

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at *The University of Western Ontario***  
**Fall 2016**

**BIBLSTUD 5501**  
**The Bible in the Life of the Church**  
**Wednesdays 9:30-12:30 pm**  
**AH2**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2 pm, or at a student's request by appointment.

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of selected texts as models for the intersection between exegesis and actualization of biblical texts in ministry. Possible texts will include the Psalms, selections from Old Testament wisdom literature, and the Letter to the Hebrews. The course will explore methods and strategies for exegetically informed application of biblical texts in the life of the Church. (*3 hours per week; antirequisite: BIBLSTUD 5404 Applied Biblical Theology*)

**B. GOALS**

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge

- An understanding of the genre, general historical background, key literary forms, theological emphases and symbolism of the books presented
- A familiarity with, and understanding of, the contents of the Pontifical Biblical Commission's document *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

Skills

- The ability to discuss the nature, contents, and specific character of the books studied in class
- The ability to explain clearly and concisely how a particular Biblical book presents a major theme, and how to relate this theme to the rest of Scripture, to provide an accurate and "holistic" presentation of the message of the Bible concerning a particular topic (e.g. covenant, Law, mercy, marriage, etc.)

Attitudes

- An active participation in class discussions, a willingness to ask questions and to contribute one's own learning and insights.
- A deepened awareness of the fundamental continuity and compatibility of the Old and New Testaments;

- A desire to learn more about Scripture, and to present the knowledge acquired in relevant and pastorally-useful ways; a “pastoral sense” for the importance of the bible.
- An acknowledgement of the foundational importance of historical-critical study for Catholic Biblical interpretation, but also an awareness of its limitations and presuppositions vis-à-vis Christian faith
- An awareness of the value of Biblical theology as a complementary form of Biblical study, and of its usefulness, both in pastoral settings (e.g. Bible study groups) and in preaching and teaching the Scriptures;
- A deep sense of the importance of the Church community as the natural home of the Bible, and as the major place in which it is meant to be interpreted.

### C. ASSESSMENT

**1. Participation and Attendance (10%):** The following comprise your participation and attendance grade:

**a. Attendance:** Weekly attendance is mandatory. Seminarians must provide a valid excuse for all absences (e.g., significant illness).

**b. Participation:** Preparation for, and active and informed participation in class discussion is a major aspect of this component of your grade. Since students interact with material in different ways, various kinds of participation will be noted towards your grade. For example, listening attentively, asking questions (even by email), and making comments are all good ways to demonstrate that you are thinking critically about the material. Participation marks are lost when it is clear that a student has not done the readings, and, though perhaps physically present, is not engaged with the material or class discussion. Participation marks are also lost when a student engages in disruptive or distracting behaviours (e.g. multiple interruptions, derailing the flow of discussion, ‘hijacking’ other students’ comments, etc.)

Please note: Texting and all other forms of social networking are not appropriate during class time as they are distracting to the student, the instructor, and fellow classmates. Students who engage in these forms of socializing during class will be marked as absent.

**2. Conversation Starter (15%)**

**a.** Students will be asked to take turns opening the conversation for the day. This will involve tabling any significant points of interest, interconnections, difficulties, or curiosities you wish to highlight for the group’s consideration, based on your readings. This should take no more than 5-10 mins. No research beyond the assigned readings is required.

**3. Application Papers: 3 papers, 25% each.**

- a. *Psalms*: Due in class Wednesday, October 18, 2017
- b. *Wisdom Literature*: Due in class Wednesday, November 15, 2017
- c. *Hebrews*: Due at the front office, Friday, Dec. 8, 2017, 4pm.

**D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS**

Students are required to have the following resources, which are available at the UWO Bookstore. Amazon.ca and bookdepository.com are also reliable for ordering textbooks:

1. A reliable study bible. Some good editions are:
  - a. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha.*, Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2010.
  - b. *The HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV)*, HarperOne, 2006
  - c. *The Catholic Study Bible (NABRE)*, Oxford University Press, 2016.
2. Brueggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1984.
3. Ceresko, Anthony R. *Introduction to Old Testament Wisdom: A Spirituality for Liberation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999.
4. Healy, Mary. *Hebrews*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.
5. Nowell, Irene. *Pleading, Cursing, Praising: Conversing with God through the Psalms*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2013.
6. Throughout the semester the instructor will distribute or assign additional resources via OWL/SAKAI. Please ensure your UWO email address is active and able to receive messages (i.e. not full!), since OWL/SAKAI sends notices to UWO addresses only.

**Email Policy**

I am always happy to respond to students via email (in fact it is probably the easiest way to contact me). A few things to keep in mind when emailing:

- Please use your “@uwo.ca” email address. Email providers like Gmail, Hotmail, etc tend to go to the spam filter and I may not see them.
- During the regular work week (Mon-Fri), I try to respond to emails within 24 hrs, however, there may be times when I am delayed. Thank you for your understanding.

**E. SCHEDULE, TOPICS & READINGS**

*\*A complete schedule of readings will be distributed on the first day of class*

**F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.”

**Students are responsible** for knowing the University’s academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

**Submission of Assignments:** It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

**Selection and Registration of Courses:** Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

**Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

**Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Services for Students with Disabilities at King's is available at**

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

**For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically:**

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

**The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is**

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/academic-support/>

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.