

**COS 221 | BIBLE II: TORAH AND ISRAEL'S HISTORY**  
**MONDAY 6:00-8:00 P.M. | OCTOBER 2 – NOVEMBER 20, 2023**  
**INSTRUCTOR | DR. BOB RAMBO**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** COS 221 meets on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 – November 20, 2023 by Zoom. **The Zoom link is listed below in the weekly schedule of assignments.**

**WELCOME:** I look forward to teaching COS 221 this fall and learning with you. I'm a graduate of Wood Jr. College (1973-75), Mississippi State University (B.S., 1979-80), and Memphis Theological Seminary (M. Div., 1981-84 and D. Min., 1999-2002). I served as a pastor in the Mississippi Conference from 1980-2022 when I retired. I also served as Superintendent of the Starkville District from 2007-2009. In addition to the above, I've taken 2 courses in Biblical Archaeology from Reformed Theological Seminary; an online course in Biblical Geography via Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and in 2023 I received an online Certificate in Early Jewish Studies and Context from Israel Bible Center. I have spent 35 years studying and teaching in Israel and Jordan. Since 1999 I've served as an Adjunct Faculty member for the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies (part of Educational Opportunities, Inc.).

**TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:** You can reach me by email (preferred) or text (if necessary): [Bob.Rambo@christunitedjxn.org](mailto:Bob.Rambo@christunitedjxn.org) or text 601-938-4404.

**SYLLABUS** (*The syllabus below can also be found on Course Connect and on the CFM website*)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course examines and interprets the critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of ancient Israel. Attention is given to the earliest covenants, the Exodus, the Israelite occupation of Canaan, the rise of the monarchy, and other events up to the Hebrew prophets of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

Students in COS 221 will be able to:

- articulate a historical overview of the experience and faith of ancient Israel
- exegete selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of ancient Israel
- apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day

**BOOK LIST (REQUIRED):**

- Bruce Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence Fretheim, and David Peterson: *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd Edition
- Terence Fretheim: *The Pentateuch* (read the entire book)
- Elizabeth and Paul Actemeier: *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith* (read the entire book)
- **REFERENCE TEXT (RECOMMENDED):** Walter Brueggemann: *An Introduction to the Old Testament*

## HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

### HONOR CODE:

All MSCOS students are required to abide by the MSCOS Honor Code, and to seek to uphold the highest standards of academic and pastoral integrity. **The Honor Code of MSCOS requires that all material that a student submits must be that student's own work.** Violations include: cheating, turning in work completed by someone else, copying work from the Internet or a book without citation, and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is defined as knowingly claiming the published work of another person as one's own (including the lack of proper citation in a paper or other assignment). Any student not in compliance with the Honor Code faces one or more of the following actions: receiving a warning, failing the assignment, removal from the course, failing the course, being placed on probation, and expulsion from MSCOS. The MSCOS reports all Honor Code violations to the student's district superintendent and local pastor registrar.

### ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS:

The MSCOS includes pre-work, class time with the instructor, coursework to be completed outside of the classroom, and online work through Course Connect, our Learning Management System. **It is the student's responsibility to be aware of deadlines set by the instructor and to complete all assignments on time.** MSCOS faculty reserve the right to mark down or refuse to accept late assignments. All completed written assignments must include a cover sheet, signed by the student's mentor. The cover sheet is available for download on the Center for Ministry website. For electronic submissions, students are to scan the cover sheet and include it as an attachment.

**The MSCOS will use letter grades A, B, C, D, and F. Students must repeat classes graded D or F.** The MSCOS sends grade reports to the Division of Ordained Ministry, the Annual Conference, and the Regional COS Director. **In exceptional circumstances, students may request an "Incomplete" for a course by submitting a written request to the instructor and the MSCOS Director. Incomplete grades not resolved within 60 days will be recorded as an F.**

### COS 221 SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

#### WEEK 1 | OCTOBER 2, 2023 (6:00-8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

Control + click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86429378408?pwd=T1NQSFY3cnFLVHJuSGVZL2pwT3E5QT09>

#### WEEK 1 TOPIC

- Introduction to the Pentateuch
- *GENESIS* (major themes and events)

#### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- Begin reading one (1) of the books of the Pentateuch – *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy* – in its entirety. **This is in preparation for a five (5) page paper due no later than October 23, 2023.**

- Read Chapters 1 and 2 of *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* by Birch and friends prior to this session.
- Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of *The Pentateuch* by Fretheim prior to this session.
- Read Chapters 1 and 2 of *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith* prior to this session.
- Use Course Connect to access the link for a series of videos on each of the books of the Pentateuch by *The Bible Project*. The videos are brief – 8 to 10 minutes each. **NOTE: Some books have 2 videos (Part 1 and Part 2); some have only one.** Watch each video and write a two-page (double-spaced) 500-750 word summary of each book based on the videos. **These summaries are due no later than October 15, 2023. Any request to submit work at a later date must be made to and permission given by the MSCOS Director, Dr. Beth Miller.**

## WEEK 2 | OCTOBER 9, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

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### WEEK 2 TOPIC

- Conclusion of *Genesis*; *Exodus* (major themes and events)

### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- Continue reading one (1) of the books of the Pentateuch in preparation for writing a 5 page paper (1250-1500 words) on this book. Include the following in your paper: *Who are the major “actors” in this book? What are the major themes of this book? Who does this book tell us about God? What does this book tell us about ourselves?* **This paper is due no later than October 23, 2023. Use Word document format. Any request to submit work at a later date must be made to and permission given by the MSCOS Director, Dr. Beth Miller.**
- Read Chapters 3-4 of *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* prior to this session.
- Read Chapter 4 of *The Pentateuch* by Fretheim prior to this session.
- Read Chapter 3 of *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith* prior to this session.
- **Submit two-page written summaries of the five *Bible Project* videos to me by email no later than October 15, 2023.**

## WEEK 3 | OCTOBER 16, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

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### WEEK 3 TOPIC

- Conclusion of *Exodus*; *Leviticus* (major themes and events)

### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- **NOTE: Submit your five-page paper on one of the books of the Pentateuch to me by email no later than October 23, 2023. Use Word document format. Any request to submit work at a later date must be made to and permission given by the MSCOS Director, Dr. Beth Miller.**
- Read Chapter 5 of *The Pentateuch* by Fretheim prior to this session.
- Read Chapter 5 of *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* prior to this session.

#### WEEK 4 | OCTOBER 23, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

Control + click on the link below:

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#### WEEK 4 TOPIC

- Conclusion of *Leviticus*; *Numbers* (major themes and events)

#### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- **NOTE: Email your five-page paper on one book of the Pentateuch prior to the beginning of this session.**
- Read Chapter 6 of *The Pentateuch* by Fretheim prior to this session.
- Read Chapter 4 of *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith* prior to this session.
- **WRITING ASSIGNMENT:** Select one of the following texts: Genesis 45:1-11; Exodus 32:1-10; Numbers 20:1-13; Leviticus 19:9-18; Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Read your selected text in preparation for a 4-page paper (double-spaced, 1000-1500 words) in which you exegete this text. Follow the guidelines for exegesis discussed in *The Pentateuch* by Fretheim (pages 22-38). **This paper is due by November 13, 2023. Use Word document format. Any request for a later date for a writing assignment must be made to and permission given by the MSCOS Director, Dr. Beth Miller.**

#### WEEK 5 | OCTOBER 30, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

Control + click on the link below:

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#### WEEK 5 TOPIC

- *Deuteronomy* (major themes and events)

#### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- Read Chapter 7 of *The Pentateuch* by Fretheim prior to this session.
- **Continue work on 5-page exegesis paper due November 13, 2023.** Refer to “Assignments” for Week 4 if you need clarity on this project.

## WEEK 6 | NOVEMBER 7, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

Control + click on the link below:

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### WEEK 6 TOPIC

- *Joshua* (major themes and events)
- *Judges* (major themes and events)

### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- Read pages 69-72 of *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith* prior to this session.
- Read Chapter 6 of *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* prior to this session.
- **NOTE: Email your 5-page exegesis papers to me no later than November 13, 2023. REMEMBER: Use Word document format. Any request to submit later must be made to and permission given by the MSCOS Director, Dr. Beth Miller.**

## WEEK 7 | NOVEMBER 13, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

Control + click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86429378408?pwd=T1NQSFY3cnFLVHJuSGVZL2pwT3E5QT09>

### WEEK 7 TOPIC

- *1 Samuel* (major themes and events)
- *2 Samuel* (major themes and events)

### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- Read pages 72-88 of *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith* prior to this session.
- Read Chapter 7 of *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* prior to this session.
- **NOTE: Turn in your 5-page exegesis paper prior to the beginning of this session.**
- **Course Connect Assignment:** Record your “Pentateuch paper” and upload to the COS 221 page of Course Connect. Watch the videos of 3 other classmates. Write down and post at least 3 questions on Course Connect for each video review you watch. Respond to any questions you receive about your own Pentateuch book review. **Approximate time: 4 hours.**

## WEEK 8 | NOVEMBER 20, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)

ZOOM LINK (the Zoom link will also be posted on Course Connect)

Sessions are every Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. from October 2 until Nov 20, 2023 (8 sessions)

Control + click on the link below:

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#### WEEK 8 TOPIC

- 1 Kings (major themes and events)
- 2 Kings (major themes and events)
- The rise of the prophets

#### ANY ASSIGNMENT OR PAPERS

- Read Chapter 6 of *The Old Testament Roots of Our Faith* prior to this session.
- Read Chapter 8 of *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* prior to this session.

#### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES

All papers are to be written in Word document format, double-spaced.

October 15	Five 2-page papers on Bible project videos are due (see Week 1 assignment)
October 23	5-page paper on the Pentateuch book of your choice is due (see Week 2 assignment)
November 13	5-page exegesis paper are due (see Week 4 writing assignment)
Total	20 pages

#### BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO LINKS

Genesis (Part 1)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQI72THyO5I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQI72THyO5I</a>
Genesis (Part 2)	<a href="https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/genesis-12-50/">https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/genesis-12-50/</a>
Exodus (Part 1)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uf-PgW7rqE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uf-PgW7rqE</a>
Exodus (Part 2)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0GhR-2kPKI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0GhR-2kPKI</a>
Leviticus	<a href="https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/leviticus/">https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/leviticus/</a>
Numbers	<a href="https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/numbers/">https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/numbers/</a>
Deuteronomy	<a href="https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/deuteronomy/">https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/deuteronomy/</a>