

## INTRODUCTION TO OLD TESTAMENT

July 16—August 2, 2018, Monday—Thursday, 8:45 AM—11:45 AM

This is a survey course of significant texts and topics in the Old Testament: (1) Pentateuch, (2) Historical Books, (3) Wisdom Literature and Psalms, and (4) Prophets. We will seek to understand the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of these texts. This course will emphasize various topics, with a special effort to highlight those that may be of interest to people who are engaged in ministry in the Church because they become key topics for the NT writers: creation, covenant with Abraham, patriarchs, Moses, Exodus, wilderness, covenant, golden calf, covenant renewal, Land, messiah, Davidic monarchy, suffering, exile, return from exile, Second Temple period, apocalyptic, Ban on Judaism, Son of Man, kingdom/reign of God.

### PRE-COURSE WORK

There are two pre-class assignments and one quiz on the first day of class:

- 1. Homework (10%):** **Read** Daniel Harrington, "Reading the Bible Critically and Religiously" pp. 80-125 in *The Bible and the Believer* (OUP, 2012). **Write** an answer the following questions in your own words: (1) What is the Catholic OT and how is it from the Protestant OT or the Jewish Tanak? (2) How would you summarize the Church's teachings on the interpretation of the Scriptures at Vatican II? (3) What is meant by the approaches associated with historical criticism and what are some limitations of these approaches? (4) How does Harrington describe the religious reading of scripture from a Catholic perspective? For this assignment, please number each of your answers to these four questions. Be sure to reference Harrington's essay using parenthetical page numbers throughout and write in your own words (use direct quotation sparingly). This assignment is due at the beginning of our first day of class and will constitute 10% of your final grade.
- 2. Read:** This is a content-rich intensive summer course. You are advised to complete as much of the primary text readings as possible prior to our first meeting and to use the weeks of the course to re-read the primary texts. Aim to achieve a familiarity with the events and the key characters in these passages. Please read Genesis (all); Exodus (chs. 1-24, 32-34); Numbers (chs. 11-12, 14-20), Deuteronomy (chs. 1-9, 27-34); Joshua (skim chs. 1-7); Judges (skim 1-10; 19-21), 1 and 2 Samuel (skim); 1 Kgs 1-14; 2 Kgs 19-25; Isaiah 1-9, 37-38, 40-66; Jer 1-7, 27-29; Ezek 1-3, 8-11, 28, 40-48; Job (all); Haggai 1-2; Zechariah (chs. 11-14); Ezra (all) or Nehemiah (all); and Daniel (chs. 7-12), 1 Macc 1-3. In addition to the primary text readings, you should expect to read and discuss one secondary article per day.
- 3. Quiz (10%):** You will have a short answer quiz (10 items) on the first day about the major people and events in Genesis and Exodus. Please prepare the following terms: Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Covenant, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Esau, Leah, Rachel, Reuben, Judah, Joseph, Benjamin, Moses, Miriam, Aaron, golden calf, Joshua, Samuel, Saul, David, Bathsheba, Nathan, Solomon.

### REQUIRED READING

Students are asked to purchase a Study Bible with either the NRSV or the NABR translations (e.g., New Oxford Annotated Bible; HarperCollins Study Bible; New Catholic Study Bible). Articles will be made available through the Canvas course site.

BOSTON COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

## SUMMER AT STM 2018

### ANGELA KIM HARKINS

Associate Professor of  
New Testament, STM



Dr. Angela Kim Harkins is an Associate Professor of New Testament. She completed her Ph.D. in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame (2003). Dr. Harkins joined the faculty at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry in 2015. Prior to arriving at the BC STM she held a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship at the University of Birmingham (England) to undertake research on religious experience in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Her current research looks at the relationship between text and experience, the role of grief in Second Temple prayers, and the different ways that the body is engaged in the contemplative reading of texts.

### EDUCATION

B.A. Hons., (Loyola University, Chicago)

M.A., Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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