


SAMPLE SYLLABUS: CURRENT USERS
The Bible: An Introduction, Second Edition
Jerry L. Sumney

INSTRUCTOR	Roy E. Garton 
INSTITUTION	Baylor University
COURSE TITLE	REL 1310.02: The Christian Scriptures
SEMESTER	Fall 2014

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course REL 1310: THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES is “[a]n introduction to the Old and New Testaments (their contents, historical backgrounds, and major themes) and to appropriate strategies for interpretation of the Bible” (2013-2014 Undergraduate Catalogue, 594).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To survey the contents of the Old and New Testaments that make up the canon of Protestant Christian scripture.
2. To develop an appreciation of the Bible in the following areas: the history of its formation, its literary diversity, and its unity as a metanarrative of Creation, Corruption, Correction, and Consummation.
3. To provide a foundation for the further study of, and life-long learning in the context of, the Bible as Christian scripture.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Sumney, Jerry L. *The Bible: An Introduction*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.
2. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date		Class Description / Due Dates	Reading Assignments
Week 1	M-8/25	1. Course Introduction & Strategies for Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read the course syllabus prior to class! [On Blackboard] ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 3-46 ○ Genesis chs. 1-11
	W-8/27	2. Epistemology & Geography	
	F-8/29	3. History of the ancient Near East – A sketch <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #1 (opens Th-8/28 at 5am; close F-8/29 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 2	M-9/1	LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 49-77 ○ Genesis chs. 12-50
	W-9/3	4. Composition of the Pentateuch 1	
	F-9/5	5. Composition of the Pentateuch 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #2 (opens Th-9/4 at 5am; close F-9/5 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 3	M-9/8	6. The Biblical & ANE Creation stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 79-104 ○ Exodus chs. 1-20 and 32-34 ○ Numbers 10:29 – 16:50 and 20:1 –25:18
	W-9/10	7. The Biblical & ANE Flood stories	
	F-9/12	8. Covenants in Genesis & Artistry of Biblical Names <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #3 (opens Th-9/9 at 5am; close F-9/12 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 4	M-9/15	9. The Date of the Exodus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 105-111 ○ Deuteronomy, chs. 1-11 ○ Joshua chs. 1-8, 13:1, and ch. 24 ○ Judges chs. 1-2
	W-9/17	10. The Contest with Pharaoh	
	F-9/19	11. Crossing the Yam Suph & the Wilderness Sojourn <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #4 (opens Th-9/18 at 5am; close F-9/19 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 5	M-9/22	12. Law Codes in the Bible & the ANE and Ritual Purity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sumney</i>, pages 111-117 ○ Judges chs. 3-16 and 19-21 ○ 1 Samuel chs. 1-10
	W-9/24	13. Intro to Deuteronomy & the Deuteronomistic History, Settlement Theories, & “True Israel”	
	F-9/26	14. Settlement Theories & the Concept of “True Israel” <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #5 (opens Th-9/25 at 5am; close F-9/26 at 11:59 pm)	

Date	Class Description / Due Dates	Reading Assignments
Week 6	M-9/29	15. EXAM ONE
	W-10/1	16. Reflections on the Conquest & the Death of Joshua
	F-10/3	17. The Cycle of the Judges & the Last Judge
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 117-139 ○ 1 Samuel chs. 15–20 and 31 ○ 2 Samuel chs. 1 and 3; 5:1-5; and chs. 11–12 ○ 1 Kings chs. 1–3, 9–12 ○ 2 Kings chs. 1–2, 18-25

Week 7	M-10/6	18. The United Monarchy: Samuel & Saul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 141-161 ○ Isaiah chs. 1, 6–9, 36-40, and 66 ○ Jeremiah 26–29, 52 ○ Ezekiel chs. 1–4
	W-10/8	19. The United Monarchy: Saul & David	
	F-10/10	20. The United Monarchy: David & Solomon ***Reflection Topics distributed*** <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #6 (opens Th-10/9 at 5am; close F-10/10 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 8	M-10/13	21. The Divided Kingdom: Solomon, Rehoboam, & Jeroboam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 161-172 ○ Hosea chs. 1–4 ○ Jonah chs. 1–4 ○ Micah ch. 1 ○ Psalms 1, 2, 88, 137, and 150 ○ Proverbs chs. 1–3, 7–8, 26, 30–31 ○ Job chs. 1–3 and 40–42 ○ Ecclesiastes chs. 1–3
	W-10/15	22. The Divided Kingdom: Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah	
	F-10/17	FALL BREAK (NO CLASS) <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #7 (opens Th-10/16 at 5am; close F-10/17 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 9	M-10/20	23. The Prophets: Prophets in the ANE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 173-194 ○ 2 Chronicles ch. 33 ○ The Prayer of Manasseh (281-282 AP) ○ Ezra chs. 1, 3–7 ○ Nehemiah chs. 1–2, 6, 8, 13 ○ Song of Songs chs. 1–4 ○ Daniel chs. 1–6
	W-10/22	24. The Prophets: Isaiah & Jeremiah	
	F-10/24	25. The Prophets: Ezekiel & the Twelve <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #8 (opens Th-10/23 at 5am; close F-10/24 at 11:59 pm)	

Date	Class Description / Due Dates	Reading Assignments
Week 10	M-10/27 26. The Writings: Psalms <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Reflection Paper Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, pages 195-237 ○
	W-10/29 27. The Writings: Wisdom Literature	
	F-10/31 28. The Writings: The Megilloth & the Chronicler <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #9 (opens Th-10/30 at 5am; close F-10/31 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 11	M-11/3 29. EXAM TWO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, 239-276 ○ Matthew chs. 1–4; 14:22-33 ○ Mark 1:1-20; 4:35-41 ○ Luke chs. 1–4; 8:22-25 ○ John ch. 1 ○ Romans 1:1-7 ○ Philippians 2:1-11 ○ Colossians 1:13-23 ○ Revelation 19:11-21
	W-11/4 30. The Rise of Hellenism & Jewish Sectarianism	
	F-11/6 31. The Evolution of NT Concepts: Sheol & Satan	

Week 12	M-11/10 32. The Evolution of the Messiah Concept & the Portraits of Christ in the NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, 277-292 ○ Matthew chs. 5–7, 13, 26-28 ○ Mark chs. 14–16 ○ Luke chs. 6, 14–16 ○ John chs. 3–5, 9–10, 14–20 ○ Acts chs. 1–13, 19:21–28:31 ○ Galatians chs. 1–3
	W-11/12 33. Re-mythologizing Christ: The Story of Jesus in a Greco-Roman World	
	F-11/14 34. The Synoptic Problem & the Great Commission(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #10 (opens Th-11/13 at 5am; close F-11/14 at 11:59 pm)	

Week 13	M-11/17 35. The Formation of the Early Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, 293-328, 335-349 ○ Romans chs. 1–10 ○ 1 Corinthians chs. 1, 3–7, and 11–13 ○ 2 Corinthians chs. 2, 7, and 10–13 ○ Philemon
	W-11/19 36. The Early Church: Practices & Struggles	
	F-11/21 37. The Historical Paul & the Missionary Journeys ***Reflection Topics Distributed*** <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #11 (opens Th-11/20 at 5am; close F-11/21 at 11:59 pm)	

Date	Class Description / Due Dates	Reading Assignments
Week 14	M-11/24	38. Pseudonymity in the First Century
	W-11/26	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)
	F-11/28	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, 329-343 ○ Ephesians chs. 4–6 ○ 1 Timothy chs. 1–4 ○ 2 Timothy chs. 1–2 and 4

Week 15	M-12/1	39. The Undisputed Pauline Corpus
	W-12/3	40. The Disputed Pauline Corpus Course G.E.C. Quiz (In class)
	F-12/5	41. The General Epistles <input type="checkbox"/> Online Quiz #12 (opens Th-12/4 at 5am; close F-12/5 at 11:59 pm)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, 345-362 ○ Hebrews chs. 1–4 and 11:1–12:11 ○ James chs. 1–5 ○ 1 Peter chs. 1-5 ○ 2 Peter ch. 3 ○ Jude verses 1–25

Week 16	M-12/8	42. Johannine Literature <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Reflection Paper Due
	S – 12/13 FINAL EXAM 9:00 – 11:00 AM	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sumney</i>, 363-383, 385-388 ○ 1st John chs. 1–4 ○ Revelation chs. 1–3, 12–14, 16, 19–22 ○ 2 Timothy ch. 3