

ST. THOMAS SEMINARY . Bloomfield, CT 06002  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION, EVANGELIZATION and CATECHESIS

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

**Course Title**

**CBS 300 Old Testament Continued: Exile and Restoration** (*Pre-Requisites: CBS 100, 200*)

**Course Description**

This year-long course of study builds upon and develops students' understanding and use of the interpretive and exegetical methods of engage the biblical texts learned in CBS 100 and 200, continuing with comprehensive studies of the Old Testament prophets and book of Psalms, the People of God's experience of the Babylonian Exile, and the restoration of the land and faith of Israel. Beginning with an intensive six-hour study and a book report on a scholarly, students go on to read major portions of the assigned biblical books as well as secondary sources that provide historical, cultural, religious, and literary insights into the primary texts—including careful study of the geography of biblical lands from the eighth-century BCE through the first-century BCE. Students engage the texts by means of weekly written assignments and have opportunities on a weekly basis to place their understanding of the biblical texts in the context of their lived faith experiences by means of reflection and discussion in small groups. In the spring, students engage in a four-hour intensive study on a biblical topic of contemporary interest. A comprehensive exam completes each of the three units of study in this course.

**Instructors**

Instructors vary by location.

Students should request the instructor's contact information during Week One.

**Faculty Chair**

BJ Daly Horell, Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis: 860-242-5573 ext. 2679 or [catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org](mailto:catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org). (Email preferred)

**Credits**

4.5

**Cancellations**

Go to <http://www.stsregistrar.org/cgi-bin/CBS/cbsstudentlogin.pl>

Your password is your student ID. If you do not have access to a computer, a voice message will be provided at 860-242-5573 ext. 2670.

**Required Texts**

A Study Bible. Recommended translations: New American Bible-Revised Edition, New English Version, New Jerusalem Bible, New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha, Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha, New International Version with Apocrypha. Paraphrased and/or Condensed Bibles are not an acceptable primary text for use in this program.

The Catholic Biblical School Student Workbook Year Three: Old Testament Continued: Exile and Restoration (Paulist Press, 2009) (ISBN 978-0-8091-9588-6)

Eerdman's Dictionary of the Bible, David Noel Freedman, ed. (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Ltd., 2000) (ISBN 978-0-8028-2400-4)

Oxford Bible Atlas, Fourth Edition, Adrian Curtis, ed. (Oxford University Press) (ISBN 9-780199-56046-2) (Any similar atlas or online map that provides the information required in the student workbook is permissible.)

Conversing with God in Scripture: A Contemporary Approach to Lectio Divina, Stephen Binz, (The Word Among Us Press, 2008) (ISBN 978-1-59325-126-0)

Reading the Old Testament, Lawrence Boadt, Revised and Updated by Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington, (Paulist Press, 2012) (ISBN 978-0-8091-4780-9) OR: If you have it, you may use the first edition (1984, ISBN 978-0-8091-2631-6). If using the 1984 edition, follow page numbers in the Student Workbook.

The Prophets, Volume 1, Abraham J. Heschel (Harper & Row Publishers, 1962) (ISBN 9780061314216)

Introduction to the Prophets, Thomas L. Leclerc (Paulist Press, 1995) (978-0-8091-4492-1)

“Ezekiel, Daniel,” Corinne Carvalho, *New Collegeville Bible Commentary* (Liturgical Press, 2012) (ISBN 978 0 8146 2850 8) OR Toni Craven, *Collegeville Bible Commentary* (Liturgical Press, 1986) (ISBN 978-0-8146-1423-5)

## Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Describe the historical and socio-political contexts of the writings of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah of Jerusalem, Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum, and Jeremiah.
2. Investigate the structures, themes, and theologies of writings of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah of Jerusalem, Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum, and Jeremiah
3. Relate the writings of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah of Jerusalem, Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum, and Jeremiah to contemporary Christian beliefs and practices.

## Course Requirements

1. **Attendance** at two day-long “Scripture Days,” presented by guest lecturers (leading scripture scholars) (Fall and Spring)
2. **Attendance** at 8 out of 10 class meetings per unit
3. **Written Assignment** on a contemporary scholarly monograph related to course content due at the Opening Scripture Day in August.
4. **Unit Exams:** Scheduled on the final class meeting in each unit
5. **Readings** from the Bible and secondary sources
6. **Weekly Homework:** One to three page papers: responses to exegetical and interpretive questions, due at the beginning of class each week, except when unit exams are scheduled.
7. **Integral Challenges:** Students must complete 1-5 additional papers (2-3 pages each in length, typewritten and double-spaced) or suitable project choosing (with advance authorization of the instructor) from among the “optional challenges” provided in the student workbook. These Integral Challenges explore questions of literary criticism, theological hermeneutics, and the social-historical contexts of biblical texts. (To be eligible for an “A” grade in the course, students must satisfactorily complete 5 integral challenges; to be eligible for a “B” grade, students must

satisfactorily complete 3 integral challenges; to be eligible for a “C” grade, students must complete satisfactorily 1 integral challenge. All integral challenges will be graded A, B, C, D, or F. Completion of 5 integral challenges does *not* guarantee an “A” grade on either the integral challenge portion of the course requirements or for the course itself.)

**Integral Challenge Due Dates:**

- 1) Fifth Week of Class: Submit to instructor your plan for the IC projects you intend to complete
- 2) First Class Meeting After Thanksgiving Break: First IC project due
- 3) First Class Meeting After Christmas Break: Second IC project due
- 4) First Class Meeting After February Break: Third IC project due
- 5) First Class Meeting After Holy Week Break: Fourth IC project due
- 6) Final Class Meeting in May: Final IC project due

8. **Active Participation** in weekly discussion groups and lectures

**Recommended Assignments**

Geography, vocabulary and memory verses as detailed in students workbook lessons (Not turned in to instructor, but material *will* be tested on Unit Exams)

**Course Assessment**

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Expectation</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Class Participation	Participation in weekly, small-group discussions; active engagement in full-class presentations and semi-annual Scripture Days	15%
Summer Reading Paper	Two to three double-spaced pages on Summer Reading Assignment: graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	15%
Integral Challenge Papers	Two to three double-spaced pages on student’s choice (with instructor approval in advance) of “Optional Challenges” listed in Student Workbook: graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	20%
Written Homework Papers	Weekly homework papers: graded A through F at the end of each unit. Homework must be <i>complete</i> to receive course credit.	20%
Unit Exams (3)	Graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	30%



Letter Grade	Description	Value	Numerical Points
A	Excellent	4.00	93 - 100
A-		3.67	90 - 92
B+		3.33	87 - 89
B	Good	3.00	83 - 86
B-		2.67	80 - 82
C+	Average	2.33	77 - 79
C		2.00	73 - 76
C-		1.67	70 - 72
D+	Less than Average	1.33	67 - 69
D		1.00	63 - 66
D-	Minimum Passing Grade	0.67	60 - 62
F	Failure	0.00	Below 60
I	Incomplete	0.00	0.00
W	Withdrawal	0.00	0.00

To be eligible for the St. Thomas Seminary *Certificate in Biblical Studies*, students must pass each course with a grade of “C” or better.

### Late Assignments

Can be turned in with no penalty through the last day of each unit, with the permission of the instructor

### Make-up Policy

Missed requirements and absences can be made up only by permission of the Chair of the Certificate in Biblical Studies.

### Course Schedule

#### Unit One

**Class Discussion** Weekly class discussions in Unit One will center on the following issues and theological themes: History of the Divided Monarchy; Managing the Land; Leadership During the Divided Monarchy—Prophets and Kings; The Prophet’s Vocation; Social Justice; Marriage as Symbol of the Covenant Relationship in Israel and Judah

**Week One** Assignment: Boadt, pages 265-276; Abraham Heschel’s *The Prophets* (Heschel) pages xiii-31; Student Workbook Supplementary Reading (SWSR) #1 “Classical Prophets: Differentia from Early Prophets”

**Week Two** Assignment: Amos 1-9; Heschel, pages 32-46; Thomas L. Leclerc’s *Introduction to the Prophets* (Leclerc) pages 123-141; SWSR #2 “Pre-exilic Prophets: Overview-Amos”

**Week Three** Assignment: Hosea 1-6, 11-14; Heschel, pages 47-50, 53-58, 70-75; Leclerc, pages 142-161; SWSR # 2 “Pre-exilic Prophets: Overview-Hosea”

**Week Four** Assignment: Isaiah 1-12; Heschel, pages 76-94, 112-114; Leclerc, pages 162-174; SWSR # 2 “Pre-Exilic Prophets: Overview-Isaiah”; SWSR # 3 “The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian

Bible”

- Week Five** Assignment: Isaiah 25, 28-39; Heschel, pages 94-112; Leclerc, pages 174-187; SWSR # 4 “The Prism of Sennacherib, iii 18-49”
- Week Six** Assignment: Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum; Heschel, pages 124-129; Leclerc, pages 188-204, 212-226; SWSR #2 “Pre-exilic Prophets: Overview-Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum”
- Week Seven** Assignment: Jeremiah 1-6; Heschel, pages 130-146; Leclerc, pages 235-242, 251-255; SWSR # 2 “Pre-exilic Prophets: Overview-Jeremiah”
- Week Eight** Assignment: Jeremiah 7-20; Heschel, pages 146-160; Leclerc, pages 243-251, 255-256, 258-260, 263-265
- Week Nine** Assignment: Jeremiah 21-24, 26-33, 36-38, 52; Heschel, pages 160-177; Leclerc, pages 242-243, 256-257, 260-263, 265-272
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam

**Unit Two**

**Class Discussion** Weekly class discussions in Unit Two will center on the following issues and theological themes: The Babylonian Exile as Political and Religious Crisis; Strategies of Political and Religious Renewal; History-Writing in the Old Testament; The Meaning of the Exile; Experience of Loss of Religious and Political Identity; Theology of Renewal During the Exile and Post-Exilic Period

- Week One** Assignment: Lamentations. Obadiah; Leclerc, pages 272-277; EDB articles: “Acrostic” and “Lament”; SWSR # 7 “The Meaning of Exile”; SWSR # 8 “Literature of the Exile: Overview-Lamentations and Obadiah”
- Week Two** Assignment: Ezekiel 1-5, 8-12, 16-17; Colledgeville Commentary on Ezekiel 1-5, 8-12, 16-17; Leclerc, pages 278-295; SWSR # 8 “Literature of the Exile: Overview-Ezekiel”
- Week Three** Assignment: Ezekiel 18-24, 33-37, 43:1-12, 47:1-12; Colledgeville Commentary on Ezekiel 18-24, 33-37, 43:1-12, 47:1-12, Leclerc, pages 295-303; EDB article: “Shepherd”
- Week Four** Assignment: Isaiah 40-48; Leclerc, pages 304-332; EDB articles: “Cyrus” and “Monotheism, Ancient Israel”; SWSR # 8 “Literature of the Exile: Overview-Second Isaiah”
- Week Five** Assignment: Isaiah 49-55; Heschel, pages 184-201; EDB article: “Servant of the Lord, Second Isaiah”
- Week Six** Assignment: Haggai, Zechariah 1-8; Leclerc, pages 333-346; EDB articles:

“Darius, #1,” “Satan,” and “Zerubbabel”; SWSR # 9 “Restoration Literature: Overview-Haggai and Zechariah”

**Week Seven** Assignment: Isaiah 56-66; Leclerc, pages 360-375; SWSR # 9 “Restoration Literature: Overview-Third Isaiah”

**Week Eight** Assignment: Ezra 1:1-11, 3:1-10:17; Boadt, pages 397-398; EDB articles: “Beyond the River, #2,” “Ezra, #1,” “Jews, Judaism,” “Persia,” “Samaritans,” and “Satrap”; SWSR #9 “Restoration Literature: Overview-Ezra”

**Week Nine** Assignment: Nehemiah 1-2, 4-6 (3:33-6:19 NAB and NJB), 8-10, 13; Boadt, pages 398-403; EDB article: “Nehemiah, Book of”; SWSR # 9 “Restoration Literature: Overview-Nehemiah”

**Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam

### Unit Three

**Class Discussion** Weekly class discussions in Unit Three will center on the following issues and theological themes: Restoration Policies in the Post-Exilic Period; Hebrew Poetry; Jewish Liturgy; Rebuilding Jewish Identity in the Early Post-Exilic Period; Importance of the Law in Post-Exilic Judaism; Canon Development and Inter-Biblical Redaction in the OT

**Week One** Assignment: 1 Chronicles 10-22, 28-29; Boadt, pages 393-397; EDB article: “Historiography, Biblical: Biblical Historical Writing”; SWSR # 12 “David, the King: Two Biblical Portraits”; SWSR # 13 “Synoptic Comparison 1: The Bringing of the Ark to Jerusalem”; SWSR #14 “After the Exile: Overview-The Chronicler’s History”

**Week Two** Assignment: 2 Chronicles 1-9, 28-36; EDB article: “Levites” | “After the Exile: Overview-The Chronicler’s History,” #14, “Synoptic Comparison 2: Solomon’s Prayer,” #15 and “Prayer of Manasseh,” #16 in Student Workbook Supplementary Readings

**Week Three** Assignment: Joel, Malachi, Zechariah 9-14; Leclerc, pages 346-359 and 375-382; EDB article: “Locust”; SWSR # 14 “After the Exile: Overview-Joel, Malachi, and Deutero-Zechariah”

**Week Four** Assignment: Ruth; Boadt, pages 434-435; EDB articles: “Gleaning,” “Levirate Marriage,” and “Ruth, Book of”; SWSR # 14 “After the Exile: Overview-Ruth”

**Week Five** Assignment: Song of Solomon (Song of Songs); Boadt, pages 422-423; EDB articles: “Allegory,” “Poetry,” and “Song of Solomon”; SWSR # 14 “After the Exile: Overview–Song of Solomon (Song of Songs)”

**Week Six** Assignment: Psalms 1, 15, 22, 34, 51, 104, 119, 141; Boadt, pages 243-252;

SWSR # 14 "After the Exile: Overview–Psalms"

- Week Seven**      Assignment: Psalms 3, 5, 6, 88 (individual laments); Psalms 14, 74, 80, 137 (communal laments); Psalms 32, 38, 130 (penitential psalms); Psalms 109, 139:19-22 (Cursing psalms); EDB articles: "Curse," "Lament," and "Sheol"; SWSR # 18 "Types of Psalms"
- Week Eight**      Assignment: Psalm 23 and one of the following: 27, 62, 91, 131 (psalms of confidence/trust); one of the following: 30, 92, 116 (psalms of communal thanksgiving); Psalms 11 and one of the following: 65, 124 (psalms of communal thanksgiving); Psalms 8, 29, 33, 48, 100 and one of the following: 113, 148, 150 (psalms of praise); Psalm 110 and one of the following" 2, 45, 72, 101, 132 (royal psalms)
- Week Nine**      Assignment: Psalms 78, 105, 106, 135, 136 (narratives/historical psalms); Psalms 50, 82 (prophetic psalms); Psalms 37, 49 (wisdom psalms); Psalms 47, 95, 96 (The Lord is King); Psalm 89 (messianic psalm); SWSR # 19 "Rereadings (Relectures)"
- Week Ten**      Assignment: Unit Exam