

## Hebrew Bible: Course Description Freshmen

Mr. Kilbridge

**Texts:**           *The Catholic Youth Bible*  
                      *Journey Through the Old Testament*

### Overview:

This course is devoted to the study of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). Our chief aim will be to develop an appreciation of the Hebrew Bible as a sacred text both for Jews and Christians. In doing so, we will explore historical, geographical and literary as well as the theological aspects of the Bible. The study of this material will be serious and academic. You can expect to write papers and give oral presentations in addition to taking tests and participating in class discussion.

In addition to the academic content of the course, there will be a strong emphasis on your personal experience of God and religion. It is my hope that the course will stimulate your mind *and* heart.

### Outline:

This outline is subject to change.

1<sup>st</sup> marking period

    Introduction to the Bible as a literary, historical and spiritual work

    Begin reading Genesis

2<sup>nd</sup> marking period

    Complete Genesis

    Exodus

3<sup>rd</sup> marking period

    The remainder of the Pentateuch

    The history of the nation of Israel up to King David

4<sup>th</sup> marking period

    The history of the nation of Israel through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Period and its literary output

### Expectations:

1. Course Outcomes:

- Students will have a basic biblical literacy (navigation, organization, etc.).
- Students will know the story of the Chosen People from Genesis to the time of the Roman occupation.
- Students will understand and appreciate the Church's teaching regarding the value, nature, and interpretation of Hebrew Scripture as God's Revelation in Salvation History as presented in Vatican II's *Dei Verbum*.
- Students will identify the names, sources, elements, and styles of major sections of Hebrew Scripture: Pentateuch, Histories, Poetry, Wisdom, Prophets.
- Students will identify and understand the influence of the social and historical context on the development of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Students will identify and recognize the themes of the Hebrew Scriptures: covenant, nation of Israel, social justice, creation, sin and salvation, messianic expectations, etc.
- Students will recognize in the stories of the Patriarchs and prophets lessons regarding the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.

- Students will apply appropriate exegesis techniques to the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Students will evaluate various scholarly sources for use in critical analysis of Hebrew Scripture.
- Students will use the Hebrew Scriptures as a lens for critical analysis of contemporary culture.
- Students will use the Hebrew Scriptures as a lens for personal reflection and growth.
- Students will appreciate the history and contribution of Israelite/Jewish culture to Christianity and the world.

2. Grades:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| a. Tests and quizzes and homework             | 90% |
| b. Class notes, reflections and participation | 10% |

3. My expectations of you:

- A diligent and prudent student is punctual and organized.
  - Be in your seat, in dress code, at the beginning of class. If you are leading the class in prayer, be prepared.
  - Be prepared for class with your notebook, bible, textbook, and a pen or pencil. On test and quiz days have either a #2 pencil or a quarter to purchase one.
  - Homework assignments will be listed on a Reading Assignment sheet distributed at the beginning of the year and posted on the course website. The day listed refers to the day it is due, not the day it is assigned. Homework should be completed the night it is assigned and completed whether or not we have an unexpected cancellation of classes. Bring your books home the day of class so that you will be able to complete your work in the event we have a snow day or other unplanned school closing. Pop quizzes will be given.
  - All homework is due at the beginning of class. Homework will be marked down if it is turned in late on the day it is due. No homework will be accepted after the day it is due (exceptions are made in the case of illness- *you* are responsible for seeing me to arrange a make up)
  - Tests and quizzes will be given on the announced date. If class should be canceled for some reason, the test will be administered in the next class meeting. If school is canceled the day prior to a test (i.e. on a day in which you attend gym) the test will still be administered on the announced day. Therefore, you must bring your books home two days prior to an announced test. Be responsible.
- A respectful student obeys the rules and cares for others.
  - Food, gum and drinks are not allowed in the classroom.
  - Treat others as you would have them treat you. Raise your hand when you want to contribute to discussion.
- An honest student does his own work.
  - You may not work with other students on homework unless otherwise told or in preparation for tests.
  - Academic honesty is an attribute of an upright character. It is not in keeping with the ideals of the school to cheat. Violators will receive a zero. If you have further questions refer to the conduct code.
- An intellectually curious student explores the world around him, asks questions and seeks answers.