RS 101 - INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLICAL TRADITION
FALL 1998
PROFESSORS BATEY, IVORY, KALTNER

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the study and interpretation of biblical literature. The primary tools and methods of biblical scholarship will be employed and evaluated through an examination of selected texts from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. The role of context will be highlighted and discussed at length since both the originating context of a particular text and the context of later readers have a profound impact on how the Bible is understood and interpreted.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Two Bible Lands Resource maps (available in Rhodes bookstore).
Reading packet of articles (available in Rhodes bookstore).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1) Attendance/participation - Students are expected to complete all readings for the day they are assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them. More than four unexcused absences will adversely affect one’s grade. (10% of final grade)

2) Three exams - There will be two semester exams (October 7 and November 20) and one final exam (December 12). (20% each = 60% of final grade)

3) Paper/presentation - Each student will write one five page double-spaced paper that will be a contextualized study of a biblical passage. During the last five sessions of the semester these papers will be read and discussed in class. Specific details of this assignment will be given early in the semester. (30% of final grade)

GENERAL INFORMATION
Ten times during the semester all three sections of this course will meet together in what is listed as a “plenary session” in this syllabus. These meetings will take place in the Orgill Room in Clough Hall. All other sessions will take place in the rooms assigned for each section as listed in the schedule of classes.

Dr. Richard Batey’s office is in 411 Clough Hall and his telephone extension is #3909. His office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-10:15 or by appointment.

Dr. Luther Ivory’s office is in 404 Clough Hall and his telephone extension is #3379. His office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9-11 or by appointment.

Dr. John Kaltner’s office is in 400A Clough Hall and his telephone extension is #3407. His office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 3-4:30 and Friday 9:30-11 or by appointment.

August 26     Introduction
August 28     Plenary Session: Biblical Hermeneutics (Batey/Ivory)
               Orgill Room
August 31     Plenary Session: The Hebrew Bible in Context (Kaltner)
               Orgill Room
September 2  Claiming the Land: The Exodus Event  
Read: Exodus 7:1-15:21

September 4  Israel in the Wilderness  
Read: Exodus 15:22-18:27

September 7  Labor Day - No Class

September 9  Plenary Session: Understanding Exodus Historically (Batey)  
Orgill Room

September 11  Moses on the Mountain: Receiving the Law  
Read: Exodus 19:1-21:36; 24:1-18

September 14  The People Down Below: The Golden Calf  
Read: Exodus 31:18-34:35

September 16  Plenary Session: Understanding Exodus Theologically (Ivory)  
Orgill Room

September 18  Contextualized Readings of Exodus  

September 21  Contextualized Readings of Exodus  
Read: Steve Charleston, “The Old Testament of Native America” (reading packet)

September 23  Plenary Session: Understanding Exodus Comparatively (Kaltner)  
Qur’an passages (to be distributed)  
Orgill Room

September 25  Losing the Land: The Prophetic Response  
Read: Amos 1:1-4:13

September 28  Losing the Land: The Prophetic Response  
Read: Amos 5:1-9:15

September 30  Reclaiming the Land: A Second Exodus  
Read: Isaiah 40:1-55:13

October 2  Returning to the Land  
October 5  Exam Review
October 7  Exam
October 9  Plenary Session: The New Testament in Context (Batey)
          Orgill Room
October 12 Jesus the Liberator
            Read: Luke 1:1-5:39
October 14 Jesus the Liberator
            Read: Luke 6:1-10:42
October 16 Jesus the Liberator
October 19 Fall Recess - No Class
October 21 Plenary Session: Understanding Luke Historically (Batey)
            Orgill Room
October 23 Jesus the Liberator
October 26 The Liberated Community
            Read: Acts 1:1-7:60
October 28 Plenary Session: Understanding Luke Theologically (Ivory)
            Orgill Room
October 30 Contextualized Readings of the New Testament
            Read: James H. Cone, “God is Black” (reading packet)
November 2 Contextualized Readings of the New Testament
            Read: Mercy Amba Oduyoye, “The Empowering Spirit of Religion” (reading packet)
November 4 Plenary Session: Understanding Luke Comparatively (Kaltner)
            Read: Qur’an passages (to be distributed)
            Orgill Room
November 6 Plenary Session: Paul’s Life and Mission (Batey)
            Read: Romans 1:1-7:25
            Orgill Room
November 9  Freedom through Faith in Christ  
Read: Romans 8:1-16:27

November 11 The Nature of Christian Liberty  
Read: Galatians 1:1-6:18

November 13 Community Responsibilities  
Read: 1 Corinthians 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 1:1-9:15

November 16 Courage and Joy in the Face of Suffering  

November 18 Exam Review

November 20 Exam

November 23 AAR/SBL meeting - No Class

November 25 Thanksgiving Recess - No Class

November 27 Thanksgiving Recess - No Class

November 30 Student Presentations

December 2  Student Presentations

December 4  Student Presentations

December 7  Student Presentations

December 9  Student Presentations/Evaluation

December 12 Final Exam : 1-3:30 PM