

ICS Calendar Title: Biblical Foundations
ICS Course Code: ICS 1215/2215 F08
Instructor: Dr. Nik Ansell
Term and Year: Wednesdays, 9:30-12:30, Fall 2008
Last Updated: July 28, 2008

Biblical Foundations

Course Description:

This course will explore the Bible as the ongoing story of and for God and creation, paying special attention to the way in which God's story is intertwined with that of humanity and the world. In asking whether and in what way the Bible is also our story, we will attempt to identify which hermeneutical methods might help us discern its significance for present day life, including the academic enterprise.

Course Learning Goals:

To deepen knowledge and awareness of key hermeneutical issues relevant to biblical interpretation.

Course Requirements:

- a.) Total reading: 1250 pages total, including research for paper, of which approximately 40-60 pages per week is required to prepare for class.
- b.) In-seminar leadership: Presentation of draft of course paper, leadership in discussion of readings
- c.) Description of course paper: A 3,000-4,000 word exegetical study of a biblical passage of your choice that engages rival interpretations and explores contemporary significance
- d.) Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated:
 - Class participation: 25%
 - Book review (1500 words): 25%
 - Research paper: 50%

Required Readings (*Recommended for purchase, other readings to be distributed)

*The Bible. In a translation (not paraphrase) of your choice. (Selections)
Nik Ansell. "An Apocalyptic Appendix" in *The Annihilation of Hell: Universal Salvation and the Redemption of Time in the Eschatology of Jurgen Moltmann* (Carlisle, UK: Paternoster Press, forthcoming)
_____, "The Call of Wisdom/the Voice of the Serpent: a Canonical Approach to the Tree of Knowledge." *Christian Scholar's Review* 31/1 (Fall, 2001): 31-58. [ICS Library: PER]
*Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen, *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS635.3 .B37 2004]
Richard Bauckham, *God and the Crisis of Freedom: Biblical and Contemporary Perspectives* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), chap. 3 (pp. 50-77) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT810.3 .B38 2002]
*Stanley Gundry, ed., *Show Them No Mercy: Four Views on God and Canaanite Genocide* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS680 .W2 S49 2003]
Dale Martin, "Heterosexism and the Interpretation of Romans 1:18-32" in Matthew Kuefler, ed., *The Boswell Thesis: Essays on Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ76.3 .E85 B67 2006]
Calvin G. Seerveld, *How to Read the Bible to Hear God Speak: a Study in Numbers 22-24* (Sioux Center, IA: Dordt College Press, 2003), xi-xiii. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS580 .S44 2003]
_____, "Proverbs 10:1-22: From Poetic Paragraphs to Preaching" in Arie C. Leder, ed., *Reading and Hearing the Word: From Text to Sermon. Essays in Honor of John H. Stek* (Grand Rapids, MI: Calvin Theological Seminary/CRC Publications, 1998), 181-200. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV15 .R43 1998]
John Stott, *Involvement. Vol. 2: Social and Sexual Relationships in the Modern World* (Old Tappan, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell, 1985), chap. 8 (pp. 215-244). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV4501.2 .S789 1985 v.2]
Al Wolters, "Thoughts on Genesis." *Calvinist Contact* (December 14, 1990): 4 [ICS Library: PER]
Christopher J.H. Wright, *Living as the People of God: the Relevance of Old Testament Ethics* (Leicester, UK: InterVarsity Press, 1983), chap. 4 (pp. 67-102) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1199 .E8 W76 1983]
*N.T. Wright, *Paul: in Fresh Perspective* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS2651 .W748 2005]

Recommended Readings (a small selection from numerous possibilities!)

- Bernard W. Anderson, *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*. Third Edition (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS605.2 .A5 1988]
- Kenneth L. Barker, Gen. ed., *The NIV Study Bible*. Revised edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002)
- Craig Bartholemew, Colin Greene and Karl Moller, eds., *Renewing Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS476 .R45 2000]
- Walter Brueggemann, *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise, and Challenge in Biblical Faith*. Second edition (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS543 .B78 2002]
- John W. Drane, *Introducing the New Testament*. Revised edition (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001). [TRIN: BS2330.2 .D7 2001]
- _____, *Introducing the Old Testament*. Revised edition (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001) [SMC: BS1140.3 .D73 2001]
- Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: a Guided Tour* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002). [not in ICS or UTL libraries]
- David N. Freedman, ed., *Anchor Bible Dictionary, vols. 1-6* (New York: Doubleday, 1992). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS440 .A53 v.1-6]
- Hendrik Hart, *Setting Our Sights By the Morning Star: Reflections on the Role of the Bible in Post-modern Times* (Toronto: Patmos Press, 1989). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS538.3 .H377]
- Wayne A. Meeks, Gen. ed., *The HarperCollins Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1993) [TRIN: BS191.5 .A1 1993 C35]
- James H. Olthuis, et al., *A Hermeneutics of Ultimacy: Peril or Promise?* (Lanham: University Press of America, 1987). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS476 .O54]
- Mike Riddell, *God's Home-Page: a Journey Through the Bible for Postmodern Pilgrims* (Oxford: The Bible Reading Fellowship, 1998) [not in ICS or UTL library holdings]
- Calvin G. Seerveld, *The Greatest Song: in Critique of Solomon* (Toronto: Tuppence Press, 1963) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1490 .S4 1967]
- Willard M. Swartley, *Slavery, Sabbath, War & Women: Case Issues in Biblical Interpretation* (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1983). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS670 .S93 1983]
- N.T. Wright, *The Last Word: Beyond the Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture* (New York: HarperCollins, 2005) [ICS LIBRARY RESERVE SHELF: BS480 .W83 2005 ; KNOX: BS480 .W83 2005]