DESCRIPTION:
This course is a study of the Old Testament history, literature and theology with emphasis upon the historical development of key concepts of Old Testament biblical theology. Among the essential themes, students will explore the significance of the theology of creation, covenant, purity and impurity, suffering, prayer, and others.

GOALS:
By the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate familiarity with:
1. The major figures, events and themes of the Old Testament.
2. The significance of these texts for Christianity.
3. The liturgical calendar and its various feasts
4. The law of purity and impurity
5. The faith of our spiritual forebears in the days of Abraham, Moses and David

COURSE FORMAT AND EVALUATION:
1. This course will combine lecture and class discussions. Lecture discussion will be based on assigned readings.
2. Your final grade will be computed on the average of the following assignments:
   a. A thematic paper on one of the many subjects covered in class. This paper is to be 10-12 pages long (not including bibliography, title page or table of contents) (30%)
   or
   b. Two-five reflection papers on a scriptural passage. The reflection must be based on an exegetical study of the text. See handout!
   c. Two-page summaries of Levenson’s work: (1) pp. 1-29 due on 1/31; (2) pp. 30-58 due on 2/7 (10% each)
   d. Midterm Exam (25%)
   e. Final Exam (25%)
3. The final letter grading scale for graduate studies is stipulated by the institution as follows:
4. All written assignments must be submitted electronically by 11:59 pm on the due date to “turnitin.” All papers must be uploaded on “Word” format.

5. Enroll in “turnitin” by accessing their web site at www.turnitin.com and register for a new account using your UST email. Your ClassID is 17215533 and the Enrollment Password is Covenant.

6. Late work will be accepted for a grade only if the professor grants an extension. Out of fairness to those who submit their work on time, late work will normally be graded down by one-half letter grade for each day it is late.

7. Students are required to attend class and be on time. Excessive tardiness or absences will affect the final grade.

8. Required Reading:


ETHICS OF AUTHORSHIP:

When writing your paper, you are welcome to use any form of scientific literature relevant for the subject of your study. However, you are absolutely obliged to give the exact references when you use somebody else’s thoughts and arguments. Plagiarisms (from the Latin word: plagiare – “kidnapping”: taking and using thoughts, writings and publications of another person as one’s own without naming the author or source) of any kind will not be tolerated. It will lead to nullification of your paper and bring down your overall course grade significantly.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Qualified students with documented disabilities who may need classroom accommodations should make an appointment with the Counseling and Disability Services. Appointments can be made by calling 713-525-2169 or 6953 or contact Jennifer Shannon, shannoj@stthom.edu. All students requiring special accommodations must take written exams in the counseling and testing center.

REQUIRED TEXT:

1. The New American Bible.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- Spring Break March 12-16
- Easter Break March 27-April 2.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Themes and Required Reading</th>
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| 1. 1/24 | Creation:  
Genesis 1-2:4b-3.24: Creation: Coogan, pp. 29-44. |
| 2. 1/31 | Election and Covenant:  
| 3. 2/7 | Election and Covenant:  
What is the function of the Law? Why is the Law (Torah) so important in the Jewish tradition?  
2 Sam 7: Covenant with David: Coogan, pp. 243-258.  
| 4. 2/14 | Sacrifice in the book of Leviticus:  
Leviticus 1-9: Types of Sacrifices: Coogan, pp. 138-151; Deut 1-12.  
Why God required animal sacrifices?  
Why and how do the actions of the Israelite community affect the holy of holies (innermost area) of the sanctuary? How do Israel’s sins and impurity enter the Holy of holies, even though no persons enter there? |
| 5. 2/21 | The Wilderness Sojourn  
The Book of Deuteronomy: Coogan, pp. 170-179 |
| 6. 2/28 | The Conquest and Settlement  
Joshua-Kings: General Overview with an introduction to the prophets: Coogan, pp. 188-242; 259-288. |
| 7. 3/7 | The Prophets: (First Reflection Paper Due)  
Amos: Coogan, pp. 303-308  
Hosea: Coogan, pp. 309-316 |
| 8. 3/21 | The Prophets:  
| 9. 4/4 | The Prophets  
Ezekiel: Coogan, pp. 375-386 |
| 10. 4/11 | Hebrew Poetry and Wisdom Literature  
What is Wisdom? Proverbs 1-10, 30-31: Coogan, pp. 459-462 |
| 11. 4/18 | Hebrew Poetry and Wisdom Literature  
Job and The Problem of Suffering; Maccabees, suffering and the afterlife. Coogan, pp. 462-472. |
| 12. 4/25 | Prayer  
The Psalms: Coogan, pp. 440-447.  
Second Reflection Paper Due/Thematic Paper Due |
| 13. 5/2 | Catch up and Review: |