

**SCS – 503 Interpreting the Hebrew Bible  
Tuesday and Thursday 8 – 10 a.m. Fall Term**

<b>Instructor Name</b>	Rev. E. J. Niles
<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesday 1 – 4 p.m., Thursday 1 – 2 p.m.
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<b>Required Texts</b>	Studebaker, Alden (1998) <i>Wisdom for a lifetime</i> , Unity Books, Unity Village, MO Wink, W. (1980) <i>Transforming Bible study</i> , (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.) Nashville, Abingdon Press
<b>Other Required Reading</b>	Selected scripture readings via handouts
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	Fromm, E. <i>You shall be as gods</i> (1991), Robinsdale, MN, Fawcett Books (Other editions acceptable – Out of print, try ABE Books)

**Course Description**

This course is about ways to interpret the Hebrew Bible in order to make it meaningful in our lives. It includes various methods of interpretation with an emphasis on metaphysical and Maieutic interpretation.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain various methods of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible stories
2. Compare and contrast various methods of interpretation and their usefulness to New Thought understanding and teaching.
3. Demonstrate how to use Hebrew Bible Interpretation in teaching and preaching.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

MA-1 - Recognize the value, purpose and cultural context of sacred texts

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

C-4 - Recognize the value, purpose and cultural context of sacred texts

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

C-4 - Recognize the value, purpose and cultural context of sacred texts

**Class Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Paper/Exam/Activity</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>10/4</b>	<b>Intro to Interpretation</b>	<b>Chapter 8, Studebaker Handouts</b>	
<b>2a</b>	<b>10/9</b>	<b>Class discussion</b>		
<b>2b</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>The Primeval stories</b>	<b>Selected Scripture via Handouts Gen 1 -4, 6 – 9.11 *</b>	
<b>3a</b>	<b>10/16</b>	<b>Class discussion</b>		
<b>3b</b>	<b>10/18</b>	<b>Lessons from The Patriarchs (Abraham)</b>		
<b>4a</b>	<b>10/23</b>	<b>Class Discussion</b>	<b>Selected Scripture via Handouts, Gen 12-25 *</b>	<b>Group 1 Present</b>
<b>4b</b>	<b>10/25</b>	<b>Joseph</b>	<b>Handouts - Gen 37-50 *</b>	
<b>5a</b>	<b>10/30</b>	<b>Class Discussion</b>		<b>Group 2 Present</b>
<b>5b</b>	<b>11/1</b>	<b>Moses</b>	<b>Selected Scripture via handouts</b>	
<b>6a</b>	<b>11/6</b>	<b>Class Discussion</b>		<b>Group 3 Present</b>
<b>6b</b>	<b>11/8</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>Selected Scripture via Handouts</b>	
<b>7a</b>	<b>11/13</b>	<b>Class Discussion</b>		<b>Group 4 Present</b>
<b>7b</b>	<b>11/15</b>	<b>Elijah and Elisha</b>	<b>Selected Scripture via Handouts</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>11/20</b>	<b>Class Discussion</b>		<b>Group 5 Present</b>
<b>9a</b>	<b>11/27</b>	<b>Ruth and Jonah</b>	<b>Read Book of Ruth and the Book of Jonah</b>	
<b>9b</b>	<b>11/29</b>	<b>Class discussion</b>		<b>Group 6 Present</b>
<b>10a</b>	<b>12/4</b>	<b>Wisdom Literature</b>	<b>Selected Scripture via Handouts</b>	
<b>10b</b>	<b>12/6</b>	<b>Class Discussion</b>		
<b>11a.</b>	<b>12/11</b>	<b>The Big picture</b>		<b>NLT Paper</b>
<b>11b.</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>In class exam (un-graded)</b>		

**\* Re-structured version**

**Assignments for the Master of Divinity:  
Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1 class presentation	25 points	4
1 paper	65 points each	2 and 4
Class Participation	10 points	3-4

**Final Grade Determination:**

90 – 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 –79 points C

**Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:**

**Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1 class presentation	25 points	4
1 paper	65 points	2 and 4
Class Participation	10 points	1-4

**Final Grade Determination**

90 – 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 –79 points C

**Assignments for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1 class presentation	25 points	4
1 paper (20 pages)	65	2 and 4
Class participation	10 points	1-4

**Final Grade Determination**

90 – 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 –79 points C

**Content of Paper**

- Choose two stories or passages of scripture and discuss two different possible interpretations of each
- Choose methods of interpretation that you would use in teaching or preaching

**Standards for Term Paper:**

- Create a cover page which includes: Course name, instructor’s name, due date

- Indicate student's name at the end of the paper
- Double space
- Cite references, including version of Bible used
- Number all pages
- Indicate word count at end of paper.
- Preferred method of submission is electronically. Hard copy is acceptable.

Evaluation of the paper is based on the following factors (in order of relative importance):

- Depth of knowledge, insight
- Comprehensiveness of response
- Clarity in communicating ideas
- Use of outside resource material (when appropriate)
- Grammar, sentence structure, spelling

**The following information relates to all programs:**

### **Incomplete grades:**

Faculty members have the option of assigning the grade of “I” (incomplete) in situations involving serious illness or emergency that is beyond the control of the student. To receive the grade of Incomplete, a student must petition the instructor (in writing) before the end of the class, stating the reasons for the incomplete grade. The request for an Incomplete, listing requirements for completing the course and the date that the course must be completed must be signed by both the student and the instructor. The instructor, on this form, will assign a “replacement grade” that the student will receive if the course is not completed by the deadline. Students have up to one month from the last day of the term to complete the course. Failure to do so will result in the assignment of the “replacement grade.” Students facing extraordinary situations may, on the approval of the Dean, request an extension of another month to complete

### **Expectations of Students**

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

### **Late Assignment Policy**

Term papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty up to 10% per week.

### **Attendance Policy**

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the lecture notes, information and/or directions from another student.

### **Academic Honesty**

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An “F” for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, and kept in the student’s permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

### **Special Concerns**

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.