ADTH 100101 Biblical Heritage 1: Old Testament
Fall, 2016  4 Credits

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Office: Stokes Hall, 317N           617-552-3884
Off. Hrs.: Thur. 5:00-6:00pm
Class schedule: Thur. 6:15—9:15pm   Stokes Hall, 141N

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
An introduction to the literature, religious ideas and historical setting the Hebrew Bible. Focus is on major biblical concepts such as creation, election and covenant in the Pentateuch, historical and prophetic books.

Course Objectives
1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories.
3. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
4. The student will demonstrate knowledge across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in the Bible as demonstrated by intellectual interaction with ancient Near Eastern cultures and customs, and the impact of biblical texts on the development of Western ideas about God, humans, and the natural world.
5. The student will demonstrate ethical knowledge pertaining to the Bible through analyzing the Ten Commandments and fundamental ethical principles and values in the biblical prophetic books.

Grading
Class participation*   05%
Papers**                15%
Midterm Examination    40%
Final Examination      40%
*Attendance counts. A second unexcused absence will drop the class participation grade to zero. A third unexcused absence will drop the course grade by a full letter. Four unexcused absences mean failure in the course. Remember that each night session equals a full week’s worth of daytime classroom sessions during the regular semester. For more on general WCAS attendance policies, see below.

**The paper must be written (on time) for the student to pass the course.**

**WCAS Grading System**
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (0.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (0.00), failure; I (0.00), incomplete; F (0.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (0.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (0.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

**Required Texts**

Bible with Apocrypha (*New Revised Standard Version* or equivalent)

**Recommended Texts**


**Important Policies**

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].
Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the
responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

**Deadlines**
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

**Course Schedule and Assignments**

Students are to have done assigned readings for each class **before** the class period; they must also show evidence of such reading in class discussions, written assignments, and exams. Use of electronic devices, including laptop computers, is prohibited during lectures.

**September 3**
Introduction to the course; explanation of syllabus and requirements; basic terms, models and methods for biblical study. Story, the story of the story, and history. Historical overview of biblical periods.

**September 10**
Historical overview (continued). How do we get our bibles? The emergence and shape of the Hebrew canon. The manuscript tradition.
**Reading:** 1-15 [Readings are from Anderson unless otherwise noted.] Note: Written assignment due next class (see below). To be collected.

**September 17**
From Creation to Babel—the primeval stories of Israel. Sources behind the Pentateuch. J/E/D/P.
**Reading:** 18-25; 139-153; 408-424; Genesis 1-3; 6:13-9:29; 11:1-9.

**Assignment:** Write a two- to three-page essay comparing/contrasting the Priestly creation (P) story (Genesis 1:1-2:4a) and the Yahwistic (J) creation story (Genesis 2:4b-3:24). See handout of leading questions.

**September 24**
The patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph) in story and history.
October 1

October 8
Reading: 101-138; 167-194. Joshua 1-2; 6; 24; Judges 1-8; 13-16; I Samuel 7-8; 10-12.

Paper Assignment: Select one of the prophetic books we will not be able to cover in class. Write a five-page (double-spaced) paper in which you describe the author, historical situation, and basic message of the chosen book. Use research materials suggested in class by the professor (no internet sources permitted). Write as though you are presenting this material to your peers in a classroom setting. Cite sources (footnote with page numbers). Due Nov. 19th at class time.

October 15
David and Solomon. The United Kingdom. Davidic Covenant and Zion Theology.
Reading: 196-227; II Samuel 7; 12; 17-18; 21-22; Psalm 89.

October 22
Midterm examination: 6:15—7:45

The divided kingdom: 8:00—9:15

October 29
Introduction to prophecy. Prophet versus king. True and false prophets. Elijah and Elisha.
Reading: 228-256; I Kings 12, 17-18, 21.
November 5
Amos and prophecy in the Northern Kingdom. Hosea and the fall of the Northern Kingdom. (First) Isaiah and the Southern Kingdom’s covenant with death. Deuteronomic reforms.

November 12
Reading: 355-459; Jeremiah 1:1-4:4; Ezekiel 1-3; 16; 20.

November 19
View two-hour documentary: *PBS Nova: The Bible’s Buried Secrets.* Discussion of five major issues raised by the documentary.

Papers due (see October 8th, above)

November 26  No Class—Thanksgiving

December 3

December 10
Reading: 460-489; 553-597. Isaiah 40 and 53.

December 17 Final Examination