

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### I. Course Description/Purpose

BE315: The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the social and cultural milieu of Israelite, Jewish, and Greco-Roman life in the Old and New Testament periods. It is intended to aid the student who wishes to do historical-grammatical interpretation of the Bible by introducing him/her to the information and resources available in carrying out the historical and cultural part of the interpretive process.

NT2315: A study of the cultural context of the New Testament, utilizing ancient sources to which the student was exposed in BS1002 New Testament Backgrounds and relevant secondary sources in order to facilitate understanding of the cultural context of and daily life in the first century. Topics such as honor/shame, patronage, family life, and religion will be discussed. The class will meet in conjunction with BE315 Bible Manners and Customs. Doctoral students in the class will be required to prepare and teach on a topic during the semester.

### II. Course Objectives

- A. To expose the student to the cultural institutions and practices of the Old and New Testament world in which the people of Israel, Judaism, and the early church originated and developed.
- B. To provide background and illustrative material conducive to the student's better understanding and more effective teaching of the Bible.
- C. To introduce the student to relevant literature of both a primary and secondary nature in order to stimulate interest and provide a basis for further study.

### III. Course Textbooks

OT: King, Philip J. and Lawrence E. Stager, *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

OT: Ebeling, Jennie R. *Woman's Lives in Biblical Times*. London: T. & T. Clark, 2010.

NT: Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

NT: deSilva, David A. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

#### IV. Course Requirements

- A. Reading: Read the King and Stager, Ebeling, and deSilva texts according to the schedule. Choose 150 pages of Ferguson to be completed before the end of the semester.
- B. Small Research papers #1: Write an 8-10 page paper on one of the following topics: honor/shame or patronage. Describe the topic for half of the paper and demonstrate how an understanding of this impacts one's interpretation of a biblical passage(s). This paper is intended to be more methodological and reflective. Although you may wish to consult books other than the required texts and commentaries, your focus should be on how the knowledge of the topic in the ancient world affects our understanding of the Bible.
- C. Small Research papers #2: Write an 8-10 page paper on one aspect of following topics: family or religion. These are broad topics and you will need to focus on a specific area. It may be worthwhile to discuss your topic with the professor. Describe the topic for half of the paper and demonstrate how an understanding of this impacts one's interpretation of a biblical passage(s). As with paper #1, this paper is intended to be more methodological and reflective. Although you may wish to consult books other than the required texts and commentaries, your focus should be on how the knowledge of the topic in the ancient world affects our understanding of the Bible.
- D. Research paper (**be315 only**): Write a 20 page paper on a significant cultural area and its impact on the Bible. Demonstrate your study's impact on interpretation. Half the description should describe the cultural phenomenon and the other should focus on the biblical text. This may be done through focusing on a specific passage(s) or on a theme.
- E. Research paper (**nt2315 only**): In consultation with the professor early in the semester, write a 25 page paper on a significant cultural area and its impact on the Bible (focus on the NT but this not need be exclusive). Demonstrate your study's impact on interpretation. Half the description should describe the cultural phenomenon and the other should focus on the biblical text. This may be done through focusing on a specific passage(s) or on a theme. **The PhD student will also prepare to teach a session on his or her topic at the end of the semester. Therefore, meeting with the professor early in order to determine a topic not covered in class will be necessary. Also, the student may wish to meet with the professor a few times during the semester to discuss teaching strategies, etc. The paper is due on the day the student teaches; however, it is suggested the student submit it early for feedback before teaching.**

#### V. Course Supplemental Information

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

##### **Receive Weather and Emergency Alerts by Text Message**

DTS wants you to be aware of our emergency texting service. We strongly urge you to go to <https://www.dts.edu/account/alerts/> and sign up to receive emergency texts related to weather or disaster school closing.

## VI. Course Policies

### A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

<b>A+ 99-100</b>	<b>B+ 91-93</b>	<b>C+ 83-85</b>	<b>D+ 75-77</b>	<b>F 0-69</b>
<b>A 96-98</b>	<b>B 88-90</b>	<b>C 80-82</b>	<b>D 72-74</b>	
<b>A- 94-95</b>	<b>B- 86-87</b>	<b>C- 78-79</b>	<b>D- 70-71</b>	

### B. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Percentage breakdown:

	BE315:	NT2315
Reading:	20%	10%
Small paper 1:	20%	20%
Small paper 2:	20%	20%
Research paper:	40%	40%
Prep and teaching:	----	10%

## VII. Class Schedule

Class #	Date	Lecture Topic	Work Due
1	Aug 30	Introduction to the course; history	
2	Sep 6	Honor/Shame	deSilva, ch 1 King & Stager, ch 1
3	Sep 13	honor/Shame	deSilva, ch 2 King & Stager, 2 (pp. 21-35)
4	Sep 20	Patronage	desilva, ch 3
5	Sep 27	Patronage	deSilva, ch 4
6	Oct 4	Family (including marriage and	deSilva, ch 5

		members)	Ebeling, intro, chs 1-2
7	Oct 11	Family (including members)	King & Stager, ch 2 (pp. 36-61) Ebeling, chs 3-6 <b>Small paper #1 due</b>
8	Oct 18	Family (including slavery)	deSilva ch. 6 Ebeling, ch 7, conclusion
9	Oct 25	Religion	deSilva, ch 7
10	Nov 1	Religion	King & Stager, ch 6
11	Nov 8	Religion	deSilva, ch 8
	Nov. 12 - 16	Reading Week	No Classes
	Nov. 19 - 23	Thanksgiving Break	No Classes
12	Nov 29	Food	King & Stager, ch2 (pp. 61-84) <b>Small paper #2 due</b>
13	Dec 6	Music Miscellaneous topics (PhD Student lead)	King & Stager, chs 4-5 [read pp. 285-300; skim the rest] <b>NT2315: Research paper due on the day the student teaches; however, it is suggested the student submit it early for feedback before teaching</b>
14	Dec 13	Miscellaneous topics (PhD Student lead)	Have completed 150 pages of Ferguson <b>BE315: Research paper due</b>
	<b>Final Exams (Dec 17-20)</b>	<b>No exam</b>	

## OT Reading List

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible*. Trans. by A. F. Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1979.
- Bailey, A. E. *Daily Life in Bible Times*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943.
- Borowski, Oded. *Daily Life in Biblical Times*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Budden, Charles W. *The Local Colour of the Bible*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1925.
- Carter, Charles E. and Carol L. Meyers, ed. *Community, Identity, and Ideology: Social Sciences Approaches to the Hebrew Bible*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1996.
- Clements, R. E., ed. *The World of Ancient Israel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1989.
- Corswant, W. *A Dictionary of Life in Bible Times*. Bungay, England: Hodder & Stoughton, 1960.
- Dearman, J. Andrew. *Religion and Culture in Ancient Israel*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1992.
- Deist, Ferdinand E. *The Material Culture of the Bible*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000
- de Vaux, Roland. *Ancient Israel*. 2 vols. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1965.
- Deursen, Arie van. *Illustrated Dictionary of Bible Manners*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1967.
- Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1997.
- Everyday Life in Bible Times*. Washington: National Geographic Society, 1977.
- Farb, Peter. *The Land, Wildlife, and Peoples of the Bible*. New York: Harper & Row, 1967.
- Great People of the Bible and How They Lived*. Pleasantville: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956.
- Heaton, E. W. *Everyday Life in Old Testament Times*. New York: Macmillan, 1988.
- Hooke, S. H. *Myth, Ritual, and Kingship*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1958.
- Jirku, Anton. *The World of the Bible*. Cleveland: The World Publishing Co., 1957.
- Kellner, Esther. *The Background of the Old Testament*. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1963.
- Kitchen, K. A. *Ancient Orient and Old Testament*. London: Tyndale, 1966.
- Matthews, Victor H. *Manners and Customs in the Bible*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991
- Mazar, B. (ed.) *Views of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: International Publishing Co., 1958.
- Miller, M. S. and J. L. *Encyclopedia of Bible Life*. New York: Harper & Row, 1955.
- Noth, Martin. *The Old Testament World*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966.

Pedersen, Johannes. *Israel, Its Life and Culture*. 4 vols. London: Oxford University Press, 1926.

Perdue, Leo G. *Families in Ancient Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.

Pfeiffer, Charles (ed.) *The Biblical World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1966.

Radin, Max. *The Life of the People in Biblical Times*. New York: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1929.

Thompson, J. A. *Handbook of Life in Bible Times*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1986.

Van Der Woude, A. S. (ed.). *The World of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The World of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.

**For specific topics the following should be consulted:**

*Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1992.

*Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Ed. James B. Pritchard, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.

*Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. 5 vols. Ed. Jack Sasson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1995.

*The Context of Scripture*. 3 vols. Ed William W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger Jr.. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997–2002.

*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.

*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 4 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.

*Jewish Encyclopedia*. 12 vols. New York: KTAV Publishing House, 1964.

*The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1988.

*The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1975.

## OT Topics List

1. Marriage, women, and children
2. Hebrew social life and classes
3. Israelite political life
4. Israelite economic life
5. Israelite legal institutions
6. Armies and war
7. Death and funeral rites
8. Time and the calendar
9. Weights and measures
10. Agriculture
11. Education
12. Medicine and healing
13. Arts and crafts
14. Sabbaths and holy days
15. The priesthood and Levites
16. Sanctuaries, altars, and sacrifice

### NT Bibliography (Other sources mentioned in class)

#### A. Jewish Culture

##### 1. Primary sources

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the OT, ed. R. H. Charles

Babylonian Talmud translated into English, ed. I Epstein

Dead Sea Scriptures, trans. M. Burrows, A. Dupont-Summer,

T. Gaster, G. Vermes (The Hebrew is available in Die Texte aus Qumran, E. Lohse).

Josephus

Legends of the Jews, ed. L. Ginzburg

Mishnah, trans. H. Danby, P. Blackman

Philo

Targum of Isaiah, ed. J. Stenning

Targums of Onkelos and Jonathan ben Uzziel on the Pentateuch with Fragments of the Jerusalem

Targum,

ed. J. Etheridge

Rabbinic Anthology, ed. C. Montefiore and H. Loewe

2. Secondary Sources

- Bailey, K. Poet and Peasant, 1976  
 Bowker, J. The Targums and Rabbinic Literature, 1960  
 Dalman, G. Jesus-Jeshua, 1929  
 Derrett, J. Law in the NT, 1970; Jesus's Audience  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Studies in the NT, 1977 (vol. 1), 1980 (vol. 2), 1983 (vol. 3)  
 Edersheim, A. Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, 1889  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Sketches of Jewish Social Life, 1876  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Temple, 1908  
 Farmer, W. Maccabees, Zealots, and Josephus, 1956  
 Finegan, J. Archeology of the NT, 1969  
 Goodenough, E. Jewish Symbols in the Greco-Roman Period, 1953-68  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Jurisprudence of Jewish Courts in Egypt, 1968  
 Grant, F. Economic Background of the Gospels, 1926  
 Hoehner, H. Herod Antipas, 1972  
 Jeremias, J. Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus, 1969  
 Jewish People in the First Century, ed. S. Safrai et. al., 1974  
 MacNamara, Targum and Testament, 1972  
 Moore, G. Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era, 1927  
 Neusner, J. Christianity, Judaism and other Greco-Roman Cults, 1975  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Early Rabbinic Judaism, 1975  
 \_\_\_\_\_, First Century Judaism in Crisis, 1975  
 \_\_\_\_\_, History of the Mishnaic Law of Purities, 1974  
 Oppenheimer, A. Am ha-aretz: A Study in the Social History of the Jewish  
 People in the Hellenistic-Roman Period, 1977  
 Rost, L. Judaism Outside the Hebrew Canon, 1976  
 Schürer, E. The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ, rev. ed.,  
 1973  
 Sevenster, J. Do You Know Greek? How Much Greek Could the First Jewish  
 Christians Have Known? 1968  
 Smallwood, M. The Jews under Roman Rule, 1976  
 Urbach, E. The Sages, 1979

B. Greco-Roman Culture1. Primary Sources

- Ammianus Marcellinus  
 Ausonius  
 Austin, M. The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the Roman Conquest, 1981  
 Bagnall, R. and Derow, P. Greek Historical Documents:  
 The Hellenistic Period, 1981  
 Barrett, C. K. NT Background: Selected Documents, 1956  
 Caesar  
 Cato  
 Celsus  
 Cicero  
 Columella  
 Dio Cassius  
 Dio Chrysostom  
 Epictetus  
 Galen  
 Horace  
 Juvenal  
 Lewis, N. Roman Civilization: The Empire, 1955  
 Martial  
 Menander  
 Miller, S. Arete: Ancient Writers, Papyri and Inscriptions on the History and Ideals  
 of Greek Athletics and Games, 1979  
 Ovid

Papyri  
 Pausanias  
 Pliny  
 Plutarch  
 Polybius  
 Robinson, R. Sources for the History of Greek Athletics, 1955  
 Scriptures Historiae Augustae  
 Seneca  
 Silius Italicus  
 Strabo  
 Suetonius  
 Tacitus  
 Vegetius  
 Velleius Paterculus  
 Virgil  
 Vitruvius

2. Secondary Sources

Amos, H. and Lang, A. These Were the Greeks, 1979  
 Bar-Kochba, B. The Seleucid Army, 1976  
 den Boer, W. Private Morality in Ancient Greece and Rome, 1979  
 Cambridge Ancient History, vol. 10, 1934  
 Carcopino, J. Daily Life in Ancient Rome, 1940  
 Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities, 1870  
 Dill, S. Roman Society from Nero to Marcus Aurelius, 1920

Earl, D. The Moral and Political Tradition of Rome, 1967  
 Foakes-Jackson, F. and Lake, K. Beginnings of Christianity,  
 vols. 1, 2, 5, 1920-33  
 Glover, T. World of the NT, 1931  
 Grant, F. Roman Hellenism and the NT, 1962  
 Grant, M. World of Rome, 1960  
 Harris, H. Sports in Greece and Rome, 1972  
 Hooper, F. Roman Realities, 1979  
 Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Classical World, 1975  
 Jaeger, W. Paideia: The Ideals of Greek Culture, 1947  
 Jones, A. Cities of the Eastern Roman Provinces, 1971  
 Kurtz, D. and Boardman, J. Greek Burial Customs, 1971  
 Lacey, W. The Family in Classical Greece, 1968  
 Landels, J. Engineering in the Ancient World, 1978  
 Luttwak, E. The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire, 1976  
 MacMullen, R. Roman Social Relations, 1974  
 Magie, D. Roman Rule in Asia Minor, 1950  
 Maiuri, A. Roman Painting, 1953  
 Mazzolani, L. Idea of the City in Roman Thought, 1970  
 Mommsen, T. The Provinces of the Roman Empire, 1909  
 Oxford Classical Dictionary, 1970  
 Perowne, S. Roman Mythology, 1969  
 Pfitzner, V. Paul and the Agon Motif: Traditional Athletic Imagery in the Pauline Literature, 1967  
 Ramsey, W. Cities of St. Paul, 1907  
 \_\_\_\_\_, St. Paul: Traveller and Roman Citizen, 1897  
 Rostovtzeff, M. Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire, 1957  
 Scarborough, J. Roman Medicine, 1969  
 Sherwin-White, A. Roman Citizenship, 1973  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Roman Society and Roman Law in the NT, 1963  
 Smith, J. Voyage and Shipwreck of St. Paul, 1880  
 Staveley, E. Greek and Roman Voting and Elections, 1972  
 Toynbee, J. Death and Burial in the Roman World, 1971  
 Treggiari, S. Roman Freedmen during the Late Republic, 1969  
 Watson, G. Roman Soldier, 1967

White, K. Roman Farming, 1970  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Agricultural Implements of the Roman World, 1967

C. General Works

Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt, 1972-  
 Benko, S. and O'Rourke, J. The Catacombs and the Colosseum, 1971  
 Bible Almanac, 1980  
 Bouquet, A. C. Everyday Life in NT Times, 1953  
 Budden, C. The Local Colour of the Bible, vol. 3, 1925  
 Dictionary of Life in Bible Times, 1960  
 Encyclopedia of Bible Life, 1955  
 Encyclopedia Britannica 15th ed., 1974  
 Encyclopedia Judaica, 1964  
 Fairweather, W. The Background of the Gospels, 1920  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus and the Greeks, 1924  
 Foerster, W. From the Exile to Christ, 1964  
 Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible 1962, Supplement 1976  
 Lohse, E. The NT Environment, 1976  
 New Bible Dictionary, 1962  
 Reicke, B. The NT Era, 1968  
 Wight, F. Manners and Customs of Bible Lands, 1953

**NT TOPICS LIST***Family Life*

parent-child  
 husband-wife  
 marriage  
 divorce

*Housing*

furniture  
 clothing  
 food

*Hospitality*

feasting  
 banqueting  
 dancing

*Death*

mourning  
 burial

*Economics*

trades  
 taxes

*Education**Language**Law*

courts  
 punishment  
 legislation

*Government**Army**Social Classes*

Sadducees  
 Pharisees  
 Herodians

Essenes  
 Zealots  
 patrician  
 plebian  
 citizens  
 slaves  
 freedmen

*Travel**Correspondence**Art**Music*

*Entertainment*  
*Literature*

*Diaspora*