

ST. THOMAS SEMINARY . Bloomfield, CT 06002
OFFICE OF EDUCATION, EVANGELIZATION and CATECHESIS

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

Course Number: CBS 400

Course Title: Old and New Testaments Concluded: The Word in the Hellenistic World (*Prerequisites: CBS 100, 200*)

Course Description:

This year-long course of study builds upon and develops students' understanding and use of the interpretive and exegetical methods of encountering the biblical texts learned in CBS 100 and 200 by engaging in comprehensive studies of biblical texts dating from the Hellenistic period. Beginning with an intensive six-hour study and a book report on a scholarly monograph related to course content, students advance their ability to use the tools of biblical criticism and apply them to both Old and New Testament texts (most notably the OT Wisdom Literature, Hellenistic "Writings," and the Gospel of Matthew). Students read major portions of the assigned biblical books as well as significant secondary sources that provide historical, cultural, religious, and literary insights into the primary texts—including careful study of the geography of biblical lands from the sixth century BCE through the second century CE. 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, students engage in a four-hour intensive study on a biblical topic of contemporary interest. 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, 203-880-4807 or catholic.biblical.school@aohct.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 (look for copyright 2011 or later), New Jerusalem Bible, New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha, Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha, New International Version with Apocrypha. Paraphrased and/or condensed Bibles are not an acceptable text for use in this program.

The Catholic Biblical School Student Workbook Year Four: Old and New Testaments Concluded: The Word in the Hellenistic World (Paulist Press, 2010) (ISBN 978-0-8091-9590-9) (*to be purchased from the CBS office*)

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

"Ezekiel, Daniel," Collegeville Bible Commentary Old Testament #16, Toni Craven (Liturgical Press, 1986) (ISBN 978-0-8146-1423-5)

Hammond's Atlas of Bible Lands, H.T. Frank, ed. (Hammond World Atlas Corp., 2007) (ISBN 9780843709834) **OR** *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.)

The Word of God at Vatican II: Exploring Dei Verbum, Ronald D. Witherup, (Liturgical Press, 2015) (ISBN 978-0-8146-3556-8) **This text is your summer reading assignment. A writing assignment based on this text is due at your Opening Scripture Day.

An Introduction to the New Testament for Catholics, Joseph F. Kelly (Liturgical Press, 2006) (ISBN 9780814652169)

Reading the Old Testament, Lawrence Boadt (Paulist Press, 1984) (ISBN 978-0-8091-2631-6) **OR** *Reading the Old Testament, Revised and Updated by Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington*, (Paulist Press, 2012) (ISBN 978-0-8091-4780-9)

Synopsis of the Four Gospels, revised edition, K. Aland, ed., (American Bible Society) (ISBN 978-1585169429)

Companion God, revised edition, George T. Montague (Paulist Press, 2010) (ISBN 978-0-8091-4501-0)

Course Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate familiarity with Old Testament Wisdom literature as a genre and in relationship to the historical, social, and political developments in the ancient near east in the second and first millennia BCE.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with apocalypse as a literary genre that developed in the intertestamental period in response to specific political, social, and historical situations.
3. Describe Old Testament Wisdom literature within the context of the Biblical books of Proverbs, Habakkuk, Job, Ecclesiastes, Sirach, and Wisdom. Describe the content and context of the Old Testament post-exilic writings of Jonah, Esther, Tobit, Baruch, Zechariah 9-14, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, Judith, and Daniel.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the Hellenistic culture and religion beginning with Alexander the Great and continuing into the Roman Empire, identifying significant ways Hellenism influenced Diaspora Judaism in the post-exilic period, in the life and ministry of Jesus and of his followers in early Christianity.
5. Demonstrate familiarity with the development of the sacred canon; identify languages and translations which underlie current English language versions.
6. Distinguish among protocanonical, deuterocanonical, and apocryphal works within and related to the Bible, as variously understood by Christian denominations and the Jewish community.

7. Demonstrate knowledge of the content, genre, and the historical, social, and political context of the gospel of Matthew and the pastoral and catholic letters.
8. Develop an overall understanding of the chronology, geography, history, and social-cultural environment of Christianity in the first century CE.

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance** at two day-long “Scripture Days,” presented by guest lecturers (leading scripture scholars) (Fall and Spring)
2. **Attendance** at 8 out of 10 class meetings per unit
3. **Written Assignment** on a contemporary scholarly monograph related to course content due at the Opening Scripture Day in August or 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 a series of 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) 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 Spring (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 students 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, with a cumulative homework grade (A through F) assigned at the end of each unit. 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%

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

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

Late Assignments

Can be turned in with no penalty through the last day of each unit, with the permission of the instructor

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 discussions in Unit One will center on the following issues and theological themes: The distinctive sources, literary forms, and theological themes of Israel's wisdom traditions; the historical and social situation in which Israel's wisdom literature developed; How to apply the messages of Israel's wisdom literature to our present social, political, and religious situations. The problem of suffering and the justice of God will be a major discussion theme throughout the unit.

- Week One** Assignment: Boadt, pages 472-79; EDB article: "Wisdom, Wisdom Literature"; Student Workbook Supplementary Reading (SWSR) #1 "The Historical Background for the Wisdom Writings: An Overview"
- Week Two** Assignment: Proverbs 1-9; Boadt, pages 479-81; EDB article: "Proverb"; SWSR #2 "Wisdom in Israel: Overview-Proverbs"
- Week Three** Assignment: Proverbs 10, 16, 22-24, 28, 30-31; EDB article: "Proverbs, Book of"; SWSR #3 "Selections from the Instruction of Amen-em-Opet"
- Week Four** Assignment: Habakkuk; Job 1-14; 42:17; Boadt, pages 481-83; EDB articles: "Habakkuk, Book of," "Retribution," "Satan," and "Uz (place)"; SWSR #2 "Wisdom in Israel: Overview-Habakkuk, Job"
- Week Five** Assignment: Job 19; 28-32; 36:22-42:17; EDB articles: "Behemoth," "Job, Book of," "Leviathan," and "Sheol"
- Week Six** Assignment: Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth); Boadt, pages 483-85; EDB articles: "Ecclesiastes, Book of," "Megilloth," Qoheleth," and "Vanity"; SWSR #2 "Wisdom in Israel: Overview-Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth)"
- Week Seven** Assignment: Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 1-4, 14-18, 20-23; Boadt, pages 486-87; EDB article: "Apocrypha"; SWSR #2 "Wisdom in Israel: Overview-Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)," SWSR #5 "Why Do Christians Have Different Bibles?"
- Week Eight** Assignment: Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 24-26, 30, 34, 38-39, 42-51; Boadt, pages 492-97; EDB articles: "Hellenism," and "Sirach, Wisdom of Jesus the Son of"
- Week Nine** Assignment: Book of Wisdom (Wisdom of Solomon); Boadt, pages 488-91; EDB articles: "Soul" and "Wisdom of Solomon"; SWSR #2 "Wisdom in Israel: Overview-Book of Wisdom"
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam

Unit Two

Class Discussion	Weekly class discussions will center on the following issues and theological themes: Hellenism; historical and contemporary concepts of life after death; martyrdom; the impact of Hellenistic culture and religion on Diaspora Judaism; didactic fiction and apocalypse as literary forms; the biblical canon and the deuterocanonical books; the Jewish feasts of Purim and Hanukkah; and the theology and praxis of spiritual discernment.
Week One	Assignment: The Book of Jonah; Boadt, pages 466-71; EDB article: "Jonah, Book of"; SWSR #6 "Truth and Its Many Expressions"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-Jonah"
Week Two	Assignment: The Book of Esther; Boadt, pages 497-99; EDB articles: "Esther, Book of," "Esther, Additions to," "Purim," and "Persia"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-Esther"
Week Three	Assignment: The Book of Tobit; Boadt, pages 501-2; EDB articles: "Angel," "Blindness," "Burial," "Raphael," and "Tobit, Book of"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-Tobit"
Week Four	Assignment: The Book of Baruch; Boadt, pages 502-3; EDB articles: "Baruch, Book of," and "Chaldea"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-Baruch"
Week Five	Assignment: 1 Maccabees 1-9; Boadt, pp. 503-6; EDB articles: "Alexander, #1," "Antiochus," "Hasmonean," "Maccabees," "Maccabees, First and Second Books of, 'Historical Background,' '1Maccabees,'" "Ptolemy," and "Seleucid"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-1 Maccabees," SWSR #9 "Who's Who in Maccabees"
Week Six	Assignment: 2 Maccabees 1-7, 9-10, 12:38-46, 15; EDB articles: "Dedication, Feast of," "Maccabees, First and Second Books of, '2 Maccabees,'" "Midrash," and "Resurrection, 'Intertestamental Literature'"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-2 Maccabees"
Week Seven	Assignment: The Book of Judith; Boadt, pages 499-500; EDB article: "Judith, Book of"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-Judith"
Week Eight	Assignment: Daniel 1-6, 13-14; Boadt, pages 506-15; Daniel (Collegeville Bible Commentary) commentary on chapters 1-6, 13-14; EDB articles: "Daniel, #4," "Daniel, Additions to," and "Daniel, Book of"; SWSR #7 "Judaism in the Hellenistic World: Overview-Daniel"
Week Nine	Assignment: Daniel 7-12; Daniel (Collegeville Bible Commentary), commentary on chapters 7-12; EDB articles: "Gabriel" and "Michael, #11"
Week Ten	Assignment: Unit Exam

Unit Three

Class Discussion

Weekly class discussions will center on the following issues and theological themes: The chronology, geography, history, social, and cultural environment of Christianity in the last third of the first century; the Christian message as proclaimed in Matthew's gospel and in the pastoral and catholic letters of the New Testament; the methods and skills of historical and literary criticism, in particular redaction criticism of the gospel of Matthew; the application of the gospel of Matthew to our present historical, political, social, and religious situations

Week One	Assignment: Matthew 1-4; Montague, pages 1-47; EDB articles: "Matthew, Gospel according to" and "Genealogy"; SWSR #11 "The Three Stages of the Composition of the Gospels (Vatican II)," SWSR #12 "The Synoptic Gospels and Their Sources," SWSR #13 "Material Usually Allotted to Q," SWSR #14 "M Passages," SWSR #15 "The Gospel of Matthew: Overview"
Week Two	Assignment: Matthew 5-7; Montague, pages 47-106; EDB articles: "Beatitudes" and "Sermon on the Mount/Plain"
Week Three	Assignment: Matthew 8-10; Montague, pages 107-34; EDB articles: "Apostle" and "Disciple"
Week Four	Assignment: Matthew 11-17; Montague, pages 135-94; EDB articles: "Peter" and "Transfiguration"
Week Five	Assignment: Matthew 18-23; Montague, pages 195-260; EDB articles: "Church" and "Binding and Loosing"
Week Six	Assignment: Matthew 24-28; Montague, pages 287-364; SWSR #18 "Four Ways to Follow Jesus," SWSR #19 " <i>Nostra Aetate Paragraph 4</i> ," SWSR #20 "The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible"
Week Seven	Assignment: 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, James; Kelly, pages 212-24; EDB articles: "Bishop," "Deacon, Deaconess," "Elder," "Presbyter, Presbytery," and "Widow"; SWSR #21 "New Testament Writings: Overview-1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, James"
Week Eight	Assignment: 1 and 2 Peter, Jude; Kelly, pages 224-31, 260-62; SWSR #21 "New Testament Writings: Overview-1 and 2 Peter, Jude"
Week Nine	Assignment: Hebrews; Kelly, pages 232-38; EDB articles: "Hebrews, Epistle to the," "Melchizedek," and "Typology"; SWSR #21 "New Testament Writings: Overview-Hebrews"
Week Ten	Assignment: Unit Exam and Course Evaluation