

11-601 Pentateuch: The Book of Exodus
Spring Semester, 2014

Professor: Dr. Cheryl Anderson
Office: 323 Pfeiffer
Office Phone: 866-3979
cheryl.anderson@garrett.edu

Room 211
Mondays, 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Course objectives:

- knowledge of the book of Exodus, its canonical and historical setting, its laws, and theological themes
- exposure to a range of contemporary interpretations, based on varying cultural contexts
- development of methodological skills
- consideration of the ethical issues raised in the text: “Exodus and its discontents”
- engagement with artistic depictions of the exodus motif, including popular movies and plays (*The Ten Commandments*, *The Prince of Egypt*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*)

Required texts:

The HarperCollins Study Bible (2006), ISBN-13: 9780060786847, Price: \$16.33 at barnesandnoble.com. **OR**

The New Oxford Annotated Bible (2010), ISBN-13: 9780195289602, Price: \$14.66 at barnesandnoble.com.

Terence E. Fretheim, *Interpretation Series: Exodus* (Louisville: John Knox Press, 1991, ISBN-13: 9780664236199, Price: \$17.85 at barnesandnoble.com.

Thomas B. Dozeman, ed., *Methods for Exodus* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010 (paperback), ISBN-13: 9780521710015, Price: \$24.32 at barnesandnoble.com.

William P. Brown, ed., *The Ten Commandments: The Reciprocity of Faithfulness* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004), ISBN-13: 9780664223236, Price: \$30.00 at barnesandnoble.com.

Athalya Brenner and Gale Yee, eds., *Exodus and Deuteronomy* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, June 2012), ISBN-13: 9780800698942, Price: \$35.00 at barnesandnoble.com.

Additional readings that are assigned will be available on the course Moodle site.

Course requirements:

Regular attendance and active participation in all class discussions 20%
(and leading class discussions on readings chosen)

Lectionary exegesis papers (3-4 pages) 30%*

Final paper (10-12 pages, due May 19, 2014) 50%

Course expectations:

- completion of reading assignments before each class
- active and informed participation in class sessions
- punctual and regular attendance at all class sessions

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory and it is expected that you will give your full attention to the discussions in the class. To facilitate your engagement with the class, cellphones and earpieces must be turned off and put away. It would be better if laptops were not used in the class because their use negatively impacts discussions. If they are used, however, they can only be used for taking notes.

Our class discussions will supplement and integrate the readings rather than repeat that material. For this reason, missing a class damages the learning process. Consequently, two absences will result in a substantial lowering of your final grade. Three or more absences will prohibit the successful completion of the course. Partial absences due to tardiness or early departures, among other things, will count towards missing a full class session. If you have to miss a class for any reason, please inform me in advance by telephone or email.

Class participation will include each student leading the class discussions on at least one of the methods covered in *Methods for Exodus* or *Exodus and Deuteronomy*, at least one of the commandments from *The Ten Commandments* text, and two of the other articles covered in the class. Students will sign up for these assignments on the first day of class.

All assignments must be submitted to receive a final grade in the course. Furthermore, all assignments must be submitted on the date specified. Requests for extensions are strongly discouraged. Any extension granted for any assignment will result in the lowering of your final grade.

*There is also an option to have the lectionary assignment count for only 20% of your final grade. The additional 10% will be based on a 2-3 page paper, reflecting on the remarks of one of the special speakers who will be on campus as part of our Black History Month celebration.

Lectionary exegesis

Choose one of the lectionary passages from the book of Exodus and write a brief exegesis of the text (3-4 pages double-spaced and a maximum of 5 pages). Any issues concerning textual variances, translations, redaction, and so forth, are to be covered. In addition, the final section of your exegesis should include possible preaching themes based on your research. Whenever possible, incorporate insights from the contextual readings used in the course. The assignment is to be presented in class and a copy given to each student and the professor. By the end of the course, each student will have a collection of the basic exegetical work for a number of the Exodus passages that are included in the lectionary. This assignment must be submitted during a class session.

Final paper

The paper should discuss a theological, hermeneutical, or an ethical theme in a specific pericope in Exodus and demonstrate familiarity with the use of historical-critical methodologies and contemporary contextual interpretations. Length: 10-12 pages. Due: Monday, May 19, 2014.

Assignment Schedule

February 3: Introduction

Fretheim, Introduction (1-22)

Methods for Exodus (1-12)

Women's Bible Commentary, "Exodus" (30-39)

The Africana Bible, "Exodus" (80-88)

Global Bible Commentary, "Exodus" (17-29)

February 10: Growth and Bondage in Egypt

Exodus 1-2

Fretheim Part One (23-50)

Renita J. Weems, "The Hebrew Women are not like the Egyptian Women: The Ideology of Race, Gender, and Sexual Reproduction in Exodus 1," Semeia 59: 25-34 (1992).

J. Cheryl Exum, "'You Shall Let Every Daughter Live': A Study of Exodus 1.8-2.10," and "Secondary Thoughts about Secondary Characters: Women in Exodus 1.8-2.10," in A Feminist Companion to Exodus to Deuteronomy, ed. Athalya Brenner. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994, 37-61 and 75-87.

February 17: Moses and God: Call and Dialogue

Exodus 3:1-4:17

Fretheim, Part Two (51-74)

Queer Bible Commentary, "Exodus" (61-76)

Irene Monroe, "When and Where I Enter: Que(e)rying Exodus," in Take Back the Word (82-91)

Articles by Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan (Chapter 1), Sonia Kwok Wong and Naomi Graetz in *Exodus and Deuteronomy*.

February 24: Moses and God: Call and Dialogue

Exodus 4:18-7:7

Fretheim, Part Two (75-103)

Palestinian, Native American and African American perspectives on Exodus, in Voices from the Margin, 3rd ed. (2006) (227-241 and 258-278)

Randall Bailey, "He Didn't Even Tell Us the Worst of It!" *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 59:15-24 (2005)

Article by Athalya Brenner (Chapter 2) in *Exodus and Deuteronomy*

March 3: The Plagues

Exodus 7:8-11:10

Fretheim, Part Three (104-132)

Methods for Exodus, Chapters 1 and 2 (Literary and Genre Criticism)

Claire McGinnis, "Exodus as a 'Text of Terror' for Children, in The Child in the Bible (24-44)

Articles by Mikael Larsson, Magdi Gendi, and Joseph Kelly in *Exodus and Deuteronomy*.

March 10: From Passover to Praise

Exodus 12:1-15:21

Fretheim, Part Four (133-170)

Methods for Exodus, Chapters 3 and 4 (Source and Liberation Criticism)

Articles by David Adamo, Solomon Olusola Ademiluka, and Matthew J.W. Coomber in *Exodus and Deuteronomy*.

March 17: The Wilderness Wanderings

Exodus 15:22-18:27

Fretheim, Part Five (171-200)

Methods for Exodus, Chapters 5 and 6 (Feminist and Postcolonial)

The Ten Commandments, Chapter 13 (159-172)

March 24: Law and Covenant

Exodus 19:1-20:11

Fretheim, Part Six (201-220)

The Ten Commandments, Chapters 14-18 (173-247)

Article by Athalya Brenner (Chapter 14) in *Exodus and Deuteronomy*.

March 31: Law and Covenant

Exodus 20:12-24:18

Fretheim, Part Six (220-239)

The Ten Commandments, Chapters 19-23 (248-317)

April 7: The Book of the Covenant

Fretheim, Part Seven (239-262)

Paul D. Hanson, "The Theological Significance of Contradiction within the Book of the Covenant," in Canon and Authority (110-131)

David Clines, "Being a Man in the Book of the Covenant," in Reading the Law, ed. J.G. McConville and Karl Moller (3-9)

Cheryl Anderson, Women, Ideology, and Violence (101-117)

April 14: The Plan for the Tabernacle

Exodus 25:1-31:18

Fretheim, Part Seven (263-278)

April 28: The Fall and Restoration of Israel

Exodus 32:1-34:35

Fretheim, Part Eight (279-312)

May 5: God Fills the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:1-40:38

Fretheim, Part Nine (313-316)

Walter Brueggemann, Exodus 35:1 to 40:38 in the *NIB*, volume 1, pages 957-981.

Final papers are due on Monday, May 19, 2014. Requests for extensions are discouraged. Any extension granted for any assignment will result in the lowering of your final grade.