

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Sacred Scripture

What is the Bible? How do you interpret it? These two questions are practically addressed throughout the course. Since the Bible is “the Word of God in human words,” the joint divine and human authorship of Sacred Scripture from an incarnational perspective is considered and inspiration, canonicity and truth/inerrancy by means of the guiding magisterial documents are studied. The specific methods and tools for studying the biblical text are introduced.

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to

- identify and explain the four main components of salvation history
- grasp the interdependence of Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium in the transmission of revelation
- assess the implications of the doctrine of divine inspiration for the diversity of authorial viewpoints found within Scripture
- illustrate the reciprocal relationship of the Old and New Testaments
- assess the implications of the gospels’ apostolic origin for preaching the Gospel today
- integrate Church teaching on Scripture into the practice of your ministry

Coursework: In addition to reading assigned texts and listening to online lectures, you are expected to complete the following graded coursework:

- 60% Weekly Quizzes (6 x 10%)
- 20% Forum Discussions (4 x 5%)
- 20% Integration Paper

Required Readings:

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994. [http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20100930_verbum-domini.html]
- Amy-Jill Levine, *Short Stories by Jesus*. HarperCollins, 2014.
- Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Interpretation Of The Bible In The Church*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994. [http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/PBC_Interp.htm]
- Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2001. [http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20020212_popolo-ebraico_en.html]
- Vatican II, *Dei Verbum*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1965. [http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html]

Recommended Readings:

- Giovanni Deiana, *Introduction to the Sacred Scripture in the light of «Dei verbum»*. Rome: Urbaniana University Press, 2014. [<http://www.ibs.it/code/9788840170459/deiana-giovanni/introduction-the-sacred.html>]

COURSE SCHEDULE

MODULE 1: Revelation Itself

- **Assigned Readings:**
 - John 1:1-18
 - *Dei Verbum*, Preface & Chapter 1 (Articles 1-6)
 - *Verbum Domini*, Articles 6-28
 - Levine, Introduction & Chapter 1 (pp. 1-76)
- **Conference Call:**

MODULE 2: Handing on Divine Revelation

- **Assigned Readings:**
 - Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23
 - *Dei Verbum*, Chapter 2 (Articles 7-10)
 - *Verbum Domini*, Articles 29-49
 - Levine, Chapters 2 & 3 (pp. 77-137)
- **Forum Discussion:**

MODULE 3: Sacred Scripture, Its Inspiration and Divine Interpretation

- **Assigned Readings:**
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:15-16
 - *Dei Verbum*, Chapter 3 (Articles 11-13)
 - *Interpretation Of The Bible In The Church*, I.F (“Fundamentalist Interpretation”); II.A-B (“Philosophical Hermeneutics”)
 - Levine, Chapters 4 & 5 (pp. 139-182)
- **Forum Discussion:**

MODULE 4: The Old Testament

- **Assigned Readings:**
 - Hebrews 8
 - *Dei Verbum*, Chapter 4 (Articles 14-16)
 - *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*, Articles 19-21
 - Levine, Chapters 6 & 7 (pp. 183-237)
- **Forum Discussion:**

MODULE 5: The New Testament

- **Assigned Readings:**
 - John 14-16
 - *Dei Verbum*, Chapter 5 (Articles 17-20)
 - Levine, Chapters 8 & 9 (pp. 239-296)
- **Forum Discussion:**

MODULE 6: Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church

- **Assigned Readings:**
 - *Dei Verbum*, Chapter 6 (Articles 21-26)
 - *Verbum Domini*, Articles 90-124
 - Levine, Conclusion (pp. 297-305)
- **Conference Call:**