley Theological Seminary

Course of Study

July 10-14, 2023

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

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Please read this study guide *carefully*. There is a lot of information here. It may feel overwhelming at first. Take your time reading this guide, give yourself time to digest it and understand it, and if you have any questions, feel free to email your instructor. Your instructor is here to help!

We have split the previous pre-course work up into two parts. **Everyone will have one assignment due by July 10, 2023 submitted via email. The remainder of our work will be done during the synchronous and asynchronous portions of the class.**

Please schedule time each week to work on your pre-course work. Please let Sara Sheppard or Doug Powe 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.

Collins, John J, A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

Fretheim, Terrence. The Pentateuch

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

1. Asynchronous Learning

During the weeks between June 5, 2023-June 30, 2023 your instructor will provide online asynchronous learning activities. Each day (M-F) there will be new assignments, requiring approximately 30-45 minutes of engagement from you. Where there are discussion forums, you are expected to both post your own responses and respond *meaningfully* in dialogue with your classmates.

2. Written and reading assignments:

Prior to our synchronous learning on July 10, 2023, you are expected to have completed the assignments, below:

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.

Written Assignment Instructions:

1. Please type your papers, double-spaced, 12 font.
2. Be sure to refer to all textbooks and reference books in your answers
3. Do not use footnotes when you quote but simply give the author and page number in parentheses after the quote, e.g. (Coogan, 49).
4. Pay attention to page limits; I will stop reading once I've reached the posted limit
5. Essay will be marked down 5 points for each day that it is late (unless you have permission from me for an extension).
6. Please submit your essay via email.
7. Put your name on your submission, either on the top of the first page or in the header.
8. Put your name in the file name of your document. Points off for not following directions.
9. Answer all questions in a single document instead of separate files for each question.
10. I will only accept .doc or .docx file formats.

Prior to July 10, 2023:

On the first day of synchronous instruction (July 10, 2023), email your responses to the following questions to your instructor:

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, 30 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, 30 points)
3. 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. (1 page, 20 points)
4. How do Exodus and Leviticus understand the nature of 'holiness'? (1 page, 20 points)
5. 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. Face-to-Face Class Time (July 10-14, 2023)

By the time we come together face-to-face you will have done all the written work you need to do for the course! Together, we will work on some interpretive methods and read some texts together. We will be using all of the information you've gathered and dive into reading and interpreting texts, together with the aid of art, music, and videos. If you can muster the energy to do really fine work for the month preceding the face-to-face class, we can do a lot of fun and interesting interpretive work together!