

**ICS Calendar Title:** Biblical Foundations  
**ICS Course Code:** ICS 1108AC/2108AC F10  
**Instructor:** Dr. Nik Ansell  
**Term and Year:** Mondays, 7:00pm-10:00 pm, Fall 2010  
**Last Updated:** October 5, 2010

## **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 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 session.
- b.) In-seminar leadership: Presentation of draft of course paper, leadership in discussion of readings, including written assignments
- c.) Description of course paper: A 4,000-5,000 (phD: 5,000-7,000) 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 the texts that you will need to obtain.

*Session 1: Sept. 13*

Introductions

*Session 2: Sept. 20*

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/JCTR/Vol11/Middleton\\_voll1.pdf](http://www.luthersem.edu/ctrf/JCTR/Vol11/Middleton_voll1.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. 27*

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 [ ICS Library Reserve Shelf: 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. 4*

**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 (ROBA: BS1192.5 .S23 1995X)

*Session 5: Oct. 11*

**1 Samuel 8-12**

Hendrik Hart, [\*Setting Our Sights By the Morning Star: Reflections on the Role of the Bible in Postmodern Times\*](#) (Toronto: Patmos Press, 1989), 43-53 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS538.3 .H377)

**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. 18*

**Zechariah**

Al Wolters, "No Longer Queen: the Theological Disciplines and Their Sisters" available at: <http://www.paideiacentre.ca/story/no-longer-queen-theological-disciplines-and-their-sisters#attachments>

*[Reading Week: Oct. 25-29]*

*Session 7: Nov. 1*

**Mark**

Crispin Fletcher-Louis, "Commentary: Mark 13.24f & 30f" in *Third Way* (September 1998): 20

"(Some of the) OT Allusions/Echoes/Quotations in Mark 13"

**Ched Myers and Elaine Enns, [\*Ambassadors of Reconciliation, volume 1: New Testament Reflections on Restorative Justice and Peacemaking\*](#) (New York: Maryknoll: Orbis, 2009), Introduction, chaps. 1-2 [pp.xi-48] [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS2545 .J8 M94 2009 v.1]**

*Session 8: Nov. 8*

**Myers and Enns, [\*Ambassadors of Reconciliation\*](#), chaps. 3-4, Conclusion [pp. 49-121] [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS2545 .J8 M94 2009 v.1]**

*Session 9: Nov. 15*

**John**

Nik Ansell, "Life After the Law? Rethinking Truth in the Light of John's Gospel" (unpublished paper)

Nik Ansell, "Commentary: John 2: 15-16, 18-19; 10:30-39 & 14:2a-3" in *Third Way* (Summer 2003): 15

*Session 10: Nov. 22*

**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, 2009), 191-210 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT836.3 J47 2009]

Nicholas John Ansell, "An Apocalyptic Appendix: in *The Annihilation of Hell: Universal Salvation and the Redemption of Time in the Eschatology of Jürgen Moltmann* (Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster Press, forthcoming)

*Sessions 11-12: Nov. 29 and Dec. 6*

Student presentations

Session 13: Dec. 13

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, ed., *The Art of Reading Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), 38-53 (TRIN: BS476 .A76 2003)

### **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 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 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]

Craig Bartholomew, 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]

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 1984]

Norman G. Gottwald and Richard A. Horsley eds., *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*. Revised edition (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002) [ROBA (1993 ed.) BS476 .B49 1993]

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

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

Wayne A. Meeks, Gen. ed., *The HarperCollins Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books* (San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1993) [Emmanuel College Library: BS191.5 .A1 1993 .N49]

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 Center, IA: Dordt College Press, 2003), xi-xiii. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS580 .S44 2003]

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]

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) (TRIN: BS2397 .T43 2008)

\_\_\_\_\_, et al., eds. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: a Book-by-Book Survey* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2008) (ROBA: BS1171.3 .T493 2008X)

Christopher J.H. Wright, [\*Old Testament Ethics for the People of God\*](#) (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS1199 .E8 W77 2004]

N.T. Wright, [\*Paul: in Fresh Perspective\*](#) (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005). [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS2651 .W748 2009]

\_\_\_\_\_, [\*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]

\_\_\_\_\_, [\*The New Testament and the People of God: Christian Origins and the Question of God\*](#), volume 1 (London: SPCK; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1992) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BS2398 .W75 N4 v.1]

John Howard Yoder, [\*The Politics of Jesus: Vicit Agnus Noster\*](#). Second edition. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994) [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: 1<sup>st</sup> ed. BT202 .Y63 ; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. ROBA: BT202 .Y63 1994]