

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at *The University of Western Ontario***  
**Fall 2015**

**BIBLSTUD 5101**  
**Introduction to Sacred Scripture**  
**Wednesdays, 9:30-12:30**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2pm 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**

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.
4. To present written work in a coherent and thoughtful manner, and employing 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 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.

1. **Online Discussion (10%):** Each week discussion a/some discussion question/questions will be posted to guide the readings. Responses should include not only the answer to the question (where applicable), but also questions/thoughts/comments about the readings that you feel are both relevant and prompted by the topic at hand. Students are asked to respond to the question using the OWL forum interface sometime before 9:00am of each Tuesday morning. This will give all other class participants a chance to read each other's answers in preparation for class the next day.
2. **Old Testament Library Research Assignment (25%) Due Friday, Oct. 23, 2015:** 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 an exegetical methodology will be provided in class. A selection of Old Testament passages can be provided for students to choose from, if desired.

3. **New Testament Library Research Assignment (25%), Dec 9, 2014:**  
As with the Old Testament Library Research assignment, students will select a passage from the New Testament to research using exegetical methods. More guidance for this assignment will be provided in class.
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

- A. Students are required to have the following resources:
  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).
  - 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 used 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 website.
  3. Marielle Frigge. *Beginning Biblical Studies*, Revised Edition. Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2013.
  4. 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.
- B. The following text is recommended as a helpful and enduring resource:
  1. 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*.

**E. SCHEDULE, TOPICS & READINGS**

*\*Please note that the following schedule may be subject to fluctuation*

*\*\*Readings marked "for reference only" are optional.*

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
<b>Unit One: Bible Basics</b>			
1	Sept. 16	Introductory remarks  Understanding Scripture in the Roman Catholic Tradition: Revelation and Inspiration  <i>Visit to the Library</i>	Frigge, Chapters 1 <i>Dei Verbum</i> I & II
2	Sept. 23	The Process of Canonization  Introduction to Biblical Criticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of BC</li> <li>• Tools of BC</li> <li>• Case Studies</li> </ul>	Frigge, Chapters 2 & 3.  <i>Dei Verbum</i> , Chapter III  "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church", pp. 1-11; 44-47; 50-53  **For reference only: <i>NOAB</i> 2185-2197
<b>Unit Two: Introducing the Old Testament</b>			
3	Sept. 30	Old Testament History and Geography  The Pentateuch: Structure and Development	<i>Dei Verbum</i> , IV  Frigge, Chapters 4, 5 & 6 Genesis 6-9
4	Oct. 7	Creation Myth  The Chosen People of God: Election and Covenant in the Old Testament	Frigge, Chapter 7 Genesis 1 & 2  Gen 9 Gen 12, 15, 17 Exodus 3-4 2 Sam 7
5	Oct. 14	National History The Temple and its Function	Frigge, Chapters 8 <i>NAOB</i> , 2236-2242 1 Kings 6-8 Psalm 100 Psalm 132 Psalm 136

6	Oct. 21	Prophecy	Frigge, Chapter 9 <i>Scripture passages:</i> Amos 1-2, 4-5 Hosea 1, 4, 9 Jeremiah 1, 7
7	Oct. 28	<i>First Term Fallow Week No Class</i>	Work on your Old Testament Paper!
8	Nov. 4	The Second Temple Period Wisdom and Apocalyptic Literature  <b><i>Old Testament Library Research Assignment is Due Today</i></b>	Frigge, Chapter 10 Isaiah 42, 44-45 Ezra 1-6, 9-10 Dan 7  Frigge, Chapter 11 Job 1-3, 16-17, 38-42 Ecclesiastes 8 Proverbs 7-9
<b>Unit 3: Introducing the New Testament</b>			
8	Nov. 11	Introducing the New Testament  Introduction to The Gospels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Literary Genre of the Gospels</li> <li>• Source Criticism of the Gospels</li> </ul>	<i>Dei Verbum</i> , V Frigge, Chapter 12  <i>NOAB</i> , 1743-1745  Frigge, Chapter 13
9	Nov. 18	The Synoptic Problem (continued)   The Gospel of John	Mark 1, Matt 1-4 Luke 1-4  John 1-4, 18-20
10	Nov. 25	St. Paul	Frigge, Chapter 14 Acts 7:54-8:1 Acts 9 Acts 15 1 Thess 4:13-18 1 Cor 7, 12, 15 Gal 1-3 Rom 9-11
11	Dec. 2	Christology in the Making: Hebrews and Revelation	Hebrews 1-2; 4-5, 7 Genesis 14:17-20 Psalm 2 Psalm 110

			Revelation 1-2, 12-13, 19-22  Frigge, 194-198
14	Dec. 9	The Bible in the Life of the Church  <b><i>New Testament Library Research Assignment is due today</i></b>	<i>Dei Verbum</i> , Chapter VI  Daniel Harrington: Chapter 8 & Conclusion (This will be given as a handout ahead of time)

## 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.

## **G. SELECT 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.

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: 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.