

THE PEOPLE'S SEMINARY / REGENT COLLEGE

BIBL 520: OLD TESTAMENT BOOK STUDY: EXODUS & LIBERATION

Dr. Bob Ekblad
Spring 2000
Wed 2:00-5:00 p.m.
3 graduate credit hours
Register as BIBL 220 for CCS credit

Course Description

This course will explore the dynamics of oppression and liberation through a combination of systematic overview of the entire book of Exodus, careful reading of key texts and continual discussion about the relevance of this book for current situations of oppression. After a survey of the book of Exodus, the instructor will guide students through in-depth study of select texts. Students will learn to make use of diverse approaches to Biblical exegesis, (historical-critical, narrative, structural, theological, rabbinic). How does Exodus depict God, human nature, mediation between God and humans, human response (ethics)? Special emphasis will be placed on developing an approach to the Scriptures that is intellectually responsible, engaged with the real world and spiritually sensitive. The course is designed to provide both knowledge, skills and experience that will help students better do the necessary work to prepare for sermons, Bible studies and their own personal study.

Class Outline

- Jan.12 Introduction: Overview of the Book of Exodus and hermeneutical issues
- Jan.19 Egyptian oppression and modern equivalents: An exegetical study of Exod 1-2
- Jan.26 God's call of a liberator: Revelation to Moses and Moses' response, Exod 3:1-4:17
- Feb.2 Advocacy and Oppression: Confronting the Powerful, Exod 4:18-7:7
- Feb.9 God's judgment: understanding the plagues and God's hardening, Exod 7:8-11:10
- Feb.16 God's judgment and liberation: the Passover and Exodus: Exod 12:1-13:16
- Feb.23 Crossing into freedom, Exodus 13:17-15:21
- Mar.1 Life in the wilderness: the perils of unbelief and temptation, Exod 15:22-27;17:1-7
- Mar.8 Signs of God's faithfulness: Mannah and its significance, Exod 16:1-36
- Mar.15 The people meet God: theophany at Mt. Sinai, Exod 19
- Mar.22 No Class - Reading Week
- Mar.29 The ten commandments, Exod 20

- Apr.5 Keeping the faith through covenant and worship: final reflections on the Sinai traditions

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

3 cr hrs

Lectures	36 hrs
Reading & weekly class preparation	50 hrs (1000 pp)
Term Paper	37 hrs (15-20 pp)
Exegesis Papers	8 hrs (2 @ 2 pp)
Book Review	<u>4 hrs</u> (2 pp)
TOTAL	135 hrs

Assignments:

1. Required Reading:

Students will be required to read in preparation for each class and will be expected to participate in class discussion and be prepared for an occasional quiz on required reading.

2. Book Review:

Students are required to write one two-page book review. **DUE: Jan.26/00**

3. Exegesis Papers:

During the course of the semester, students will be required to write two 2-page papers on scripture texts on which the instructor will lecture. Specific assignments will be handed out on the first day of class. 1st exegesis paper **DUE: Feb. 9/00**

2nd exegesis paper **DUE: Mar. 1/00**

4. Term Paper:

Students are expected to write one 15-20 page exegetical paper during the course of the semester. In this paper students will be required to combine exegesis of an Exodus text of their choice with a presentation of a current situation where liberation is urgent.

DUE: Apr.5/00

Evaluation

	<u>3 cr hrs</u>
Exegesis Papers (2 @ 15 %)	30 %
Book Review	20 %
Term Paper	50 %

Bibliography

Required Reading:

Manlio Argueta, *One Day of Life*, translated by Bill Brow (Vintage Books: New York 1991) (215 pp)

Brevard S. Childs, *The Book of Exodus: A Critical, Theological Commentary* (Westminster Press: Philadelphia, 1974) (approx. 400 pp of this text)

William Finnegan, *Cold New World: Growing Up in a Harder Country* (Random House: New York, 1998) (351 pp)

Recommended Reading:

Jan Assmann, *Moses the Egyptian: The Memory of Egypt in Western Monotheism*, Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 1997

- John D. Currid, *Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament*, Baker Books: Grand Rapids, 1997
- W.W. Johnson, *Exodus*, Old Testament Guides, JSOT Press, Sheffield, 1990
- K.A. Kitchen, "The Exodus" in David Noel Freedman (Ed.), *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Vol. 2, Doubleday: New York, 1992, pp.700-708
- George V. Pixley, *On Exodus: A Liberation Perspective*, Orbis: Maryknoll, 1987
- Donald B. Redford, *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*, Princeton University Press: New Jersey, 1992
- Nahum M. Sarna, "The Book of Exodus" in David Noel Freedman (Ed.), *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Vol. 2, Doubleday: New York, 1992, pp.689-700
- N. M. Sarna, *Exploring Exodus* (Random: New York, 1986)
- N. M. Sarna, *Exodus Torah Commentary*, 1996
- Marc Vervenne (Ed.), *Studies in the Book of Exodus: Redaction, Reception, Interpretation*, Peeters Publishers, Leuven, 1996
- Wilhelm Vischer, *The Witness of the Old Testament to Christ, Vol. 1*, Trans. A. B. Crabtree, Lutterworth Press: London, 1949