

**St. Mary's University College
Faculty of Education
GDRE/REAP Program**

**THEO 521
Scriptural Themes
Winter 2012
(3 Credits)**

Instructor: Andy Reimer, PhD

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Office Hours: Available via email and phone; allow 24-48 hrs for response

Term Dates: Jan 10-April 13

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the story and stories of Scripture that includes a short introduction on how the Christian Bible came to be, its role in the life of the Church and an overview of its contents. Interpretative strategies, techniques and tools will be discussed with a primary focus on how to make Scripture interesting and relevant for us as teachers and for our students.

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course the student should:

1. Be able to list the major divisions and subdivisions of the Bible and offer a cursory summary of the contents for each of these.
2. Be aware of the key Catholic Church documents that address the nature and study of Christian Scripture.
3. Be familiar with the main genres represented within the Bible and be able to demonstrate some proficiency with interpretive techniques appropriate to specific genres.
4. Be able to describe the overarching narrative of the biblical text and the major characters within that narrative.
5. Be able to list and offer some insight into key motifs and themes within the Bible that have been influential in the formation of Church doctrine and practices.
6. Have a greater awareness of and some limited experience in the use of a variety of tools and resources for the study of the Bible.
7. Have gained considerable exposure to and some personal experience in the art of reading biblical texts from an inter-textual perspective (i.e., reading with an eye to repeated and echoing characters, plot lines, themes, motifs, etc.).
8. Have developed new ideas or matured existing ideas for making the Bible interesting and/or relevant within educational contexts.

COURSE DESIGN AND DELIVERY:

This is an online group course with a set schedule to allow ongoing interaction between students and between students and the instructor.

It is designed to function on a two week unit cycle. Week One will be spent in reading and preparing responses to the reading for the class and posting responses before the start of Week Two. Week Two will be spent interacting with other student's responses, with some minimal input by the instructor. The instructor will provide a concluding posting at the end of Week Two that addresses the hot topics of the Unit.

REQUIRED READINGS:

John Goldingay, *Old Testament Theology: Israel's Gospel* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003)

Bible (the following edition is recommended not required); Harold Attridge, ed., *The HarperCollins Study Bible: Revised Edition* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2006)

Other required reading materials will be provided via internet links and pdf "handouts".

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Catholic Church Documents related to Biblical Studies (a collection of online links to a variety of Church documents include the two that will be reviewed in Unit 1; <http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/>)

LEARNING TASKS OVERVIEW:

LEARNING TASK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF LEARNING TASK	PERCENT OF FINAL GRADE
Learning Task #1	Assigned Reading Responses: Post your response to the assigned reading for the unit; Interact with responses provided by at least two other students in your group.	25%
Learning Task #2	Unit Discussion Question Responses (Lecture Responses): Post your responses to the unit questions raised in the virtual lecture; Interact with responses provided by at least two other students in your group.	25%
Learning Task #3	Creative Classroom Exchange: Everyone must take at least one turn providing their experience, or speculative ideas, or questions they have regarding how to creatively teach specific biblical materials to children or teaching biblical materials more generally.	10%
Learning Task #4	Narrative Quiz: You will be given a set of "facts" about biblical narratives. You must write a simple "fill-in-the-blanks" type quiz to ensure mastery of major biblical characters, events, and places.	10%

Learning Task #5	<p>Application/Research Project: You will have a choice to provide either an applied project or research project related to the course subject matter. Your project will be posted for the rest of the class on the final week for discussion and suggestions by other students. You will be expected to offer feedback to a minimum of two student projects.</p>	30%
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WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE:

This schedule may change to meet the emerging needs and dynamics of the participants in the course.

Date	Topic	Readings and Tasks	Due Dates
Jan 10-14	Introductions and Familiarization with Classroom, Students and Instructor	Enter online classroom; provide self-introduction; answer questions posed by instructor	Narrative Quiz Prequel—to be completed for instructor's research and student's practice purposes.
Jan 16-21	Unit 1: An Introduction to the Bible and Its Narrative(s)	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldingay, 1. Introduction • Catholic Perspectives on Scripture: Key Documents (includes Catechism of the Catholic Church 1.1.2.3 Sacred Scripture; and "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church") • Virtual Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Shape of Our Bible: The Parts and the Whole ○ The Approach in Our Class: The Grand Narrative and Reading for Connections ○ Interpretive Techniques for Biblical Texts: Reading Ancient Narrative, Poetry, and Letters Post: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses* • Lecture Responses* *(further direction provided in classroom)	Post Responses: Midnight, Jan 21 Creative Classroom Exchange Area Opened: Jan 16 Narrative Quiz can be completed at any time after

Jan 23-28	Unit 1 Continued	<p>Provide a minimum of 2 responses for other students':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses • Lecture Responses <p>Participate in any ongoing discussions as time permits and as appropriate.</p> <p>Read the instructor's summary posting at week's end.</p>	First Responses: Wed., Jan 25
Jan 30- Feb 4	Unit 2: Creation & Fall	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldingay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50 pages of 2. God Began ○ 3. God Started Over • Virtual Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation and Fall: An Introduction to the Texts, Their Contexts, and Their Themes • Biblical Texts to be read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genesis 1-11 ○ Exodus 34:29-40:38 ○ Psalm 74 ○ Job 38-42 ○ John 1:1-18 ○ Acts 17:16-34 ○ Colossians 1:9-23 ○ Luke 3:23-38 ○ Romans 5:12-20 ○ 1 Corinthians 8 <p>Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses* • Lecture Responses* <p>*(further direction provided in classroom)</p>	Post Responses: Midnight, Feb 4
Feb 6- 11	Unit 2 Continued	<p>Provide a minimum of 2 responses for other students':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses • Lecture Responses <p>Participate in any ongoing discussions as time permits and as appropriate.</p> <p>Read the instructor's summary posting at week's end.</p>	First Responses: Wed., Feb 8

Feb 13-18	Unit 3: Redemption, Part 1	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldingay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 40 pages from 4. God Promised ○ 40 pages from 5. God Delivered ○ 25 pages from 6. God Sealed • Virtual Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Redemption: An Introduction to Covenants • Biblical Texts to be read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genesis 12-50 ○ Exodus 1-20, 24, 32 ○ Psalm 105 ○ Matthew 26:1-56 ○ John 13 ○ Romans 4 <p>Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses* • Lecture Responses* <p>*(further direction provided in classroom)</p>	<p>Post Responses: Midnight, Feb 25</p> <p>Final Day to Complete Narrative Quiz: Midnight, Feb 18</p>
Feb 20-25	Reading Week		
Feb 27- Mar 3	Unit 3 Continued	<p>Provide a minimum of 2 responses for other students':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses • Lecture Responses <p>Participate in any ongoing discussions as time permits and as appropriate.</p> <p>Read the instructor's summary posting at week's end.</p>	<p>First Responses: Wed., Feb 29</p>

Mar 5-10	Unit 4: Redemption, Part 2	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldingay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 25 pages from 6. God Gave ○ 25 pages from 7. God Accommodated ○ 25 pages from 8. God Wrestled ○ 25 pages from 9. God Preserved • Virtual Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Redemption: The Story of Israel and the Story of Jesus • Biblical Texts to be read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 Samuel 1-3, 8-10, 16-17 ○ 2 Samuel 8 ○ 1 Kings 16:29-19:21 ○ 2 Kings 1-5 ○ Isaiah 5:1-7 ○ Matthew 1-4 ○ Luke 4-8, 19:1-21:6 <p>Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses* • Lecture Responses* <p>*(further direction provided in classroom)</p>	
Mar 12-17	Unit 4 Continued	<p>Provide a minimum of 2 responses for other students':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses • Lecture Responses <p>Participate in any ongoing discussions as time permits and as appropriate.</p> <p>Read the instructor's summary posting at week's end.</p>	First Responses: Wed., Mar 14

Mar 19-24	Unit 5: Consummation	<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldingay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 11. God Sent • Virtual Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consummation: An Unfolding Hope • Biblical Texts to be read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gen 3 ○ Isaiah 40:1-5;42:1-9;44:1-8; 50-4-11;52:13-53:12; 55-56; 61; 65:17-66:24 ○ Jeremiah 23:1-8; 31:27-40; 33:14-22 ○ Ezekiel 34, 36:16-37:14 ○ Daniel 7; 12 ○ Ecclesiastes 2:1-4:8 ○ Malachi 4 ○ Luke 24 ○ 1 Corinthians 15 ○ Romans 8:18-19 ○ Revelation 4-5,7, 12, 21-22 <p>Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses* • Lecture Responses* <p>*(further direction provided in classroom)</p>	
Mar 26-31	Unit 5 Continued	<p>Provide a minimum of 2 responses for other students':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Responses • Lecture Responses <p>Participate in any ongoing discussions as time permits and as appropriate.</p> <p>Read the instructor's summary posting at week's end.</p>	<p>First Responses: Wed., Mar 28</p> <p>Final Day to Post Contribution to Creative Classroom Exchange</p>
Apr 2-7	Unit 6: Posting Presentation	<p>Post your project for other students to review. Review and provide feedback to at least two other student projects.</p>	<p>Projects to be posted by: Friday, April 6</p> <p>Provide review on other projects by Tuesday, April 10</p>
Apr 9-14	Unit 6: Discussion and Wrap Up	<p>Participate in a full class forum*</p> <p>*(further direction provided in classroom)</p>	

CHANGES TO SCHEDULE:

Please note that changes to the schedule may occur in response to student questions and conversations.

LEARNING TASKS AND ASSESSMENT

Further details on the individual learning tasks listed above and the criteria for assessment will be provided during the first introductory week.