I. Required Texts

Bible with Apocrypha (New Revised Standard Version or equivalent)
B. W. Anderson, Understanding the Old Testament (5th edition)

II. Goals and Procedures

The purposes of this course are to acquaint students with essential religious texts of ancient Israel and to develop critical facility in reading these works. Our way of proceeding will be to look first at the biblical story as it unfolds, then to delve into the story of the story (how, when, and why the story was composed), and finally, to ask about the historical contexts of the periods in question. How these texts have been used within Christianity, and how they might be applied today will also be broached from time to time. The general mode will be lecture by the professor, interspersed with class discussion. A major goal is to have fun while learning.

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.

III. Requirements and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation*</td>
<td>05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper**</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Attendance counts. A second unexcused absence drops the class participation grade to zero. A third unexcused absence drops the course grade by a full letter. Four unexcused absences mean failure in the course. Remember that each class period equals a full week’s worth of a course during the regular semester.

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

All students are expected to abide by both the spirit and the letter of Boston College’s policies on academic integrity as spelled out in the current catalog (and on the BC website).

V. Request for Accommodation

If you are a student with a documented learning disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center (617-552-8093); regarding all other types of disabilities, please contact the Disability Services Office (617-552-3470).

VI. Schedule and Assignments

Tue  June 25
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.

Thu  June 27
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 homework assignment for next time.

Tue  July 2
Creation(s) of the world. Sources behind the Pentateuch. J/E/D/P. Reading: 18-25; 139-150; 408-424; Genesis 1-3.

Assignment: Write a two- to three-page essay comparing/contrasting the Priestly creation (P) story (Genesis 1:1-2:4a) and the Yahwist (J) creation story (Genesis 2:4b-3:24). Prepare to discuss in class.
Thu    July 4       Holiday. No Class.

Tue    July 9       
6:30—7:30 From Creation to Babel: More Primeval Stories.  

7:45-9:00 The patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph).  

**Major 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 message of the chosen book. Utilize research materials *identified 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, including page numbers) and attach a bibliography. 
**Note:** The paper, done on time, is required to pass this course.  
(Due Thursday, July 25)

Thu    July 11       
Exodus from Egypt. Moses and Pharoah. Deliverance at the Sea.  
**Reading:** 48-100; 163-166. Exodus 1-4; 5:1-12:32; 15; 16-20;  
Numbers 13-14.

Tue    July 16       
**Session 1 (1.5 hours)  MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**Session 2 (1.25 hours)**
**Reading:** 101-138; 167-194. Joshua 1-2; 6; 24; Judges 1-8; 13-16; I Samuel 7-8; 10-12.
Thu  July 18
**Reading:** 196-256; II Samuel 7; 12; 17-18; 21-22.

Tue  July 23
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.

Thu  July 25
**Reading:** 355-459; Jeremiah 1:1-4:4; Ezekiel 1-3; 16; 20; Isaiah 53.

**Paper Due (see Thursday, July 9 [above] for assignment)**

Tue  July 30
**Reading:** 490-552. Psalms 8; 23; 110. Proverbs 1-5. Job 1-3. Ecclesiastes 1-4.

Thu  Aug 1     **FINAL EXAMINATION**