Old Testament Interpretation
Spring Course (second half)
John J. Collins

Course Goals
1. To become familiar with the contents of the Old Testament.
2. To learn exegetical method
3. To appreciate the historical context of the biblical writings
4. To reflect on the relevance of these writings for the modern world.

Requirements
Grades will be based on
1. A mid-term exam on xxx.
2. An exegesis paper of 8-10 pages due on xxx.
3. A final exam in the normal exam period.
4. Participation in section discussions.

Attendance at the lectures is required.

NOTE:
All written work must be your own. If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases from a written source, that source must be properly acknowledged. Assistance is available if you need help with writing and research skills.

SCHEDULE

Jan 10 What is Prophecy? 1 Kings 18-22.
Jan 12 Elijah and Elisha.
Mays and Achtemeier, Interpreting the Prophets, 1-40. (Wilson, Wolff and Tucker).
Jan 14 Amos:
Jan 17 Martin Luther King day
Jan 19 Hosea
Collins, Chapter 15, part 2; Blenkinsopp, 82-90.
Jan 21 Isaiah 1-39.
Collins, Chapter 16. Blenkinsopp, 97-110; Roberts in Mays and Achtemeier.
Jan 24 Jeremiah
Collins, chapter 17. Blenkinsopp, 129-147; Mays and Achtemeier, 100-142.
(Crenshaw, Brueggeman, Holladay).
Jan 26 Jeremiah continued
Jan 28 Section: evaluating the prophets
Clines, “Metacommenting Amos.”
Jan 31  Ezekiel
    Collins, Chapter 18; Blenkinsopp, 148-180; Mays and Achtemeier, 157-199
    (Wilson, Fishbane, Newsom).
Feb 2   Ezekiel
    Mays and Achtemeier, 200-236 (Lemke, Greenberg).
Feb 4   Section: feminist critiques of prophecy.
    Weems, in Tyco packet.

Reading Week

Feb 14  Second Isaiah (Isaiah 40-55).
    Collins, Chapter 19 part 1; Blenkinsopp, 181-93.
Feb 16  Haggai and Zechariah 1-8
    Collins, Chapter 20 part 1; Blenkinsopp, 194-211.
Feb 18  Section: Sociological criticism of the prophets:
    Chaney and Gottwald in Tyco packet.
Feb 21  Isaiah 24-27; 56-66.
    Collins, Chapter 19, part 2; Blenkinsopp, 212-221;
    Clements in Mays and Achtemeier.
Feb 23  Jonah, The Book of the Twelve.
    Collins, 534-6; 420-23; Blenkinsopp, 222-239.
    Petersen in Tyco packet.
Feb 25  Section: Prep. For mid-term.

Feb 28  Mid-term

March 2  Ezra-Nehemiah; Malachi.
    Collins, Chapter 21.
March 4  Section: the canonical approach.
    Childs in Mays and Achtemeier, 41-49;

Spring Recess

March 21 Chronicles
    Collins, Chapter 22, Klein in Tyco packet
March 23 Psalms
    Collins, Chapter 23; Limburg in Tyco packet
March 25 Good Friday. No class.
March 28 Psalms continued
March 30 Proverbs
    Collins, Chapter 24; Crenshaw, Chapter 3.
April 1  Section: Natural theology.
    Collins, “The Biblical Precedent for Natural Theology.”
April 4  Job
    Collins, Chapter 25, part 1. Crenshaw, Chapter 4.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Qoheleth</td>
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<td>Collins, Chapter 25, part 2. Crenshaw, Chapter 5</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>Section: Hebrew Poetry.</td>
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<td>Petersen and Richards.</td>
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<td><strong>Exegesis Paper due</strong></td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>The Diaspora Novel: Esther, Daniel 1-6.</td>
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<td>Collins, Chapter 26; Chapter 27 part 1.</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>The Maccabees and Daniel</td>
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<td>Collins, Chapter 27 part 2; Collins in Mays and Achtemeier.</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Section: Preaching the Old Testament</td>
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<td>Brueggemann in Tyco packet;</td>
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<td>Sample from New Interpreter’s Bible</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Daniel and apocalypticism</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>Ben Sira</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Wisdom of Solomon</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>Concluding Lecture.</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Final section.</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The following books should be available in the bookstore:

- J. L. Mays and P. J. Achtemeier, *Interpreting the Prophets* (Fortress, 1987)

The course reader contains the following: