

**SAMPLE SYLLABUS: CURRENT USERS**  
*A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Second Edition*  
 John J. Collins

INSTRUCTOR	Benjamin Nickodemus
INSTITUTION	Concordia University, Portland
COURSE TITLE	REL 211: History & Literature of the Old Testament
SEMESTER	Spring 2015

**COURSE CALENDAR**

Date	Class Description	Reading Assignments
Jan. 7 (W.)	Syllabus, Introduction	
Jan 9 (F.)	Overview I – What is the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and how is it studied?	Collins 1-13 Genesis 1-11
Jan. 12 (M.)	Overview II – What’s in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: An Overview of Biblical History and Religion in the Ancient Near East	Collins 17-29, Genesis 12-36
Jan 14 (W.)	Torah/Pentateuch/Five Books of Moses: Genesis to Deuteronomy	Collins 31-40 Genesis 37-50, (Review Genesis 12:10-20, 20:1-18; 16:1-14 and 21:8-21)
Jan. 16 (F.)	<b>Exercise 1</b> – Reading the Torah with a discerning Eye: Exploring the Sources Behind the Pentateuch	
Jan. 19 (M.)	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class	
Jan 21 (W.)	Genesis 1-11: Israel’s Theology of Beginnings	Readings: Genesis 1-11; Proverbs 8-9; Job 41 Collins 41-49 BB: “Enuma Elish”; “Story of Gilgamesh”; “Baal and Anath”
Jan 23 (F.)	Israel’s Patriarchs and Matriarchs: Promise and Fulfillment, The Joseph Story	Genesis 12-50 Collins 51-62
Jan 26 (M.)	The Story of the Exodus: The Paradigm of Salvation	Exodus 1-18 Collins 63-72
Jan. 28 (W.)	Mt. Sinai – Covenant and Law	Exodus 19-24; 32-34; Deuteronomy 27-28; Leviticus 11, 16-19, 26; Psalm 136 Collins 73-84; 85-95 Levenson 15-18, 23-45

Jan. 30 (F.)	<b>Exercise 2</b> – Jewish and Christian Interpretations of the Exodus: Grace and Law	<b>Service Learning Project Agreement Due</b>
Feb. 2 (M.)	<b>Midterm 1</b>	
Feb. 4 (W.)	Israel Becomes a “Nation” – Joshua and Judges	Readings: Joshua 1-11; 23-24; Judges 1-9; Collins 111-127, 129-138
Feb. 6 (F.)	Development of a Nation and a King	1 Samuel 8-16 Collins 139-147
Feb. 9 (M.)	King David and King Solomon – New Idea of Covenant?	2 Samuel 5-20, 1 Kings 1-2 Collins 149-157 Levenson 97-101  <b>Jewish and Christian Interpretations of the Passover Essay Due</b>
Feb. 11 (W.)	King Solomon, Royal Theology, Zion Theology	1 Kings 5-8, Psalms 2, 20, 21, 72, 89; Isaiah 7;9; Micah 5 Collins 159-171 Levenson 101-107; 111-137
Feb. 13 (F.)	L.E.S.T. – No Class	
Feb. 16 (M.)	<b>Exercise</b> – Establishment of the Monarchy	
Feb. 18 (W.)	Divided Kingdom: Sinai vs. Zion and the Rise of Prophecy	1 Kings 11-12; 2 Kings 17; 21; Hosea 1; Isaiah 6-11; Jeremiah 1; 23 Collins 173-186; 187-190
Feb. 20 (F.)	<b>Exercise</b> – Zion: Center of the World and Mythic Significance of the Temple Mount	
Feb. 23 (M.)	The First Prophets: Hosea and Amos	Amos 3-7; Hosea 1-4; 11-14; Isaiah 11 Collins 191-202
Feb. 25 (W.)	The Southern Kingdom: The Book of Deuteronomy and the Reforms of Josiah	2 Kings 22-23; Deuteronomy 1:1-5; 4-7; 10:12-22; 14-16; 26; 28; 31; 34 Collins 97-108
Feb. 27 (F.)	<b>Exercise</b> – Hosea and Deuteronomy	
Mar. 2 (M.)	I Isaiah: Inviolability of the South	Isaiah 1-11; 24-29; 30-39 Collins 203-212
March 4 (W.)	Jeremiah: The Suffering Prophet and the Fall of Jerusalem	Jeremiah 1; 16; 26-29; 36-45; 52, Collins 213-222
March 6 (F.)	Jeremiah’s Message of Judgment and Hope	Jeremiah 2-3; 7; 15; 18-21; 30-32; 2 Kings 24-25; Psalm 50 Levenson 165-69; 206-209 (Review all previous Levenson Readings)

March 9 (M.)	<b>Exercise</b> – Jeremiah and Deuteronomistic History – A New Idea of Covenant?	
March 11 (W.)	<b>Midterm 2</b>	
March 13 (F.)	Babylonian Exile: Covenant Community Renewed	Psalms 137; Isaiah 40-55; Lamentations 1 Collins 222-223; 239-251
March 16 (M.)	Babylonian Exile II : A new way to be religious – Ezekiel	Ezekiel 1-4; 8-11; 14; 18; 24; 33-34; 40-48 Collins 225-237
March 18 (W.)	Wisdom Literature: Job – a case study	Job 1-14; 23; 29-31; 38-42 Collins 317-328
March 20 (F.)	<b>Exercise:</b> Book of Job: Literary and Theological Questions	
March 23 (M.)	No Class – Spring Break	
March 25 (W.)	No Class – Spring Break	
March 27 (F.)	No Class – Spring Break	
March 30 (M.)	Return From Exile – Is it so easy to Go Home?	Isaiah 56-66, Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-8 Collins 253-258
April 1 (W.)	Ezra and Nehemiah	Ezra 1-10; Nehemiah 1-13 Collins 273-282
April 3 (F.)	Easter Break – No Class	
April 6 (M.)	<b>Exercise:</b> Ezra and the Beginnings of Judaism	
April 8 (W.)	Re-Reading The Past To Promote the Future – Chronicles	1 Chronicles 11-18; 21:28-22; 28-29; 2 Chronicles 1-7 Collins 283-291
April 10 (F.)	<b>Exercise:</b> Relating to Other People	
April 13 (M.)	The Rise of the Apocalyptic: Daniel	Daniel 1-12 Collins 339-348  <b>Service Learning Project Agreement and Report &amp; Essay Due</b>
April 15 (W.)	The Quest for Purity and Solidarity: 1-2 Maccabees	1 Maccabees 1-9; 2 Maccabees 6-10 Collins 348-354
April 17 (F.)	Sectarian Judaism in the Roman Empire	
April 20 (M.)	Qumran Community: A New Type of Exile	Selections from the Dead Sea Scrolls (BB)
April 22 (W.)	TaNaKh and the Old Testament: Jewish and Christian Use of the Hebrew Scriptures	Galatians 3; Romans 4; 2 Corinthians 3; Matthew 1-2; Micah 5; Isaiah 11

		Collins 302-306 Levenson 1-11; 42-45; 50-53; 86; 178-217
April 24 (F.)	Finals Prep Day – NO CLASS	
April 30 – May 4	Finals Week	