

**ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE**  
**Fall 2019**

**Day of Week:           Tuesday**

**Time: 6:00-8:30 pm**

**Course # & Name: BS621 Literature & Theology of the Hebrew Bible**  
**Professor Name: Dr. Rebecca Hancock**

**Course Description**

This course will serve as an introduction to theological concepts found in the Torah, Prophets, and Writings, as well as their historical and social contexts, with consideration of critical methodology and major themes. The goal of the course is to help students become familiar with contents of the Hebrew Bible, to read texts critically, and to engage thoughtfully with theological themes in the Hebrew Bible and their ethical implications for contemporary Christian practice.

**Course Requirements**

- Students should expect to read *at most* 1000 pages of required reading from the required texts below. In addition to the Davis text, the required readings will also include readings from the Bible and supplementary articles that will be supplied by the professor.
- Students should expect to write *at most* 25 double-spaced pages. Graded writing assignments will include the following:
  1. Final Exegesis paper – 12-15 pages           (25%)
  2. 3 Short exegetical exercises –3 pages each   (30%)
- In addition to reading and writing, students should expect to produce or participate in these additional graded learning activities:
  1. 4 in-class assessments                       (15%)
  2. Midterm   (20%)
  3. Attendance and Participation               (10%)

**Required texts**

- Collins, John J. *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018. [ISBN: 9781506445991
- one of the following academic study Bibles:
  - A. *The HarperCollins Study Bible* (HarperOne, 2006), ISBN: 978-0060786847 (this is 2nd ed.; the first edition is OK). This is based on the NRSV.

- B. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2003), ISBN: 978-0687278329. This is based on the NRSV.
- C. *The Catholic Study Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2016), ISBN: 978-0190267230 (this is 3rd ed.; earlier editions are OK). This is based on the NABRE.
- D. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2010), ISBN: 978-0190276072 (5<sup>th</sup> ed.; earlier editions are okay).

*Note:* If a student already owns a different academic study Bible, he or she can petition the instructor for permission to use that Bible instead. The exemption is entirely at the prerogative of the course instructor granting that exemption.

**Recommended Texts:**

- Davis, Ellen. *Opening Israel's Scriptures*. Oxford University Press, 2019. ISBN: 9780190260545.