

The Hebrew Scriptures

Fall Semester

Teacher: Ms. Wong

Scope and Sequence

This course begins with the study of faith and its development particularly in the adolescent years, 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.

Hardcover journal

One-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

Grading and 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. Journals should be brought on days on which entries are due.

Assignments – Most of your homework will be done in your notebook. Please keep it current. It may be checked at any time and points will be docked for incomplete homework. With the exception of journals, assignments turned in late will *not* be accepted unless you have an excused absence. Journals turned in late will have points docked.

Absences – If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to find out about any assignments missed and to catch up on class notes. On your first day back, you must turn in assignments that were due on the first day you were absent without a reminder from me. If you miss a quiz or a test due to an excused absence, expect to take the test on the day you return.

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

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 bathroom 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.

The final exam is worth 20% of your final class grade.