

ICS Calendar Title: Biblical Foundations
ICS Course Code: ICS 1215/2215 F09
Instructor: Dr. Nik Ansell
Term and Year: Wednesdays, 7:00-10:00 pm, Fall 2009
Last Updated: October 8, 2009

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:

- a.) To become (more) familiar with the Bible read and interpreted as an ongoing story of/for God and creation, creation and God.
- b.) To increase our ability to think creatively and constructively about the relationship between the biblical text, academic reflection and contemporary cultural discernment.
- c.) 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 40-70 pages per week is required to prepare for each session.
- b.) In-seminar leadership: Presentation of draft of course paper, leadership in discussion of readings, including written assignments.
- c.) Description of course papers: A 4,000-5,000 word exegetical study of a biblical passage, book, theme or topic that assesses rival interpretations, relates to something of academic significance to you and engages issues raised throughout the course. Due by relevant ICS/TST deadline.
- d.) Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated:
 - Class participation: 20%
 - Written class assignments: 20%
 - Research paper: 60%

Required Readings (arranged by session and in suggested order)

Titles in **bold and underlined** refer to books of the Bible.

Please use a good contemporary translation (NRSV, NIV, tNIV, NJB, etc.) rather than a paraphrase such as the New Living or The Message, though these are good for comparison. If you wish to compare translations at any point, there are good online resources such as:

<http://bible.crosswalk.com>

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage>

Titles in **BOLD** refer to texts that you will need to obtain

*Titles marked by a bullet will be provided

Session 1: Sept. 16

Introductions

Session 2: Sept. 23

*J. Richard Middleton, "A New Heaven and a New Earth: the Case for a Holistic Reading of the Biblical Story of Redemption" in *Journal for Christian Theological Research* 11 (2006): 73-97. Available online

at: http://www.luthersem.edu/ctrf/Papers/2005_Middleton_abst.pdf

Genesis

*Al Wolters, "Thoughts on Genesis" in *Calvinist Contact* (14 December, 1990):4

*Crispin Fletcher-Louis, "Commentary: Genesis 1.26 & Exodus 20:4f" in *Third Way* (December 1999): 21

*Crispin Fletcher-Louis, "Commentary: Genesis 1.26 & Ephesians 1:22" in *Third Way* (January 2000): 21

*Nik Ansell, "Commentary: Genesis 1.27f, Daniel 2:35 & Ephesians 1:22f" in *Third Way* (February 2002): 24

Session 3: Sept. 30

- *Nicholas John Ansell, "The Call of Wisdom/The Voice of the Serpent: a Canonical Approach to the Tree of Knowledge" in *Christian Scholar's Review* 31/1 (Fall, 2001): 31-58
- *David Smith, "Commentary: Genesis 11.1-9" in *Third Way* (May 1999): 20
- *Nik Ansell, "Commentary: Genesis 22" in *Third Way* (April 2004): 16
- together with: Paul Borgman, *Genesis: the Story We Haven't Heard* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 112 [Trinity College Library: BS1235.2 .B584 2001]
- *Nik Ansell, "Commentary: Genesis 11.4 & 22.15-17a" in *Third Way* (Summer 2004): 15
- *Nik Ansell, "Facing God/Faithing the Truth: an Other Reading of Genesis 32 (unpublished paper, 2005)
- *Nik Ansell, "Commentary: Genesis 27.29, Isaiah 60.14-16 & Genesis 32.27-30" in *Third Way* (August 2002): 16

Session 4: Oct. 7

Exodus

- *Nik Ansell, "Commentary: Exodus 19:5-6" in *Third Way* (November 2002): 22
- *John H. Sailhamer, "Appendix B: Compositional Strategies in the Pentateuch" in *idem., Introduction to Old Testament Theology: a Canonical Approach* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), 272-289 [Robarts Library: BS1192.5 .S23 1995X]

Session 5: Oct. 14

- *Christopher J.H. Wright, *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), chap. 6 [Robarts Library: BS1199 .E8 W76 2004]

Proverbs 1-9

- *Calvin Seerveld, "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: Calvin Theological Seminary/CRC Publications, 1998), 181-200. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV15 .R43 1998]

Session 6: Oct. 21

Hosea

- Walter Brueggemann, *An Unsettling God: the Heart of the Hebrew Bible* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009), preface and chaps. 1-2 [pp. xi-56] [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1192.6 .B76 2009]**

[Reading Week: Oct. 26-30]

Session 7: Nov. 4

- Brueggemann, *An Unsettling God*, chaps. 3-4 [pp. 57-136] [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1192.6 .B76 2009]**

Session 8: Nov. 11

- Brueggemann, *An Unsettling God*, chaps. 5-6 [pp. 137-176] [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1192.6 .B76 2009]**

Mark

Sessions 9: Nov. 18

- *N.T. Wright, *The New Testament and the People of God: Christian Origins and the Question of God*, volume 1 (London: SPCK; Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1992), chap. 10 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS2398 .W75 N4 v.1]
- **"(Some of the) OT Allusions/Echoes/Quotations in Mark 13"
- Crispin Fletcher-Louis, "Commentary: Mark 13.24f & 30f" in *Third Way* (September 1998): 20
- Nik Ansell, "Commentary: Mark 12.38-13.2" in *Third Way* (May 1997): 20
- Nik Ansell, "Mite is Right? Money, Sex and Power in Mark 12:41-44 (and beyond)"

Session 10: Nov. 25

Galations

James

Session 11: Dec. 2

Revelation

- Nik Ansell, "Hell: the Nemesis of Hope?" "Afterword" in Brad Jersak, *Her Gates Will Never Be Shut: Hell, Hope & the New Jerusalem* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, forthcoming), 191-210
- Nicholas John Ansell, "An Apocalyptic Appendix" in *The Annihilation of Hell: Universal Salvation and the*

Redemption of Time in the Eschatology of Jurgen Moltmann (Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster Press, forthcoming)

Session 12: Dec. 9

Student presentations

Session 13: Dec. 16

Richard Bauckham, *God and the Crisis of Freedom: Biblical and Contemporary Perspectives* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), chap. 3 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT810.3 .B38 2002]

Richard Bauckham, "Reading Scripture as a Coherent Story" in Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hayes, eds., *The Art of Reading Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), 38-53 [Robarts Library: BS476 .A78 2003X]

Student presentations cont.

Final thoughts

Recommended Readings (a small selection from numerous possibilities!)

If recommending substantial yet not over-technical commentaries, I would begin with:

The *Berit Olam* series [OT/Hebrew Bible] (The Liturgical Press)

The *Interpretation* series (Atlanta: John Knox Press)

The *New International Biblical Commentary* series (Hendrickson)

The *New International Commentary* series (Eerdmans)

The *New Interpreter's Bible* [12 volumes] (Abingdon Press)

The *Smyth & Helwys* series (Smyth and Helwys)

The *Tyndale* series (Eerdmans)

The *Westminster Bible Companion* series (Westminster/John Knox Press)

In addition to the three contrastable "Study Bibles" (edited by Barker, Harrelson and Meeks, respectively) in the following list, single volume Bible commentaries include: *The New Bible Commentary* (IVP), *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (Prentice-Hall) and *Harper's Bible Commentary* (Harper and Row)

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 and Michael Goheen, *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B635.3 .B37 2004]

Craig Bartholemew, Colin Greene and Karl Moller, eds., *Renewing Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS476 .R45 2000]

Walter Brueggeman, *Divine Presence Amid Violence: Contextualizing the Book of Joshua*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2009. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1199 .W2 B78 2009]

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]

Terence E. Fretheim, *God and World in the Old Testament: a Relational Theology of Creation* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2005) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1199 .C73 F74 2005]

_____, *The Suffering of God: an Old Testament Perspective* (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1984) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1199 .S82 F74]

Norman K. Gottwald and Richard A. Horsely eds., *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*. Revised edition (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002) [Robarts Library: BS476 .B49 1993]

Robert M. Grant with David Tracy, *A Short History of the Interpretation of the Bible*. Second edition, revised and enlarged (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1984) [Robarts Library: BS500 .G73 1984]

Walter J. Harrelson, ed., *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. Revised version (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2003) [Trinity Library: BS191.5 .A1 2003 .N49 2003]

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]

J. Richard Middleton, *The Liberating Image: the Imago Dei in Genesis 1*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2005) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS661 .M49 2005]

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, *How to Read the Bible to Hear God Speak: a Study in Numbers 22-24* (Sioux Centre, IA: Dordt College Press, 2003) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS580 .B3 S44 2003]

_____, *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]

Phyllis Trible, *God and the rhetoric of sexuality* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1171.2 .T74]

Kevin J. Vanhoozer et al., eds. *Theological Interpretation of the New Testament: a Book-by-Book Survey* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2008) [Emmanuel College Library: BS2397 .T43 2008]

_____, et al., eds. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: a Book-by-Book Survey* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2008) [Emmanuel College Library: BS1171.3 .T493 2008]

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]

N.T. Wright, *Paul: In Fresh Perspective* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2005) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS2651 .W748 2005]

John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus: Vicit Agnus Noster*. Second edition. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT202 .Y63]