

Section 570**Tuesdays 7pm-10pm****St. Peter's Seminary****Room 108****Instructor: Prof. Andrea Di Giovanni****Email: adigiov2@uwo.ca****Office hours: 6pm – 7pm Tuesdays (immediately before class) or by appointment.****A. Course Description**

This course deals with introductory issues such as the history and environment of the Scriptures, the different types of biblical literature, the scientific methods of exploring the Scriptures and the development of new methods of scriptural interpretation. (*3 hours per week; antirequisite: the former Biblical Studies 136b*)

B. Goals and Objectives**Knowledge**

1. To introduce students to the notion of Revelation or the Word of God
2. To introduce students to the official teaching of the Catholic Church on Revelation and Scripture through a study of selected magisterial documents.
3. To introduce students to the main (critical) methods, tools, and resources for the study of Scripture
4. To introduce students to the main themes and genres literature found in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
5. To introduce students to the geographical, historical and cultural backgrounds of the Scriptures.
6. To promote an awareness of the Old Testament as the living Word of God for both Jews and Christians and explore how an understanding of both traditions can illuminate meaning for each other.
7. To explore the meaning of the Resurrection as the basis of the New Testament
8. To grow in love of Scripture!

Skills

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and use the important tools and resources for the study of Scripture.
2. Research a passage of scripture using the abovementioned tools and resources in order to come to an understanding of the historical context of the passage.
3. To present written work in a coherent and thoughtful manner, following standard citation formats for referencing material.
4. To translate exegetical material into a format accessible to the average lay parishioner in a ministry setting.

Attitudes

1. A love for the Sacred Scriptures as interpreted in the life and mission of the Church.
2. A willingness to explore new meanings within the Old and New Testaments by approaching scripture exegetically.
3. A respect for, and understanding of, the work of exegetes and other biblical scholars.
4. A desire to make appropriate use of Scripture and contemporary scholarship in the service of evangelization.

C. Assessment

1. **Participation and Attendance, 10%:** Weekly attendance is mandatory. Preparation for, and active and informed participation in, class discussion is also 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.

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 are observed to be engaged in these past-times during class will lose participation marks commensurately.

2. **Critical Reading Responses, 40%:** Students will submit four (4) critical reading responses on the dates indicated on the schedule below. These are written responses of no more than 3 pages each. Students will select a reading or a passage of scripture that was covered in the previous class meeting to reflect upon in more depth. Each critical reading response will have three parts: 1. A brief outline of the contents of the passage; 2. An examination of the passage using *at least* one scholarly resource and proper bibliographic citations as required; 3. A brief reflection on the selected passage as it relates to contemporary concerns.

There will be five opportunities to hand in your CRRs, but you will only submit four (therefore you have some leeway with respect to when you choose to submit). However, once you have submitted four you may not submit a fifth in order to adjust your grade.

CRRs are due at the beginning of our class meeting (7pm) in hardcopy only. Please do not submit your CRR by email. Because of their connection to the class material CRRs may not be submitted late.

3. **Sunday Lectionary Analysis, 20%:** Students will choose from the Sunday readings from Ordinary Time in Year A and submit a structured written response of no more than 6 pages. Your analysis will consist of two parts: 1) A brief outline and discussion of the readings that demonstrates an engagement with reliable secondary sources, and 2) A description of how you would present this material to a pastoral group of your choice (i.e., congregants at mass, a children's program, a parish study group). That is, what is desired is not the text of your homily or presentation, but rather a description of *how* you would distill the exegetical, scholarly, information into something your audience could understand and learn from. What strategies will you use? What materials might you employ?

More guidance for this assignment will be provided in class.

The Sunday Lectionary Analysis is due in class at the last class meeting, **Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013.**

4. **Final Exam, 30%:** A final written examination on a choice of questions given to the students in advance. The examination will be held during the examination period after the end of classes and will be due on the date set by the Dean of Theology.

D. Readings or Textbooks

Students are required to have the following books:

1. A good contemporary English translation of the Bible that includes the Deuterocanonical texts (also known as the Apocrypha). The preferred translation is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), since it is used in the liturgy, but other good translations are the New Jerusalem Bible or the New American Bible.

Two excellent editions of the NRSV are:

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha. Fully Revised Fourth Edition, Michael D. Coogan, editor (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

The HarperCollins Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books. Student Edition, Harold W. Attridge, editor. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.

2. Brown, Raymond E., Roland E. Murphy and Joseph A. Fitzmyer. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary.* Study Hardback. ISBN 978-2-89646-373-2. This will be referred to below as *NJBC*

3. Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., *How Do Catholics Read the Bible?* New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2005.
4. Copies of the following documents:
 - a. *Spiritus Paraclitus (SP)* (1920)
 - b. *Divino Afflante Spiritu (DAS)* (1943)
 - c. *Dei Verbum (DV)* (1965)
 - d. *The Interpretation of the Bible In the Church (IBC)*, Pontifical Biblical Commission, April 23, 1993.

These documents can be accessed from the following sites: www.vatican.va and (in the case of *IBC*) www.catholic-resources.org. Links will be provided via the course SAKAI site. These documents are also available in: Martin Connell and David A. Lysik, editors. *The Bible Documents: A Parish Resource*. Liturgy Training Publications: Chicago: 2001. ISBN 1-56854-249-6.

5. Important online resources are the ATLA database and Oxford Biblical Studies Online (OBSO). Both are available via your library card login information. Assistance with accessing these resources will be provided.
6. The instructor throughout the semester will distribute or assign additional resources via SAKAI.

E. Schedule of Topics and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings	Due Dates
Sept. 10	Introductory remarks; "The Word of God in Human Language": What is Scripture? Why Study the Bible? Historical overview of the OT and NT. Overview of the Contents of the OT and NT	Harrington: chapter 1	
Sept. 17	Understanding Scripture in the Roman Catholic Tradition Biblical Truth: Is it true? Did it happen? Understanding Revelation and Inspiration	Harrington: chapters 2-3 <i>Divino Afflante Spiritu</i> <i>Dei Verbum</i>	

		For reference only: <i>NJBC</i> 1023-1033	
Sept. 24	How do Catholics Read the Bible? Interpreting and Understanding the Bible: The importance of biblical criticism Whose Bible? The Process of Canonization Which Bible? The variety of biblical translations available today.	Harrington: chapter 4 <i>Interpretation of the Bible in the Life of the Church</i> For reference: <i>NJBC</i> 1034-1054	<i>CRR due</i>
Oct. 1	Introducing the Old Testament: Historical overview and Geography; The Chosen People of God:, Election, Exodus, Covenant, Community, and Law.	Harrington: chapter 5 <i>NJBC</i> , pp 1285-1315 Exodus 3	
Oct. 8	Nation Building: Kings and Prophets Telling The Story: The Documentary Hyp. Exile & Return: Monotheism, Group Identity, Prayer	Genesis 1-2 Psalm 137 Isaiah 44-45 Ezekiel 1; 10:18-22; 43-44:8 Jer 31-32 Ezra 4-6, 9-10	
Oct. 15	Apocalyptic Literature: Waiting, hope, and persecution	Daniel 7 2 Macc 7	<i>CRR Due</i>

	Wisdom Writings: The problem of evil and suffering	Job 1-3; 38; 42 Ecclesiastes 8 Proverbs 7-9	
Oct. 22	Jerusalem at the Time of Jesus The Historical Jesus and the work of the "Jesus Seminar"	Article: John P. Meier, "Dividing Lines in Jesus Research Today" (SAKAI)	
Oct. 29	Introducing the New Testament: History and Geography The Genres of NT literature Development of the NT Canon	Harrington: chapter 6	<i>CRR Due</i>
Nov. 5	Introduction to the Gospels: What is a Gospel? The Synoptic Problem Mark Matthew Luke	Introduction to the Gospels (from OBSO, link on SAKAI) <i>NJBC</i> : 587-595 Mark 1, 15-16 Matt 1-4, 27-28 Luke 1-4, 23-24	
Nov. 12	The Gospel of John: Beauty and Challenge.	John 1-4 John 10 John 18-20 Article: R. Alan Culpepper, "Anti-Judaism in the Fourth Gospel as a Theological Problem for Christian Interpretation". (SAKAI)	
Nov. 19	The Pauline Corpus: Paul's impact on Christianity	Thessalonians 4 1 Corinthians 7 Galatians 3 Romans 9-11 Philippians 2	<i>CRR Due</i>
Nov. 26	The Bible in Roman Catholic Liturgical life: The use of		<i>CRR Due</i>

	scripture in the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. The Bible in Art and Music		
Dec. 3	Catholic Interpretation and Use of Scripture: Interreligious concerns Jewish Biblical Interpretation: What can we learn and share? Course Wrap-Up and Final Review	Harrington: chapters 7-8 & the Conclusion Excerpts from the PBC's "The Jewish People and their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible" (SAKAI)	<i>Sunday Lectionary Analysis Due</i>

F. University Regulations

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. These can all be found at the University's website (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>). 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.

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.

G. Bibliography

Papal and Magisterial Documents on Biblical Studies

Béchar, Dean P., ed. *The Scripture Documents: An Anthology of Official Catholic Teachings*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2002.

Benedict XVI, Pope. *Verbum Domini: The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation. Ottawa: CCCB Publications Service, 2010.

Lysik, David A. ed. *The Bible Documents: A Parish Resource with Commentary and Index*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2001.

Catholic Approaches to Biblical Studies

Bergant, Dianne. *Scripture: History and Interpretation*. Engaging Theology: Catholic Perspectives. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2008

Brettler, Marc Zvi, Peter Enns and Daniel J. Harrington. *The Bible and the Believer: How to Read the Bible Critically and Religiously*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. (NB. This text presents Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant perspectives on the bible and is a valuable resource for examining the bible with interreligious concerns in mind.)

Brown, Raymond E. *101 Questions and Answers on The Bible*. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1990.

Gaillardetz, Richard R. *By What Authority? A Primer on Scripture, the Magisterium, and the Sense of the Faithful*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Harrington, Daniel J. *How Do Catholics Read the Bible?* Lanham, Boulder, New York, Toronto, Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2005.

Old Testament Resources

Boadt, Lawrence. Edited by Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. Second Edition. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2012.

Duggan, Michael W. *The Consuming Fire: A Christian Guide to the Old Testament*. Updated and Revised. Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2010.

New Testament Resources

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, Auckland: Doubleday, 1997

Harrington, Daniel J. and Christopher R. Matthews, eds. *Encountering Jesus in the Scriptures*. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2012

McMahon, Christopher. *Reading the Gospels: Biblical Interpretation in the Catholic Tradition*. Winona: Anselm Academic, 2012.

Perkins, Pheme. *Reading the New Testament*. Third Edition. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2012.

Scholtz, Daniel J. *Jesus in the Gospels and Acts: Introducing the New Testament*. Winona: Anselm Academic, 2012.