

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at *The University of Western Ontario*
Fall 2018

BIBLSTUD 5101
Introduction to Sacred Scripture
Wednesdays 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Auditorium

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

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

Knowledge:

1. To introduce students to the Church's teaching on Scripture as revealed and inspired.
2. To introduce students to the main critical methods, tools, and resources for the study of Scripture.
3. To introduce students to the main themes and genres of literature found in the Bible.

Skills:

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

1. Articulate and employ the twin principles of Catholic biblical scholarship: exegesis and actualization.
2. Identify and use the important tools and resources for the study of Scripture.
3. 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, and then to integrate this information into contemporary applications.
4. To present written work in a coherent and thoughtful manner, and to employ standard citation formats for referencing material.
5. To communicate exegetical material into a format accessible to the average lay parishioner in a ministry setting.

Attitudes:

1. A love for the Sacred Scripture as interpreted in the life and mission of the Church.
2. A open-minded 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

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 permitted during class time. Cell phones must not be on one's desk. Students are welcome to check phones and social media during breaks. See below for a full technology policy.

1. **Midterm Test (15%): October 31, 2018:** 1 hour. A brief in-class test to assess the first 6 weeks of the semester. The test will be mixed formats: multiple choice, definitions, short answer.
2. **Old Testament Library Research Assignment (20%): Due Friday, Nov. 2 2018, 4:00 pm:** The goal of this assignment is to expose you to the wealth of resources available to biblical studies through the library system. Guidance for using the library system and employing exegetical methodology will be provided in class. A selection of Old Testament passages will be provided for students to choose from, if desired. Length: 5-7 pages.

3. **New Testament Library Research Assignment (25%): Due Friday, Dec 7, 2018, 4:00pm:**
Students will select a passage from the New Testament to research in depth. More guidance for this assignment will be provided in class. Length: Minimum, 7 pages; Maximum, 10 pages.
4. **Final Exam, 30%:** A final, in-class, written examination in mixed formats (multiple choice, definitions, passage identification, short answer, essay). The examination will be held during the examination period after the end of classes and will be on the date set by the Dean of Theology.

D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to have the following resources, which are available at the UWO Bookstore. Amazon.ca is also useful for ordering textbooks:

1. *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).

Please bring your bible to every class meeting.

N.B. While students may already own a copy of the Bible, this edition of the Bible is required for the course since it contains essays and tables that will be referenced throughout the semester. You can never have too many bibles!

2. A copy of *Dei Verbum*. You can use your own copy or avail yourself of the pdf on the course OWL website.
3. Marielle Frigge. *Beginning Biblical Studies*, Revised Edition. Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2013.
When the textbook refers to biblical passages, it is assumed that the student will read these passages in addition to the textbook material.
4. Throughout the semester the instructor will distribute or assign additional resources via OWL. Please ensure you have access to OWL, and that your UWO email address is active and able to receive messages (i.e. not full!), since OWL sends notices to UWO addresses only.

Technology Policy

There is no doubt that digital technology offers powerful tools in the service of biblical studies. During our time together, I will endeavour to demonstrate some of the many electronic resources available for biblical studies through our library system and online. The assistance a simple search engine can provide in tracking down an elusive biblical verse is invaluable. Likewise, PowerPoint slides and other resources will be available on OWL, and all students are expected to be able to access OWL and their UWO email account regularly. However...

Technology has the real potential to be incredibly distracting during class time. While your laptop offers you the opportunity to take notes quickly and find biblical passages efficiently, it also has the potential to detract from your learning experience in the classroom, since multiple programs can be open at once, and web browsers and instant messaging applications offer tantalizing access to the “world beyond”. These not only pull your attention away from class conversation, but also are deeply distracting to your peers and to me.

As your instructor, my role is to ensure, for all students, a classroom experience that is as conducive as possible to learning, discussing, debating, and, especially, growing in faith.

As a member in the class, your role is to participate in class discussion, listen attentively, and ask questions. By participating in only our class conversation during class time you demonstrate respect, professionalism, and commitment.

I highly recommend the old fashioned pen and paper approach for all note-taking. Handwritten notes, combined with lecture slides and assigned readings will give you a solid base of material from which to study. However, if you prefer to use your laptop in class, please ensure that you are using it *only* for taking notes. One suggestion is to turn your wifi off completely during class time (turning it on during breaks is fine). Please note that in many classes, we will have moments called “Screen Down Time”, during which we will close all devices and focus intently on biblical texts. This means it is essential to bring your bible, a pen, and some paper to every class.

Phones are not permitted on your desk at any time.

If you have any questions about the above technology policy, please come to speak with me.

Recording Lectures

As a courtesy, students who wish to record lectures must first inform the instructor.

Email Policy

I am always happy to respond to students via email. 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

**Please note that the following schedule may be subject to fluctuation as the semester progresses.*

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
Unit One: Bible Basics			
1	Sept. 12	Introductory remarks Biblical Canon	Frigge, Chapters 1 & 2
2	Sept. 19	Inspiration and the Bible Introduction to Biblical Criticism <i>Visit to Library @ 11:45am</i>	Frigge, Chapter 3. Pp. 28-36; 39-49. Gaillardetz, Chapter 1, pp. 15-28 (OWL) <i>Dei Verbum</i> , Chapters I-III
Unit Two: Introducing the Old Testament			
3	Sept. 26	Old Testament Geography & Historical Overview Literary Genres of the Old Testament Major themes in the OT	<i>Dei Verbum</i> , IV Frigge, Chapters 4, 5
4	Oct. 3	The Pentateuch & The Documentary Hypothesis Comparative ANE Literature	Frigge, Chapters 6, 7 <i>Enuma Elish</i>
5	Oct. 17	Historical Books Prophecy	Frigge, Chapter 8 Frigge, Chapter 9 Amos 1-2, 4-5 Hosea 1, 4, 9 Jeremiah 1, 7
6	Oct. 24	The Second Temple Period	Frigge, Chapter 10 Isaiah 42, 44-45 Ezra 1-6, 9-10 Dan 7
7	Oct. 31	<i>Midterm (1 hour)</i>	

Friday Nov. 2		Old Testament Paper is due Today, 4pm	
Unit 3: Introducing the New Testament			
8	Nov. 7	<p>Introducing the New Testament</p> <p>Introduction to The Gospels: The Literary Genre of the Gospels</p>	<p><i>Dei Verbum</i>, V Frigge, Chapter 12</p> <p>Plutarch, <i>Life of Alexander the Great</i> (excerpt on OWL)</p> <p>Jeremiah 1</p>
9	Nov. 14	<p>The Synoptic Gospels</p> <p><i>Explore:</i> http://sites.utoronto.ca/religion/synopsis/meta-4g.htm</p>	<p>Frigge, Chapter 13 pp. 156-170</p> <p><i>NOAB</i>, 1743-1745</p> <p>Mark 1; Matt 1-4 ; Luke 1-4</p> <p>Mark 5:21-43; Matt 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56</p>
10	Nov. 21	The Gospel of John	<p>Frigge, Chapter 14, pp. 170-177</p> <p>Try to read the whole gospel.</p>
11	Nov. 28	Paul and his Letters	<p>Frigge, Chapter 14, pp 181-191</p> <p>Acts 7:54-8:1; 9; 15 1 Thess 4:13-18 1 Cor 7, 12, 15 Gal 1-3 Rom 9-11</p>
12	Dec. 5	The Bible in the Life of the Church	<p><i>Dei Verbum</i>, Chapter VI</p> <p>Daniel Harrington: Chapter 8 & Conclusion (Available on OWL)</p>

			Recommended: Interpretation of the Bible in the Church, <i>PBC</i> , pp. 35- 60 (OWL)
Friday, Dec 7	New Testament Paper is Due Today, 4pm		

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

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.

Requests for extensions must be made well in advance and with good cause (e.g. illness, multiple overlapping assignments, extenuating familial situations). In the event that an extension is granted, a Request for Extension form is filled out by the instructor and the student, and is then forwarded to the Dean of Theology.

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.

G. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCE INFORMATION

According to the policy adopted by the faculty of St. Peter's Seminary, all citations, references and bibliographies in written assignments are to follow the formatting prescribed in the Chicago Manual of Style. Footnotes are to be used, rather than author-date references in the body of the text. Please review and consult the summary provided by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary at <https://www.kenrick.edu/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Academic-Papers-and-Citations.pdf> for further information. Students may also consult the *SBL Handbook of Style* (on OWL) for assistance formatting many biblical resources.

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.

Hahn, Scott, ed. "Biblical Criticism", in *The Catholic Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 2009. 111-119.

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

Nutting Ralph, Margaret and Catherine Cory, editors. *Understanding the Bible: A Guide to Reading the Scriptures*. Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2008.

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.