

Saint Louis University, Madrid Campus  
Course Syllabus, Spring Semester - 2018  
**THEO2110 - Old Testament (MO1 & MO2)**

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Credits: 3

Professor: Sergio Rosell Nebreda, PhD.

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Phone: 915-545-858

Class Hours:

MO1: Monday & Wednesday: 16:00h – 17:15h

MO2: Monday & Wednesday: 17:30h – 18:45h

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: (SIH 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Room 5) by appointment

Class Location: PRH 3

### **Required Textbook**

Hayes, Christine. *Introduction to the Bible* (New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 2012).

### **Recommended Textbooks**

Specially recommended is Coogan, Michael D. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006). *The Holy Bible* in any version containing both the Old and New Testaments is acceptable. Please bring your Bible to every class period. For those interested in a study Bible, I recommend any of the following: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991); *The Bible with Apocrypha. New Revised Standard Version* (anglicized edition; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995); Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004); *The Jewish Study Bible: TANAK Translation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

### **Course Description**

Literary and historical study of the Hebrew Bible, with emphasis on its cultural background, main themes and institutions. Particular focus on the problems modern thought poses for Old Testament theological thinking and the permanent significance of Scripture (*Academic Catalog: St. Louis University-Madrid, 2011-2014*).

### **Course Objectives**

The successful student completing this course will be able to:

- Understand and learn to appreciate the basic issues relating to the formation of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.
- Identify the major critical methodologies used in the study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.
- Trace the general flow of the history of Israel from the perspective of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

- Articulate the basic message/s of the Old Testament in light of socio-historical contexts and cosmologies of the Ancient Near East.
- Distinguish how various literary techniques and genres of the Hebrew Bible (e.g., narrative, history, law, announcements of judgment, oracles of salvation, apocalyptic, wisdom, praise, lament, etc.) mediate the message of the Hebrew Bible.
- Identify the ways in which the Old Testament relates to and functions as Sacred Scripture.
- Explore the various theoretical and experiential possibilities for linking Old Testament studies to contemporary global realities such as poverty and marginalization, religion and ethics, and one's personal spirituality and vocation.

## Course Evaluation

### 10% Class Participation.

You are expected to come to class on time and actively participate in class discussions. Please be prepared to comment on course material, assigned readings and relevant worksheets in class. Usage of laptops or other electronic devices is limited to accessing relevant class material and taking class notes. Surfing the web or checking emails during class, unless otherwise permitted by the instructor, may result in grade penalization.

### 20% Reading the Entire Old Testament.

Students can earn a 20% credit by reading the Old Testament front to back. A reading grid for reading progress (provided by instructor) is to be handed in at the end of the term. Date due: April 30.

### 15% Midterm.

The midterm exam will cover lecture material and readings discussed in class.

### 20% Final.

The final exam is not cumulative and will cover lecture material and readings discussed in class following the midterm exam.

### 10% Integration Paper.

You are to write one (1) paper integrating course material with your own personal reflections. This paper should reflect your ability to synthesize, evaluate and apply a selected Old Testament theme to the following areas: scholarship and knowledge (*e.g., a question or observation about content*); community service or leadership (*e.g., business ethics or plan of action for the poor*); and spirituality (*e.g., your personal understanding of God or God's role in your life*). The paper will not be graded, but must be handed in on time to receive full credit. The paper must be no less than two (2) and no more than three (3) typed pages double-spaced. Late papers will not be accepted. The Integration Paper is due on March 21st.

### **10% Group Project / Presentation.**

Students will be divided into groups of 4-5 and asked to prepare either a class presentation (e.g., a debate, a skit, a game, a video, etc.) on any theme that explores the relevance of the Old Testament with an issue in contemporary society or other group project (see below). Please consult with the professor regarding the theme. Each group must draw on a minimum of two academic sources related to the Old Testament and include these sources on a one (1) page written summary of the group project. The same grade will apply to all group members, who must be present on the day of the group presentation. Other option is to create a pedagogical artifact to enhance the learning of the Old Testament (**web page, an entry on the Wikipedia, a WebQuest, etc.**). Consult with the professor about these last options.

### **15% Final Research Paper.**

You are to write a three (3) to five (5) page research paper including the bibliography. The essay may research either an Old Testament text, a theme, or the interface between the Old Testament and a contemporary issue (war, violence, justice, slavery, gender issues, social identity, etc.). Your paper should evidence either a concise thesis statement or a clear question to guide your research. You must consult a minimum of four academic sources and follow university guidelines for formatting your research papers. The paper is due one week before the final exam. Late work is not accepted. Justified exceptions must be agreed upon in each case. Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any questions regarding the research paper. *The Final Research Paper is due on the 16th of April.*

### **3% Extra Credit.**

Students may receive up to an additional 3% of extra credit for the submission of a extra research paper (2 pages) on any book of the prophets, explaining its *Sitz im Leben* ("social/vital context"), particular message and how pertinent it was to its original hearers/readers. The topic must receive prior approval from the instructor. *This Extra Credit work must be handed in before the last day of class (April, 30).*

### **On-Line Course Evaluation**

All students are **required** to complete the on-line course evaluation at the end of the semester. The time when it will be available on-line will be announced in class.

### **Grading System**

**93-100 A**

**90-92 A-**

**87-89 B+**

**83-86 B**

**80-82 B-**

**76-79 C+**

**71-75 C**

**68-70 C-**

**60-67 D+**

**0-59 F**

**AF Failure due to excessive absence**

## Attendance Policy

If students miss classes, their final grade will be lowered, unless the absence is justified. If you cannot be in class, please email me or call me at my home or office. Consistent attendance is important to meet the learning objectives of this course. More than three unexcused absences will drop a student's grade by 10%.

## Academic Accommodation

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at [disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu) or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

### Title IX Statement:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 ([mmaruri@slu.edu](mailto:mmaruri@slu.edu); 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall ([counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu); 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid ([www.sinews.es](http://www.sinews.es); 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

## **St. Louis University's Policy on Academic Honesty**

*Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: [http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf](http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic%20affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf). Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

## **St. Louis University's Commitment to Excellence**

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

## Course Outline (*tentative course themes*)

### JANUARY

**Wed. 10:** - Course Introduction. The Old Testament: In What Kind of World Have We Landed? Introduction to the Land and History of the Ancient Near East (ANE).

**Mon. 15:** - The Old Testament: In What Kind of World Have We Landed? The Origins, Manuscripts and Canons of the HB / OT. Part I.

**Reading Due:**

- ix-xiv (Hayes, Preface); Hayes, 1-14 (Chapter 1);

**Wed. 17:** - The Origins, Manuscripts and Canons of the HB / OT. Part II. Survey of the History and Theological Messages of the OT / HB. Part I.

**Recommended Reading Due:**

-Class notes (“Origins of the Hebrew Bible”) uploaded on Banner.

Sunday 21: *Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade of W and/or Add a Class. Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options*

**Mon. 22:** - Survey of the History and Theological Messages of the OT / HB. Part II.

**Recommended reading Due:**

-Coogan, 499-523 (Chapter 29); Coogan, 550-557

**Wed. 24:** - Introduction to the *Torah*.

-Introduction to Genesis.

-Creation Stories in Mesopotamia. Myth and History.

**Reading Due:**

-Hayes, 15-28 (Chapter 2); Hayes, 29-42 (Chapter 3)

-Biblical Text: Genesis 1:2:4a

**Mon. 29:** - Flood Stories in Mesopotamia.

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: Genesis 2:4b-11:22

- Hayes, 43-57 (Chapter 4); Hayes, 58-75 (Chapter 5)

**Wed. 31:** - The Patriarchs, Sons and Daughters of Israel.

-Abraham: God Chooses a Family.

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: Genesis 12-36

-Hayes, 76-93 (Chapter 6)

### FEBRUARY

**Mon. 5:** - Introduction to Exodus.

-Exodus: Liberation and Passover. -Reading Exodus under Different Lenses.

**Reading Due:**

**-Biblical Text: Genesis 37-50; Exodus 1-15**  
**-Hayes, 94-110 (Chapter 7), and 111-126 (Chapter 8)**

**Wed. 7:** - The Law.

-Exodus 20

-The Nature of OT Law.

**Reading Due:**

**-Hayes, 127-147 (Chapter 9)**

**Mon. 12:** - Exodus: Tabernacle, Feasts and Special Days.

**Reading Due:**

**-Biblical Text: Exodus 16-40**

**Wed. 14:** - Introduction to Leviticus.

-Leviticus: Sacrificial Systems and Offerings. Loving Thy Neighbor.

**Reading Due:**

**-Biblical Text: Leviticus 18-27**

**-Jewish Study Bible, 2041-2047: "Concepts of Purity in the Bible"**

**- Hayes, 148-164 (Chapter 10)**

**Mon. 19:** - Introduction to Numbers.

-Numbers: Israel in the Wilderness.

**Reading Due:**

**-Biblical Text: Numbers 5-6; 11-12; 19-20; 22-25**

### **Wed. 21: Midterm Exam**

Thursday-Friday 22-23: *No classes (Winter Break)*

**Mon. 26:** - Introduction to Deuteronomy.

-Deuteronomy: Apodictic and Caustic Laws.

**Reading Due:**

**-Biblical Text: Deuteronomy 5-6; 18-28**

**- Hayes: 165-184 (Chapter 11)**

**Wed. 28:** - Deuteronomistic History.

-Introduction to Joshua: Taking Possession of the Land.

**Reading Due:**

**-Biblical Text: Joshua 1-8; 24**

**- Hayes: 185-197 (Chapter 12)**

## **MARCH**

**Mon. 5:** - Introduction to Judges. When there is No King.

-Civil War

**Reading Due:**

**-Biblical Text: Judges 6-9; 13-16**

- Hayes, 198-215 (Chapter 13)

**Wed. 7:** - Samuel – Kings: Kingship and Monarchies in Israel and in the Ancient Near East.

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: 1 Samuel; 2 Samuel 1-8; 1 Kings 1-11

- Hayes: 216-235 (Chapters 14)

Friday 9: *Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W*

**Mon. 12:** - Pre-Exilic Prophecy.

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: 1 Kings – 2 Kings 23; Amos 5, 9; Hosea 1-3; Micah 1-3, 7;

Zephaniah 1-3; Nahum 1-3; Isaiah 6-9; 20; 36-39

- Hayes, 236-247 (Chapter 15); 248-262 (Chapter 16)

**Wed. 14:** - The Fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Exile.

-The Lamentations of Jeremiah.

-Ezekiel's Dry Bones

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: 2 Kings 24-25; Jeremiah 1-7; 20; 30-33; Lamentations; Habakkuk

1-2; Ezekiel 2-6; 37; 40-48; Obadiah; Psalm 137

- Hayes, 263-279 (Chapter 17); 280-297 (Chapter 18)

**Mon. 19:** - Return to City of God.

-The Servant of Yahweh in Isaiah.

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: 2 Chronicles 36; Ezra 1-2; Isaiah 34-35; 40-55;

-Hayes, 298-314 (Chapter 19); 315-337 (Chapter 20)

**Wed. 21:** - Rebuilding the City of God (Ezra-Nehemiah).

- Race and Rank and the Rewriting History in the Second Temple Period.

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: Ezra 3-10; Haggai 1; Zechariah 7-8; Isaiah 56-66; Joel 2; Malachi 3; Nehemiah 1-8; 13

- Hayes, 360-378 (Chapter 22)

- Integration Paper Due.

Monday-Friday 26-30: *No classes (Holy Week)*

## APRIL

**Mon. 2:** - Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

-Wisdom in Ancient Israel; -Reading the Psalter as a Book

**Reading Due:**

-Biblical Text: Psalms 1-2; 7-8; 19-23; 30; 34; 37; 46-47; 69; 72; Proverbs 1-9; 31.

- Hayes: 338-359 (Chapter 21)

**Wed. 4:** - Wisdom Literature

-Class exercises: Reading the Psalms, Understanding Genre.

- **Biblical Text: Psalms 89; 91; 93; 95-99; 109; 110; 120-134; 150;**

**Mon. 9:** - How Can a God of Love Allow Suffering?

-Rethinking the Retribution Principle in the Book of Job

**Reading Due:**

-**Biblical Text: Job 1-3; 28; 32; 38-42**

**Wed. 11:** - Family, Sexuality, and Identity in the Ancient Near East.

-Ruth: Family and Social Identity. The Song of Songs

**Reading Due:**

-**Biblical Text: The Song of Songs / Solomon; The Book of Ruth**

**Mon. 16:** - Esther and Daniel.

Keeping Hope Alive in a Foreign Land.

**Reading Due:**

-**Biblical Text: Esther; Daniel 1-2; 3-5; 7-12; Isaiah 24-27**

**Hayes: 379-390 (Chapter 23)**

- **Research Papers Due**

**Wed. 18:** - Jonah: Divine Perspective and Human Myopia.

**Reading Due:**

-**Biblical Text: Jonah**

- **Hayes: 391-399 (Chapter 24); 400-402 (Epilogue)**

**Mon. 23:** - Special Topic: The Old Testament and Violence.

- Group Presentations/Projects (I)

- Group Presentations/Projects (II)

**Wed. 25:** - Special Topic: The Old Testament and the New Testament.

- Group Presentations/Projects (III) & (IV)

**Mon. 30:** - Special Topic: The Old Testament: Basic Lessons Learned.

- Group Presentations/Projects (V) & (VI)

- Review for the Final Exam

- **Reading List (Entire OT) Due**

- **Last day to hand in Extra Credit Papers.**

**MAY**

Monday 2: *Día del Trabajo [Labor Day] Holiday (University closed).*

**Tuesday 8: Final Exam: MO1: 15:30-18:30**

**Thursday 10: Final Exam: MO2: 15:30-18:30**