



COS 411: Hebrew Bible II Syllabus

Introduction

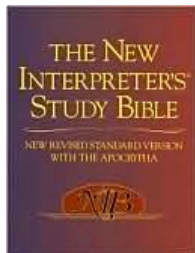
This course continues to examine the Word of God as it was expressed through some of Israel's prophets, selected psalms, and passages from the Book of Job.

Objectives:

1. A focus on the biblical message as a whole by integrating this year's study with previous study of the Bible
2. Greater familiarity with a number of the great passages in the designated books
3. Continuation of exegetical practice
4. Exploration of the assigned passages as relevant for preaching, mission, and ministry by today's pastor and congregation

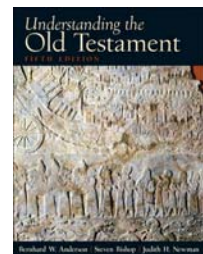
Required and Recommended Texts

Required Texts

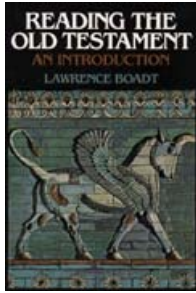


The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (preferably *The New Interpreter's Study Bible*, Walter J. Harrelson, General Editor. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. ISBN: 9780687278329

Understanding the Old Testament. Fifth Edition. Bernhard W. Anderson, Steven Bishop, and Judith H. Newman. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005. ISBN 9780130923806

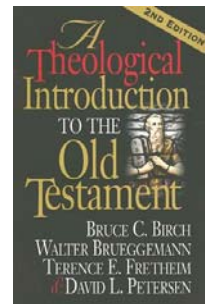


Recommended Texts



Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction. Lawrence Boadt. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1984; ISBN: 9780809126316

A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament. Bruce C Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, David L. Petersen, editors. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780687066766



Required Reading Assignments

In the **New Revised Standard Version of the Bible**, read:

- The books of Amos and Hosea, along with 2 Kings 9-17 (= 2 Chronicles 22-25)
- Isaiah Chapters 1-11, 28-32 and Micah Chapters 1-3 and 6:1-8, along with 2 Kings 15:32-20:21 (= 2 Chronicles 26-32)
- Jeremiah 4-25, 26-45, along with 2 Kings 24-25 (= 2 Chronicles 36) and the book of Lamentations
- Isaiah 40-55, 56-66 and Psalms 47, 93, 96-99
- Laments in the Psalter: Psalms 3, 7, 10, 22, 25, 27:7-14, 31, 38, 44, 51, 77, 88, 130, 137, 143
- Psalms of Thanksgiving: Psalms 92, 116, 118, 138 (+ Jonah 2)
- Hymns of Praise: Psalms 8, 19:1-6, 33, 93, 95-100, 103, 105, 135, 136, 145-150
- The book of Job

In Anderson, ***Understanding the Old Testament***, Fifth Edition read:

- Chapters 9-10, pages 257-323 [Note that in the second line of page 296 the reference to section "B (Isa. 28-32)" should read "C (Isa. 28-32)."]
- Chapter 12, pages 355-385
- Chapter 14, pages 425-459
- Chapter 16, pages 490-518
- Anderson's discussion of the Book of Job on pages 539-552

Recommended Reading Assignments

In addition to the above Required Reading Assignments, it is recommended that the student also read the following in order to obtain a broader perspective on and more-detailed knowledge of the books of the Bible that are being studied in this course:

In Boadt, *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*, read:

- Pages 279-291, 309-337, 360-382, 416-430, 481-483 (Boadt's discussion of "The Book of Job")

In Birch, Bruggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, read:

- Pages 289-325 and 327-380

Writing Standards

All papers that are written for the following assignments must conform to the standards of academic writing. That is, all papers must be written using Times New Roman Font, twelve point font size, and double-spacing. Papers that do not conform to these standards will be returned to the student to be rewritten.

Module 1: When It All Happened

Assignment 1.1: *When did it happen?* Using the Comprehensive Chronological Chart on pages 598-604 of Anderson as your guide, create your own timeline. (Do *not* photocopy or download from the Internet someone else's timeline!) Mark off your timeline by listing the centuries from 900 B.C.E. or B.C. to 500 B.C.E. or B.C. Then, recognizing that most dates will be approximate, begin marking the following significant persons and events in Old Testament history on your timeline: (Your completed timeline should be one or two pages long.)

- The reign of King Jehu
- The reign of King Jeroboam II.
- The ministry of Amos
- The ministry of Hosea
- The ministry of Isaiah
- The fall of Samaria
- The reigns of Kings Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah
- The ministry of Jeremiah
- King Josiah's Deuteronomic Reform
- The death of Josiah
- The first deportation to Babylonia
- The fall of Jerusalem
- The second deportation to Babylonia
- "Second Isaiah"
- The edict of Cyrus King of Persia

Module 2: Prophets of the Eighth Century

Assignment 2.1: Based on your reading of Anderson, the books of Amos and Hosea in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 2-page-paper describing “the age of Jeroboam II” and Amos’ and Hosea’s views on “the age of Jeroboam II.” Be sure to cite in your paper specific passages from the books of the prophets Amos and Hosea that comment on “the age of Jeroboam II.”

Assignment 2.2: Based on your reading of Anderson, the book of Amos in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 7-page-paper in which you:

- a. outline the book of Amos
- b. discuss who the prophet Amos was and what we know of him
- c. discuss the key points and themes of Amos’ ministry and preaching

Assignment 2.3: Based on your reading of Anderson, the book of Amos in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, design and write out the lesson plans for a two-hour adult Bible study on the five prophetic visions recorded in Amos 7:1-9:4. Be sure to describe what Amos saw in each vision, the significance of each symbol in the vision, how the first two visions are similar and how the first two visions differ from the third, and the message of these five prophetic visions for the world and the Church today. Creativity is encouraged in the Bible study that you design.

Assignment 2.4: Based on your reading of Anderson, the book of Hosea in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 7-page-paper in which you:

- a. outline the book of Hosea
- b. discuss who the prophet Hosea was and what we know of him
- c. discuss the key points and themes of Hosea’s ministry and preaching and the unusual way in which Hosea’s life paralleled his message
- d. explain the Hebrew concept of *hesed*

Assignment 2.5: On page 277, Anderson uses the expression “optimism of grace.” Write a 3-to-5-page paper in which you explain what Anderson means by the expression “optimism of grace” and discuss the ways in which the theme of grace appears in the book of the prophet Hosea.

Assignment 2.6: Based on your reading of Anderson, the book of Hosea in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 3-5-page-paper in which you discuss how the symbol of marriage as used in the book of the prophet Hosea (consult also Ezekiel Chapters 16 and 23 and Jeremiah 3:1-13) helps to shape your understanding of our covenant with God. Discuss the image both from the perspective of faithfulness in marriage and infidelity in marriage.

Assignment 2.7: Based on your reading of Anderson, the book of Hosea in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, design and write out the lesson plans for a one-hour adult Bible study on Hosea 11:1-11. Then design and write out the lesson plans for a one-hour youth Bible study on Hosea 11:1-11. Creativity is encouraged in the Bible studies that you design.

Assignment 2.8: Based on your reading of Anderson, Micah Chapters 1-3 and 6:1-8 in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 5-page-paper in which you:

- a. outline the book of Micah
- b. discuss who the prophet Micah was and what we know of him
- c. discuss the key points and themes of Micah's ministry and preaching
- d. discuss Micah's use of a dirge or lament in 1:8-16 and covenant lawsuits or court trials (Hebrew rib) in 1:2-7 and 6:1-8

Assignment 2.9: Write a sermon on Micah 6:1-8.

Assignment 2.10: Based on your reading of Anderson, Isaiah Chapters 1-11, 28-32 in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 7-page-paper in which you:

- a. discuss who the prophet Isaiah was, what we know of him, and the times in which he lived and worked
- b. discuss the structure of the book of Isaiah and the breakdown of the material that is now found in the book
- c. discuss the key points and themes of Isaiah's early career
- d. discuss the key points and themes of Isaiah's later career

Assignment 2.11: Based on your readings in Anderson, Isaiah Chapters 1-11, 28-32 in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, design and write out the lesson plans for a four-session (one hour per session) adult Advent Bible study on Isaiah Chapters 7-9 and 11 in which you set the chapters in their original context in the 8th century B.C., then examine the passages in light of their use by the Church during Advent. Creativity is encouraged in the Bible studies that you design.

Module 3: Prophets of the Late 7th and 6th Centuries

Assignment 3.1: Based on your reading of Anderson, Jeremiah 4-25, 26-45, along with 2 Kings 24-25 (= 2 Chronicles 36) and the book of Lamentations, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 10-page-paper in which you:

- a. discuss who the prophet Jeremiah was and what we know of him and the times in which he lived and worked
- b. discuss the structure of the book of Jeremiah, the breakdown of the material that is now found in the book, and what we know of how the book of Jeremiah was compiled
- c. discuss the key points and themes of Jeremiah's early ministry and of his later career

Assignment 3.2: Write a sermon on either Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 or 18:1-12.

Assignment 3.3: Based on your reading of Anderson and the passages in the book of Jeremiah that contain the prophet's "confessions," write a 3-page-paper in which you reflect on the content of "Jeremiah's Confessions." Be sure to discuss what these

passages have to say to you as a pastor, called by God to ministry. In what ways do you share Jeremiah's feelings about ministry?

Assignment 3.4: Based on your reading of Anderson, Isaiah 40-55 and Isaiah 56-66 in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, write a 15 page-paper in which you:

- a. discuss the prophet known as "Second Isaiah," what we know of him, the times in which he lived and worked, and the reasons why Isaiah 40-55 and Isaiah 56-66 are often set apart from Isaiah 1-39
- b. discuss the key points and theological themes of the work of Second Isaiah as discussed by Anderson

Assignment 3.5: Based on your reading of Anderson, Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; and 52:13-53:12 in the NRSV, and any supplementary reading that you did, design and write out the lesson plans for a four-or-five-session (one hour per session) adult Lenten Bible study on the Servant of YHWH (the Servant of the LORD) and the four poems or songs that deal with the Servant of YHWH. Set the chapters in their original context then examine the passages in light of their use by the Church. Be sure to discuss various theories on the identity of the Servant of the LORD and, especially, the theological significance of the four passages that are identified as the Poems or Songs of the Servant of the LORD. Creativity is encouraged in the Bible studies that you design.

Assignment 3.6: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is the Old Testament Lectionary reading for Good Friday in all three years of the lectionary cycle. Write a sermon on the fourth Servant Song that you could preach at a Good Friday service.

Module 4: The Psalms

Assignment 4.1: Based on your reading of Anderson, some of the Laments in the Psalter (Psalms 3, 7, 10, 22, 25, 27:7-14, 31, 38, 44, 51, 77, 88, 130, 137, 143), some of the Psalms of Thanksgiving (Psalms 92, 116, 118, 138), some of the Hymns of Praise (Psalms 8, 19:1-6, 33, 93, 95-100, 103, 105, 135, 136, 145-150), and any supplemental reading that you did, write a 15 page-paper in which you:

- a. discuss the structure and development of the book of Psalms as we have it today
- b. write an exegetical interpretation of one of the Laments in the Psalter (Psalms 3, 7, 10, 22, 25, 27:7-14, 31, 38, 44, 51, 77, 88, 130, 137, 143)
- c. write an exegetical interpretation of one of the Psalms of Thanksgiving (Psalms 92, 116, 118, 138)
- d. write an exegetical interpretation of one of the Hymns of Praise (Psalms 8, 19:1-6, 33, 93, 95-100, 103, 105, 135, 136, 145-150)

Module 5: The Book of Job

Assignment 5.1: Based on your reading of Anderson's discussion of the book of Job, the book of Job in the NRSV, and any supplemental reading that you did, write a 10-page-paper in which you:

- a. discuss the relationship between the book of Job's prose introduction (Chapters 1-2) and conclusion (42:7-17) and the poetic mid-section (3:1-42:6)
- b. discuss the structure, date, and authorship of the book of Job
- c. discuss the main theological themes of the book of Job as discussed by Anderson
- d. discuss how you see the book of Job speaking to the church and the world in the 21st century

Citing Your Sources

When writing your papers, be sure to cite your sources. To not cite your sources is plagiarism. "To plagiarize" is "to take and pass off as one's own (the ideas, writings, etc. of another)."¹ The writer / grader of this course has zero-tolerance for plagiarism. If you plagiarize part of a paper, you will receive "0" points for that paper. If plagiarism is identified by the grader as a pattern in your papers for this course, the grader will return your papers to be rewritten.

Below are some guidelines for citing your sources.

- If you quote from a Bible dictionary, commentary, article, or other source, be sure that you quote your source accurately, maintaining the intent of the original author.
- If you are using *an idea* that you have found in a Bible dictionary, commentary, article, or other source, but are not quoting the original author directly – that is, if you are expressing the ideas of someone else in your own words – you still need to give credit in your written work to the original author.
- You need not cite things that are common knowledge (The Bible has two parts, an Old and a New Testament. There are four Gospels in the New Testament, etc.). But once you start using the unique ideas of someone else, you need to cite your sources.
- Cite scripture references in parenthesis in the body of your paper. For example: (John 3:16).

You can format your citations in several different ways.

- You can cite your sources **in the body** of the text. (In parenthesis, provide the author's name, *The Name of the Work Cited* [City: Publisher, Publication Date], page number.) This method of citation, however, will sometimes make your text difficult to read if you have numerous citations clustered together in a few paragraphs.

¹ *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary Unabridged* (2nd edition; N.Y.: Simon and Shuster, 1983), page 1371.

- **Footnotes:** You can cite your sources at the bottom of each page of your text (as the writer of this course manual has done). In the body of your text, use raised numerals to identify the ideas being cited. At the bottom of the page, type a solid line (_____). Then, below that line, cite your sources using corresponding numerals. Most computer word processing programs have excellent footnoting systems that will do the numbering and provide the line at the bottom of the page for you.
- **Endnotes:** You can list all your citations together at the end of your paper as "endnotes." In the body of your text, use raised numerals to identify the ideas being cited. Then, at the end of your paper, cite your sources using corresponding numerals. Most computer word processing programs are able to format endnotes for you.

Regardless of the format you choose to use (and please be consistent), you need to provide the following information for each citation: author, *title of the work being cited* (any particular edition that you are using; if there is a translator of the work from another language into English; city of publication; name of publisher, date of publication), page number. A standard guide that can help you with your written work is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 6th Edition, 1996 or 7th Edition, 2007).

Revised 02/26/2009