*Please note that this syllabus should be regarded only as a general guide to the course and is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

THEO 1001-01 Biblical Heritage I
3 Credits
Boston College Summer Session 2017
Summer 1, May 17-June 21
Monday and Wednesday 6:00-9:15PM

Instructor Name: Jeffrey L. Cooley
BC E-mail: jeffrey.cooley@bc.edu
Phone Number: 617-522-6585
Office: Stokes N421
Office Hours: MW 5:00-5:50PM

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
“...the study of the sacred page is, as it were, the soul of theology.” (Dei Verbum VI 24)
The Bible has been an influential and often fundamental source for many modern, Western views of God, nature, human beings, a just society, and the origin and destiny of humanity and the world. An intelligent, serious reading of the Bible raises most of the perennial questions that have traditionally stood at the center of philosophical and theological debate. Thus, a thorough analysis of Biblical texts in terms of the central concerns of the Core curriculum will be the primary goal of the Biblical Heritage.
Textbooks & Readings (Required)


I shall not suffer it if thou readest from the authorized Version of His Majesty, King James, since no Man hath regarded it a modern Englishing of the Holy Writ for nigh four Centuries!

Canvas
Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

Course Objectives
THEO 1001 – Biblical Heritage I engages the Theology Department learning goals by: allowing students to obtain a knowledge of scripture (learning goal 1); providing students with the opportunity to reflect theoretically on contemporary social, cultural, and ethical dimensions and implications of Christian faith (learning goal 2); providing students with the opportunity to mount cogent, constructive theological arguments in dialogue with other disciplines (learning goal 3); providing students with the opportunity to engage in some aspect of both ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue and learning, in this case with special reference to the Bible (learning goal 4). (For these goals, see http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/theology/undergrad/outcomes-undergraduate.html (Links to an external site.).)

Furthermore, the student will demonstrate ethical knowledge, knowledge across cultural settings, and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in the Hebrew Bible.

Boston College Core Requirements:
THEO 1001 – Biblical Heritage I satisfies one semester of the two semester core requirement in Theology. Please note clearly that in order to complete this requirement students must take the second semester of THIS core sequence, THEO 1001 – Biblical Heritage II. One semester of two different theology sequences (e.g., Introduction to Christian Theology I Exploring Catholicism II) will NOT satisfy the theology core requirement (http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/theology/undergrad/core.html (Links to an external site.)). Students who are unclear as to this regulation should consult their instructor or the Theology Department.

Grading
The following grading scale will be rigidly applied:
A = 100-93%
A- = 92.99-90%
B+ = 89.99-87%
B = 86.99-83%
B- = 82.99-80%
C+ = 79.99-77%
C = 76.99-73%
C- = 72.99-70%
D = 69.99-60%
F = 59.99-0%

The following is a breakdown of the calculation of your final grade – remember that more than one absence will significantly reduce your grade (for descriptions of the assignments, see Course Assignments, below):

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography Quiz</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1050</td>
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</tbody>
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The undergraduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:
A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67)
D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
F (.00)

The graduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:
A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00)
B- (2.67), passing but does not count toward degree
C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit
F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the Office of Student Services.

Deadlines and Late Work
All papers must be turned in by the due date and time electronically through Canvas. Hard copies must be submitted if requested. Papers must be double spaced, with 1” side and 1” top/bottom margins, and include a word count. Citations must follow one of the major style manuals (Chicago, MLA). No more than ONE Internet source/publication is allowed per paper. Additionally, that one source must be personally approved by me. I will not accept late papers.

Course Assignments
Students are expected to spend 13 hours per week on out-of-class assignments and exercises. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 13 hours per week over the semester. This is in accordance with the credit hour expectations of the university.

**Attendance:** Excessive absences and tardiness will be penalized here first at the rate of -33.34 points per absence. Further absences will be deducted from the student’s total points.

**Geography Quiz:** You will be given a simple geography quiz designed to encourage you to familiarize yourself with the geography of the ancient Near East.

**Reflection Papers:** During the course of the semester you will be required to compose two papers reflecting on one of the biblical texts we have studied up to that point. Students are encouraged to discuss these papers with each other, but each should be your own work. I do not expect any outside research for these, other than your class reading and discussion. In these brief papers, you should succinctly summarize the text, discuss its ancient
context, provide interpretive examples, and conclude with your own understanding of the pericope. Further guidelines will be provided.

**Pop Reading Quizzes:** Between 7-9 quizzes will be given over the course of the class. These will include a handful of brief, simple questions oriented designed to encourage you to complete the readings. They must be completed in class and cannot be made up due to absence. We may have more than one per meeting.

**Exams:** The exams will not be designed to be cumulative (i.e. covering material from the previous exam). However, knowledge gained previously is nonetheless assumed, though it will not be tested directly. Make-up exams will only be allowed in extreme cases (death in family, government-documentated alien abduction, etc.). Material for the exams comes from both the required reading and from in-class lecture and discussion. **THE FINAL EXAM WILL ONLY BE OFFERED AT THE TIME POSTED ON THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR. PLEASE PLAN YOUR END-OF-SEMESTER TRAVEL ACCORDINGLY.**

**Course Schedule:**
I reserve the right to modify the assignments in any manner (e.g. add or drop) without notice. The grading breakdown will remain the same. While I try to coordinate in-class lecture, discussion, and activities to the reading schedule as laid out in the syllabus, please keep in mind that the syllabus is just that, a reading schedule for you, not a lecture schedule for me. We will not have the opportunity to discuss everything you read in class. Remember, the exams will cover materials from the reading that might not be addressed in class. Be prepared to do some independent work and to ask questions.

When this syllabus disagrees with the Syllabus as posted on canvas, please refer to the Canvas version.

SIHB = Collins, *Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 5/22</td>
<td>The Ancient Near East and the Pentateuch</td>
<td>SIHB, Chapter 1 Lambert, <em>Enuma Elish</em> (in Hayes, 2014) SIHB, Chapter 2 Gen 6-8 Geography Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 5/24</td>
<td>From Babylonia to Egypt</td>
<td>SIHB, Chapter 3 Gen 1-11 SIHB, Chapter 4 Gen 12-50 SIHB, Chapter 5 Exod 1-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 5/31</td>
<td>Sinai and the Priestly Ideology</td>
<td>SIHB, Chapter 6 Exod 19-24 SIHB, Chapter 7 Exod 25-40 Skim Leviticus Reflection Paper 1 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 6/5</td>
<td>Midterm Exam Deuteronomy</td>
<td>Midterm Exam SIHB Chapter 8 2 Kings 22-23:30 Deuteronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 6/7</td>
<td>The Deuteronomistic History</td>
<td>SIHB, Chapter 9 Joshua 1-12, 22-24 SIHB, Chapter 10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Written Work

Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

### Attendance

Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class.

Too many absences (more than **ONE**) will result in dramatic grade reduction as per the description of **Attendance** in the Course Assignments section above. Also, if you are late to class, leave early without excuse, or are not paying attention (doing other work, playing video games, reading a newspaper, talking to others, etc.) you may be penalized with an absence.

Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of 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 their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

**Accommodation and Accessibility**

Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- The Disabilities Services Office (DSO) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at [www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility).

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**

Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material 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. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility) for more information.