

ST. THOMAS SEMINARY . Bloomfield, CT 06002
Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

Course Number: CBS 100

Course Title: Old Testament Foundations: Genesis through Kings

(No Pre-Requisite; offered every year)

Course Description

Students begin this year-long course of study with an intensive six-hour class and a book report on a scholarly monograph covering introductory issues in biblical studies. Throughout the year, students learn the interpretive and exegetical methods of encountering the biblical texts by engaging in a comprehensive study of the Pentateuch (Torah) and the “historical” works of the Old Testament. Students read major portions of the assigned biblical books as well as secondary sources that provide historical, cultural, religious and literary insights into the scriptural texts—including careful study of the most significant geography of biblical lands from the eighteenth century BCE to the sixth century BCE. Students engage the texts by means of weekly written assignments and have opportunities on a weekly basis to place their understanding of the biblical texts in the context of their lived faith experiences by means of reflection and discussion in small groups. In the spring, a second 4- to 6-hour intensive study reflects on a contemporary concern in biblical studies. A comprehensive exam completes each of the three units of study in this course.

Instructors

Instructors vary by location.

Students should request the instructor’s contact information during Week One.

Faculty Chair

BJ Daly Horell, Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis: 860-242-5573 ext. 2679 or catholic.biblical.school@aoht.org. (Email preferred)

Credits

4.5

Cancellations

Go to <http://www.stsregistrar.org/cgi-bin/CBS/cbsstudentlogin.pl>

Your password is your student ID. If you do not have access to a computer, a voice message will be provided at 860-242-5573 ext. 2670.

Required Texts

A Study Bible. Recommended translations: New American Bible Revised Edition (2011), New Jerusalem Bible, New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha, Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha. Consult with BJ to discuss Non-English translations.

Paraphrased and/or condensed Bibles are not an acceptable primary text for use in this program.

The Catholic Biblical School Student Workbook Year 1: Old Testament Foundations, Genesis Through Kings, (Paulist Press, 2007) (ISBN 978-0-8091-9584-8)

Eerdman's Dictionary of the Bible, David Noel Freedman, ed. (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Ltd., 2000) (ISBN 978-0-8028-2400-4)

Oxford Bible Atlas, Fourth Edition, Adrian Curtis, ed. (Oxford University Press) (ISBN 9-780199-56046-2) (Any similar atlas or online map that provides the information required in the student workbook is permissible.)

Reading the Old Testament, Lawrence Boadt, Revised and Updated by Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington, (Paulist Press, 2012) (ISBN 978-0-8091-4780-9)

Introduction to the Bible: A Catholic Guide to Studying Scripture, Stephen J. Binz (Liturgical Press, 2007) (ISBN 978-0-8146-1700-7)

"Genesis," Collegeville Bible Commentary Old Testament #2, Pauline Viviano (Liturgical Press, 1985) (ISBN 0-8146-1370-5) OR "Genesis," New Collegeville Bible Commentary: Old Testament, by Joan E. Cook (May 2, 2011).

Course Objectives

By the completion of this year long course, students should be able to

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the contents and message of the Biblical books of Genesis through Second Kings.
2. Describe and explain the theological and historical importance of core stories of Israel's faith in the books of Genesis through Second Kings.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the historical development of Israel's religion, from ca. 1800 BCE through 600 BCE.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the sources of the Pentateuch and the theological and historical purposes that underlie the authorship and evolution of the Pentateuch.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of the Pentateuch for contemporary faith.
6. Explore differences and similarities between the ancient faith of Israel and Catholic faith today.
7. Facilitate small-group discussion of theological, literary, and historical issues raised by the texts studied.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance** at two six-hour lecture and reflection programs (Scripture Days).
2. **Attendance** at a minimum of 8 out of 10 class meetings per unit
3. **Written Assignment** on *Introduction to the Bible* by Stephen J. Binz, due at the Opening Scripture Day in September.
4. **Unit Exams** scheduled on the final class meeting in each unit
5. **Readings** from the Bible and secondary sources
6. **Weekly Homework:** One- to three-page responses to exegetical and interpretive questions, due at the beginning of class each week, except when unit exams are scheduled.

7. **Integral Challenges:** Students must complete 1-5 additional papers (2-3 pages each in length, typewritten and double-spaced) or suitable project choosing (with advance authorization of the instructor) from among the “optional challenges” provided in the student workbook. These Integral Challenges explore questions of literary criticism, theological hermeneutics, and the social-historical contexts of biblical texts. (To be eligible for an “A” grade in the course, students must satisfactorily complete 5 integral challenges; to be eligible for a “B” grade, students must satisfactorily complete 3 integral challenges; to be eligible for a “C” grade, students must complete satisfactorily 1 integral challenge. All integral challenges will be graded A, B, C, D, or F. Completion of 5 integral challenges does *not* guarantee an “A” grade on either the integral challenge portion of the course requirements or for the course itself.)

Integral Challenge Due Dates:

- 1) Fifth Week of Class: Submit to instructor your plan for the IC projects you intend to complete
- 2) First Class Meeting After Thanksgiving Break: First IC project due
- 3) First Class Meeting After Christmas Break: Second IC project due
- 4) First Class Meeting After February Break: Third IC project due
- 5) First Class Meeting After Holy Week Break: Fourth IC project due
- 6) Final Class Meeting in May: Final IC project due

8. **Active Participation** in weekly discussion groups and lectures

Recommended Assignments

Geography, vocabulary and memory verses as detailed in student workbook lessons (not turned in to instructor, but material *will* be tested on Unit Exams)

Course Assessment

Course Requirement	Expectation	Weight
Class Participation	Participation in weekly, small-group discussions; active engagement in full-class presentations and semi-annual Scripture Days	15%
Summer Reading Paper	Two to three double-spaced pages on Summer Reading Assignment: graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	15%
Integral Challenge Papers	Two to three double-spaced pages on student’s choice (with instructor approval in advance) of “Optional Challenges” listed in Student Workbook: graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	20%
Written Homework Papers	Weekly homework papers: graded as a whole on a per-unit basis. All homework must be <i>complete</i> to receive course credit.	20%
Unit Exams (3)	Graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	30% (Each exam is 10% of final grade)

Letter Grade	Description	Value	Numerical Points
A	Excellent	4.00	93 - 100
A-		3.67	90 - 92
B+	Good	3.33	87 - 89
B		3.00	83 - 86
B-		2.67	80 - 82
C+		2.33	77 - 79
C	Low Average	2.00	73 - 76
C-		1.67	70 - 72
D+		1.33	67 - 69
D		1.00	63 - 66
D-		0.67	60 - 62
F	Failure	0.00	Below 60
I	Incomplete	0.00	0.00
W	Withdrawal	0.00	0.00

Certificate Eligibility

To be eligible for the St. Thomas Seminary Certificate in Biblical Studies, the student must pass each course with a grade of "C" or better.

Late Assignments

With the permission of the instructor, late assignments can be turned in with no penalty through the last day of each unit,

Make-up Policy

Missed requirements and absences can be made up *only* by permission of the Chair of the Certificate in Biblical Studies.

Course Schedule

Unit One

Class Discussion: Class discussion will center on the following issues and theological themes: Sources of the Pentateuch; Concept of the People of God; Covenant and Torah; Significance of the Desert.

Week One	Assignment	Exodus 1-6; Eerdmans' Dictionary of the Bible (EDB) articles: "Exodus, Book of" and "Hyksos"
Week Two	Assignment:	Exodus 7:1-13:16; EDB articles: "Plagues" and "Passover, Feast of"; Boadt (revised version), pages 1-14; Student Workbook Supplementary Reading (SWSR) #2 "Passover: Jewish Roots of the Eucharist"
Week Three	Assignment:	Exodus 13:17-15:27; EDB articles: "Exodus" (before the article on "Exodus, Book of") and "Miriam"; Boadt, pages 127-142; SWSR #3 "Deliverance at the Sea"
Week Four	Assignment:	Exodus 16-18; EDB articles: "Desert" and "Manna"; SWSR # 4 "The Desert: A Roundabout Way"
Week Five	Assignment:	Exodus 19-24; EDB articles: "Sinai," "Covenant," and

“Torah”

- Week Six** Assignment: Exodus 25-31, 40; EDB articles: “Ark of the Covenant,” “Tabernacle,” and “Mount(ain) of God”; SWSR #5 “Sources of the Pentateuch”
- Week Seven** Assignment: Exodus 31-34; EDB articles: “Joshua,” “Moses,” and “Jesus”; Boadt, pages 144-157
- Week Eight** Assignment: Leviticus 12-14, 16-19, 23; EDB articles: Atonement, Day of,” “Leviticus, Book of,” and “Tabernacles, Feast of”; Boadt, pages 158-162
- Week Nine** Assignment: Numbers 6, 9-14, 16-17, 20-24; EDB articles: “Numbers, Book of,” “Balaam,” “Nazirite,” and “Kadesh-barnea”; SWSR # 7 “The Genesis of Liberation: Moses Bound and Unbound”
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam

Unit Two

Class Discussion: Class discussion in Unit Two will center on the following issues and theological themes: Form Criticism; The Fertile Crescent in the Ancient Near East; Concept of the “Promised Land”; Creation Myths and their Significance in the Bible; Sin

- Week One** Assignment: Deuteronomy 1, 4-11; EDB articles: “The Shema” and “Deuteronomy, Book of”; Boadt, pp. 62, 301-312
- Week Two** Assignment: Deuteronomy 29-34
- Week Three** Assignment: Genesis 1-2; Colledgeville Commentary on Genesis 1-2; EDB articles: “Myth,” “Creation,” “Genesis, Book of,” and “Eden”; Boadt, pages 86-94; SWSR # 8 “Creation Myths from Other Cultures”
- Week Four** Assignment: Genesis 3-5; Colledgeville Commentary on Genesis 3-5; Boadt, pages 94 (bottom) - 99; SWSR # 9 “Fundamentalist Interpretation,” and SWSR # 10 “Selections from *Dei Verbum*”
- Week Five** Assignment: Genesis 6:1-11:26; Colledgeville Commentary on Genesis 6-11; EDB articles: “Canaanites” and “Gilgamesh, Epic of”; Boadt, pages 99-106; SWSR # 11 “Two Great Flood Stories in Genesis”
- Week Six** Assignment: Genesis 11:27-17:27; Colledgeville Commentary on Genesis 11:27-17:27; EDB articles: “Abraham” and “Sarah”

- Week Seven** Assignment: Genesis 18-23; Boadt, pages 108-126; Collegeville Commentary on Genesis 18-23; SWSR # 13 “On Burying Our Isaacs”
- Week Eight** Assignment: Genesis 24-35; Boadt, pages 69-85; Collegeville Commentary on Genesis 24-35
- Week Nine** Assignment: Genesis 37-50; EDB article: “Dreams”; Boadt, pages 51-67; Collegeville Commentary on Genesis 37-50
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam

Unit Three

Class Discussion: Class discussion in Unit Three will center on the following issues and theological themes: the Geography of Palestine; Canaanite Religion; Biblical Chronology; Biblical Archeology; Charismatic Leadership; the Monarchy; Prophecy in Israel and the Ancient Near East.

- Week One** Assignment: “Joshua 1-6, 23, 24”; EDB article: “Joshua, Book of”; SWSR # 14 “The Early Prophets and Deuteronomistic History”
- Week Two** Assignment: Judges 4-8; 11, 13-16; EDB article: “Judges, Book of”; Boadt, pages 164-180; SWSR # 15 “Violence on Joshua and Judges”
- Week Three** Assignment: 1 Samuel 1-15; EDB article: “Samuel, Books of”; Boadt, pages 194-209
- Week Four** Assignment: 1 Samuel 16-31; 2 Samuel 1; EDB article: “Archaeology and the Bible”; Boadt, pages 35-50
- Week Five** Assignment: 2 Samuel 2-12; “David, City of”; Boadt, pages 211-229
- Week Six** Assignment: 2 Samuel 13-20; 1 Kings 1-3; EDB articles: “Kings, Books of,” “Dan,” and “Beer-sheba”
- Week Seven** Assignment: 1 Kings 8-12; 17-21; 2 Kings 1-2; EDB article: “The Temple”; Boadt, pages 181-193; SWSR # 17 “Elijah’s Ineffable Experience”
- Week Eight** Assignment: 2 Kings 3-13; EDB article: “Prophecy”; Boadt, pages 254-269
- Week Nine** Assignment: 2 Kings 17-25; EDB articles: “Exile” and “Samaritans”; Boadt, pages 328-333
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam