NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OLD TESTAMENT FAITH I

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings
BIBL 6120 Three Semester Hours Core Requirement
Spring 2012 Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00-9:20 a.m.
Professor James Bruckner, Ph.D. 773-244-5233 jbruckner@northpark.edu

Welcome to the Course

Welcome to Old Testament I. I look forward to our interaction with the texts of Genesis-Kings. Old Testament I is a graduate-level seminary course on the basic theological literature of the Hebrew Bible (we will use English translations).

This three hour graduate course requires a substantial amount of reading and writing.
Please read the syllabus thoroughly for details. It is your roadmap. You will need access to a good Old Testament library to do your research projects. If you do not have access, you will need at least two (2) Bible Dictionaries, two (2) Introductions to the Bible, and one (1) book for deeper historical background *in addition to your textbooks.* (See recommended list below.)

> The power and passion of the narratives and law we will read are essential parts of the "Scripture" to which 2 Timothy 3:16 refers. You should begin by reading the primary biblical document from Genesis through Kings.

Table of Contents

Required Reading 1
Requirements *in Brief* 2
Course Requirements: *In Detail* 2
Books recommended for further research 3

Course Description
This course surveys the story of the people of God in the first twelve books of the Old Testament known as the Torah and the former prophets. It seeks to provide a beginning knowledge of the over-arching narrative content (events, characters, themes). Attention will be given to historical and cultural background, critical problems, and literary genres as they aid interpretation of specific texts. The goal is to prepare students to appreciate, interpret, and teach from these books in ministries of the Church.

Required Reading

The Holy Bible. Any modern translation. Good advanced student study editions are The New Oxford Annotated Bible and the Harper Collins Study Bible. (Bring a Bible to each class.)

Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005). paperback 9780687066766

Coogan, M.D. editor. *The Oxford History of the Biblical World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001). paperback 0195139372

Provan, Long, and Longman III, *A Biblical History of Israel* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003). paperback 0664220908

Articles on Blackboard: Much of the required reading comes from these articles. Find them online on the North Park BlackBoard site. They will be important for your midterm and final exam preparation.

Highly Recommended

D. N. Freeman editor. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. Please note that the ISBN is 0802824005. Everyone should want this one volume goldmine. It is a reliable

resource that will serve you well for a lifetime. Also valuable for preparation for the midterm and final exams.

If you have not previously studied the Bible at the college level, a basic introduction should also be read in conjunction with lectures. The following text is very useful and accessible: Bandstra, Barry L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1995 (3rd ed., 2003; 4th ed. March, 2008).

Requirements *in Brief*

Completion of weekly reading (about 100 pages/week) and writing assignments (ten short papers), class attendance, participation, mid-term exam, and final exam. This three-semester hour course requires approximately six (6) hours of preparatory work outside of class each week for a minimum total of nine (9) hours per week.

Grading

Writing Assignments 30%; Class attendance/participation 10%; Mid-Term 30%; Final Exam 30%.
Late writing assignments will be marked down by 2% per day.

A	93-100
B	86-92
C	78-85
D	70-77

Course Requirements: *In Detail*

The general guideline is six (6) hours of work outside of class per week for a three (3) credit hour class. Since you can't do your work all in one day, please schedule your work week accordingly.
See the Class Schedule below for the sequence.

1) Reading the assigned weekly biblical texts and textbooks.

Before you attend the lectures, you should read the Bible and the secondary literature assigned as background information. You may not always be able to discern a connection between them but as the course progresses the cumulative effect may become evident. Keep track (simple notes) of the main points of the secondary reading for future reference in exam preparation.

2) Weekly Writing Assignment Instructions (30% of grade).

See Class Schedule below for topics and due dates. Here is the basic information.

Format

Cite all sources. No quotations. See individual assignments for length.

Content

Unless otherwise instructed, your short essays should be informed reflections on the
1) reading, 2) biblical texts, and 3) questions assigned in the "Class Schedule."
For some assignments you will want to consult sources listed under "Recommended reading."
You must cite all sources and texts. If you use Turabian's "in text" format instead of full footnotes or endnotes, you must add a bibliography.

Grading

+	Your essay integrated reading, questions, and reflection exceedingly well (wow).
√+	It integrated reading, questions, and reflection on them (very good).
√	It demonstrated understanding of reading and questions (O.K.).
√-	It lacked some basic understanding of the reading or the questions (oops).
	(2% per day reduction in grade for late papers)

Instructions for Writing a Précis (See Class Schedule for weeks when this may be an option.)

Précis means "a brief summary of essential points" or "a precise abstract".

Format: The précis should be on one page, single spaced, block-style paragraphs, about 500 words. Do not quote more than a phrase or two.
In 3/4ths of the page (3-4 paragraphs) answer these questions:
a. What is the author's interest? What question or problem is she addressing?
b. What is the main point of the author's "answer" to that question.
c. How does the author build her argument? What warrants (proof or logic) does she offer?
d. Briefly summarize the main argument, step by step.

In 1/4th of the page offer your "critique" of the arguments:
a. What's missing?
b. What assumptions do you question?
c. Is the author's "interest" a helpful approach?
d. What did you learn? What questions remain?

Optional writing assignment: You may memorize and recite Deuteronomy 6:3-12 in place of one writing assignment. Please notify me by email when you are ready to recite. This must be done before the last week of regular class.

3) Two Objective Exams: a midterm and a final.

I will give you brief study-guides one week before each exam (see Class Schedule). The guides will give you an idea of what may be included (the guide may not be comprehensive). I will ask you to describe basic concepts, people, and events. Each exam is 30% of your grade.

Books recommended for further research

Introductions to the Old Testament

(Especially useful for students who have not studied the Bible at a college level.)

Alexander, David and Pat. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*, 1999**
Anderson, B. *Understanding the Old Testament*, 1957
Arnold, B.T., and Beyer, B.E. *Encountering the Old Testament*, 1999 (with CD).
Bandstra, B.L. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, 1995**
Boadt, L. *Reading the Old Testament: an Introduction*, 1984
Childs, B. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*, 1979
Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*, 1969
Matthews, V.H., and Moyer, J.C. *The Old Testament: Text and Context*, 1997

General Reference

Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard, R. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993)
LaSor, Hubbard, D. and Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982)
Nyquist, J.F. And Kuhatschek, J. *Leading Bible Discussions*, 2nd edition, Life Guide Bible Studies (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985)
Rasmussen, C.G. *Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989)**
Walton, J.H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994) 0310481619 **

Historical Background

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*, 4th edition, 2000
Dozeman, T. and Schmid, K. eds. *A Farewell to the Yahwist? The Composition of the Pentateuch in Recent European Interpretation*. SBLSS 34. Atlanta: SBL, 2006.
Gottwald, N.K. *The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-Literary Introduction*, 1985
Kee, H.C., et al. *The Cambridge Companion to the Bible*, 1997.
Kuntz, J.K. *The People of Ancient Israel*, 1974

Livingston, G. H. *The Pentateuch in Its Cultural Environment*, 1974
Miller, J.M. and Hayes, J.H. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*, 1986
Schultz, S. *The Old Testament Speaks*, 4th edition, 1990

Dictionary Introductions to Individual Biblical Books
*Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible***
HarperCollins' Bible Dictionary
The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament
Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (IDB) and its Supplement (IDBS)
Anchor Bible Dictionary (ABD, six volumes)

Contemporary Perspectives on the Old Testament
Baker, D.W. and Arnold, B.R. *The Face of Old Testament Studies*
Bach, A. editor. *Women in the Hebrew Bible*
Brown, Michael J. *Blackening of the Bible: Aims of African-American Biblical Scholarship*
Croatto, J.S. *Biblical Hermeneutics: Toward a Theory of Reading as the Production of Meaning*
Felder, C.H. *Stony the Road We Trod***
Fischer, Irmatrude. *Women Who Wrestled with God*
Goldingay, J. *Models for the Interpretation of Scripture*
Holmgren, F. *The God Who Cares: A Christian Looks at Judaism*
Newsom, C.A. & Ringe, S. *The Women's Bible Commentary***
Peters, T. and Hewlett, M. *Evolution from Creation to New Creation: Conflict, Conversation, and Convergence***
Russell, L. ed. *Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*
Sugirtharajah, R.S. ed. *Voices from the Margins*

Literary and Theological Resources
Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*
Berlin, A. *Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative*
Birch, et al. *Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*
Brueggemann, W. *Theology of the Old Testament: testimony, dispute, advocacy*
Childs, B. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*
Dorsey, D.A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: a commentary on Genesis-Malachi***
Douglas, Mary. *Leviticus as Literature*
Eissfeldt, Otto *The Old Testament: an Introduction*
Gerstenberger, E. *Theologies in the Old Testament*
Knierim, R. *The Task of Old Testament Theology: Method and Cases*
Mann, Thomas, W. *The Book of the Torah: The Narrative Identity of the Pentateuch*
Nelson, Richard. *The Historical Books*
Peterson, E.H. *Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work* [Ruth, Songs, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations]
Tate, W. Randolph, *Biblical Interpretation*
G. von Rad, *Old Testament Theology*, 2 vols.

One Volume Commentaries
Adeyemo, Tokunboh, Editor. *Africa Bible Commentary: a One-Volume Commentary Written by 70 African Scholars*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.
Other one-volume commentaries include: *HarperCollins Bible Commentary; Jerome's*; and *Interpreter's*

A valuable resource for all seminary students during seminary years and beyond is the following:
Glynn, John. *Commentary and Reference Survey: a Comprehensive Guide to Biblical the Theological Resources*. 10th edition. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Other Commentaries
Brueggemann, Walter. Genesis: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching. John Knox Press, 1982.
Fretheim, Terence. Exodus. A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.

Miller, Patrick. Deuteronomy: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.
Hess, R. S. Joshua. Intervarsity Press, 1996.
Boling, R. Judges. Doubleday, 1975.
Hubbard, Robert L. Jr. Ruth. Eerdmans, 1994.
Brueggemann, W. First and Second Samuel. Westminster John Knox, 1990.
Provan, Iain. First and Second Kings. Hendrickson, 1996 (more technical).
Fretheim, T. First and Second Kings. Westminster John Knox, 1999 (more theological).

Another excellent commentary resource is the New Interpreters Bible: Genesis-Leviticus (vol. 1). Abingdon Press, 1994 (Fretheim, Brueggemann, and Kaiser) and New Interpreters Bible: Numbers-Samuel (vol. 2). Abingdon Press, 1998 (Dozeman, Clements, Coote, Olson, Farmer, Birch).

Multi-volume commentary series best suited for teaching and preaching in the Church are *The New International Version Application Commentary* (NIVAC) by Zondervan, *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching* (Int.) by John Knox Press, and *The New Interpreters' Bible* (NIB) by Abingdon Press.

Website: www.biblemap.org

**These books are recommended for a pastor's and teacher's library.