

PERKINS REGIONAL COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL  
COS 221 (211) Bible II  
Torah and Israel's History

This course interprets the critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Attention is given to the earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, and to other events up to the eighth-century prophets.

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**Objective:**

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a historical overview of the experience and faith of ancient Israel.
2. Exegete selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

**Textbook:**

Required:

*The Pentateuch* by Terrence Fretheim.

*The Old Testament: A Historical & Literary Introduction* by Michael Coogan.

References:

*Oxford Bible Atlas*

*A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, 2nd Edition* by Bruce Birch, Watler Brueggemann, Terence Fretheim, David Petersen

**Grading Scale (in points):**

Grade Scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below

Written assignments, presentations, and class discussions should reflect student engagement with the content of the course. Assignments will be graded based on both content and form. Late assignments will be assessed an automatic 10% reduction. Following the first assessed 10% there will be an additional 10% reduction assessed for each week the assignment is late.

**Rubric:**

Content:

Meets assignment guidelines (follows Turabian writing style)

Articulates and thoughtfully develops answers to questions

Focused and well organized

Form:

Clearly expressed points with minimal grammatical errors

Follows the format - Turabian

Use of guiding questions while recommended is optional. If you choose not to use the guiding questions please see the instructor for discussion of the direction of your written assignment(s).

**Assignments:**

Attendance and Class participation:

30% of course grade

Paper:

Pre-Class assignment

Read Chapters 1-2 (Fretheim)

Read Chapter 1, 2- 4 (Coogan)

5 page paper

10% of course grade

Describe the world behind the text, the world within the text, and the world in front of the text. What does each category mean to you? How might you be able to utilize this understanding to educate people within your community? Why is it important to know the intended audience? Why are viewpoints of God and humanity important? **Due: first day of class**

Mid-term assignment

Read Chapters 3-5 (Fretheim)

Read Chapter 2, 3, 5-8 (Coogan)

10 page paper

50% of course grade

How do the narratives offer a view of God from a humanistic point of view? How does humanity responds to God verses how they should respond to God through, covenant, the law, and the sacrificial system? Name and describe in your own words some of the narrative themes and why it is important to know and understand?

Final assignment

Read Chapters 6-7 (Fretheim)

Read Chapters 9-12 (Coogan)

5 page paper

10% of course grade

What are some of the key themes of The Book of Leviticus and The Book of Deuteronomy? How are they relevant to your contextual settings? In teaching, preaching, or explaining these

two books, what would be your main two points? Explain why these two points are most important to you. Give a brief summary of how you would present these points to someone else.