

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PASTORAL MINISTRIES



PMIN 205: Hebrew Bible (Winter 2012)

Course Outline

Instructor: Michael Castori, S.J. **Office:** Kenna 323E mcastori@scu.edu

Class Meeting Time: Mon. 6:00-9:00, Kenna

Purpose of the Course:

Scope: What did the Hebrew Bible mean for its own day and what is its enduring message? This course offers a study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament as a historical document and a theological text.

Methods: This course explores a variety of scholarly methods currently used to interpret and understand the Hebrew Bible. Literary, historical, cultural and theological studies are employed to examine the Scriptures' original context as well as their significance for our encounter with suffering and social injustice today.

Required Texts:

Robert Alter, *The Five Books of Moses*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2008.

Phyllis Bird, *Missing Persons and Mistaken Identities*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1997.

Abraham Heschel, *The Prophets*. New York: HarperCollins Press, 1962/2001.

J. David Pleins, *The Social Vision of the Hebrew Bible: A Theological Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

J. David Pleins, *When the Great Abyss Opened: Classic and Contemporary Readings of Noah's Flood*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2009.

Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures. Jewish Publication Society of America, 1985.

Course Requirements:

Close, careful reading of all assigned texts in preparation for class lectures and discussions. Focus questions on the readings will be provided in advance to facilitate scholarly analysis and theological reflection on the Scriptures taken up in class.

In addition to active involvement in the lecture/discussion sessions of the course, students develop one research paper/project of 12-15 pages with annotated bibliography and following the Department's guidelines for graduate research

papers. This paper can be (1) an exegetical study of one particular chapter of the Hebrew Bible or one segment of a biblical text *or* (2) a thematic study of a particular issue raised in the course *or* (3) developed, background research for a project that is tailored to your ministry, where the issues raised in the course may have particular relevance. The paper is due—and discussed in session—on Monday of finals week.