

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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TITLE: Genesis through Esther

TERM: Fall 2023-24

PROFESSOR: Kimberly D. Russaw

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the books of Genesis through Esther. The course will explore factors that gave rise to and helped shape this material, and it will focus on the canonical shape of the books and their contribution to the theology and life of the church.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: In this course, students will:

- 1) Identify major sections, characters, and themes of the Old Testament with particular attention to the books of Genesis through Esther
- 2) Discuss the socio-historical backdrop of the Old Testament
- 3) Discuss aspects of their location as an interpreter of the Old Testament
- 4) Demonstrate research literacy
- 5) Examine an Old Testament passage by using appropriate secondary sources, including but not limited to biblical commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and academic journals.
- 6) Critique the use of biblical literature in contemporary society based upon biblical scholarship
- 7) Create a contemporary learning tool appropriate for their ministry context

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS:

Bird, Jennifer. *Permission Granted: Take the Bible into Your Own Hands*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-0664260408

Collins, John J. *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (Third Edition). Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1506445991

Harold Attridge, ed., *HarperCollins Study Bible* (NRSV), HarperOne, 2006, ISBN: 978-0060786854

Students will pick one of the following for a book review:

Berman, Joshua A. *Created Equal: How the Bible Broke with Ancient Political Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0199832408

Cottrill, Amy C. *Uncovering Violence: Reading Biblical Narratives as an Ethical Project*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox: 2021. ISBN: 978-0664267117

Dearman, J. Andrew. *Reading Hebrew Bible Narratives*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0190246488

Dunbar, Ericka Shawndricka. *Trafficking Hadassah: Collective Trauma, Cultural Memory, and Identity in the Book of Esther and in the African Diaspora*. London: Routledge, 2022. ISBN: 978-0367769116

Helton, Charles. *A Human-Shaped God: Theology of an Embodied God*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox: 2021. ISBN: 978-0664265007

Other articles and essays will be posted on MyPTS

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Brief writing assignments, a midterm assignment, a book review, a creative ministry tool assignment, and a final exam

ATTENDANCE: Required.