

The Hebrew Scriptures

Fall Semester

Mrs. James

Scope and Sequence

This course begins with looking at the journey of adolescence as seen through the eyes of faith, then moves on to explore the Roman Catholic faith through the study of its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures. It will cover the span of the creation stories in the book of Genesis, the stories of the patriarchs, the Exodus event, the reign of the Israelite kings, and the Wisdom and Prophetic literature of the Hebrew Scriptures. In addition, the students will reflect on their individual faith journeys through their personal journals.

Course Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Students completing the first semester of the 9th grade course in Theology will:

- Analyze the developmental journey from childhood to adulthood together with its impact on religious faith (Departments Standards 4, 5, 8 & 9)
- Describe the basic teachings of the Catholic faith regarding salvation and revelation (1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)
- Describe the basic teachings of the Catholic faith regarding Scripture (1, 2, 3 & 4)
- Articulate the indispensable relationship between Christianity and the Jewish tradition (2, 3 & 7)
- Analyze the major events of the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt (2, 4, & 7)
- Describe the significance of the stories of the Bible to Christian believers today (2, 3, 4 & 7)
- Identify the overarching themes of the Bible (4, 5, 7 & 8)
- Demonstrate the foundational skills necessary for competent exploration of the Scriptures and religious teaching (2)
- Apply biblical teaching to ethics, morality and service to others (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8)

Goals

Included in the goals of the course, students will develop:

- A familiarity with Scripture that will enhance the use of the Bible for study, spiritual nourishment and personal prayer
- An appreciation of Christianity's roots
- An awareness of the evolution of their personal journeys of faith
- A community of faith in the classroom which fosters personal growth, faith sharing and prayer

Required Texts and Materials

Newland, Mary Reed, *Written on Our Hearts: the Old Testament Story of God's Love*, Winona, Minnesota: Saint Mary's Press, 2002.

A hardcover journal *and* a spiral bound, two-subject notebook

Course Outline

- I. Faith, Revelation and Free Will (Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis)
 - a) The Meaning and Development of Faith
 - b) Revelation – God's Constant Call
 - c) Free Will and Salvation

- II. Overview of the Hebrew Scriptures (WOOH Chapter 1)
 - a) Speaking of God
 - b) What are Scriptures?
 - c) Scripture as a collaboration between God and humans
 - d) The development of Scripture

- III. The Stories of God's Creation and Promises (WOOH Chapter 2)
 - a) Finding religious truth
 - b) Stories of the Origins
 - c) Stories of the Patriarchs

- IV. The Exodus and the Covenant at Sinai (WOOH Chapters 3 and 4)
 - a) The Exodus: Freedom from slavery
 - b) The Covenant at Sinai
 - c) Love and the Law

- V. The Periods of the Judges and the Monarchy (WOOH Chapters 5 and 6)
 - a) Joshua, Judges and Ruth
 - b) Becoming a Nation
 - c) Saul, David and Solomon

- VI. The Prophets of Israel (WOOH Chapter 7 & 8)
 - a) The Kingdom breaks up
 - b) The Prophets of the Divided Kingdom and the Exile

- VII. The Restoration (WOOH Chapter 9)
 - a) The Return to Israel and the Second Temple
 - b) Greek rule and the Maccabean revolt
 - c) Apocalyptic literature

- VIII. The Wisdom Books (WOOH Chapters 10 and 11)
 - a) What's life all about?
 - b) The Psalms

Expectations

Plagiarism - Students are expected to comply with IHHS's policy on academic integrity.

Study Materials – You are expected to bring your textbook and notebook to class every day.

Tests and Quizzes – Tests will be given at the end of each unit. Pop quizzes based on the previous day's readings may be given at any time.

Attendance – If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to find out about any assignments missed and to catch up on class notes. Please check the class website for assignments. If you miss a quiz or a test due to an excused absence, expect to take the test on the day you return.

Tardiness and Personal Needs – You are expected to be on time for class with all the study materials necessary, and having taken care of all your personal needs such as snacks, beverages and bathrooms visits. Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers during class.

Class Participation – Students are expected to participate actively and respectfully in class with thoughtful questions, reflections, or other input. Disrespectful behavior such as interrupting others or making scornful remarks and facial expressions will reflect negatively on your grade. Thoughtful participation is worth 10% of your final grade.

Homework Policy

All homework papers are to be **typed**, in a *simple font*, and no less than *12 point*. Number each question, space between each one, and respond in complete sentences. Your heading goes to the left of the paper. For example:

Name
Class
Date

Page # or Page # and Activity #

A late assignment will have points docked. Parents will be notified if there is a pattern of missing assignments. A valid request for an extension on any assignment or project will be considered *in advance* or in the case of a family or personal emergency. Please see me, as this will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

When using a computer for your assignments, **SAVE OFTEN** and **PRINT EARLY!** Malfunctioning computers, disks or printers are not acceptable excuses for late work *unless* accompanied by a note of verification from a parent.

Homework assignments, chapter tests, reading quizzes, writing/oral presentation projects, and oral participation compose 80% of the final grade. The final exam is worth 20% of your final class grade.