

**Tell It Straight and Tell It Slant:  
The Use of the Old Testament in the Synoptic Gospels and Paul  
NT 645/REL 355  
May 11-15, 2009  
Instructor: Jo-Ann Badley**

**Contacting the Instructor:**

Class times: Monday to Friday 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00

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**Course Description:**

The writers of the New Testament used their sacred writings (our Old Testament) to understand the new work of God in Jesus Christ and the Spirit. This class will be an investigation of selected writings from the epistles of Paul and the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke to investigate the relationship of God's first word with God's new Word. This study is intended to provide a foundation for our continuing call to reflect theologically on our world.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is structured to contribute to students' spiritual, intellectual and ministerial formation. In particular, the course is designed to develop skills in biblical interpretation and theological reflection. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the potential and limitations of intertextuality as a historical and literary method of study; apply intertextual practices to New Testament texts.
- Distinguish between the uses of Old Testament texts in Paul's epistle and each of the three synoptic gospels.
- Use the Old Testament to reflect theologically on the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Articulate a Christian understanding of the Old Testament.
- Practice research skills for study of the Bible (research, reading, evaluation, synthesis).
- Practice communication skills for presentation of results of study of the Bible (discussion and writing).

**Required Textbook:**

Hays, Richard B. *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

**Recommended books:**

Marcus, Joel. *The Way of the Lord: Christological Exegesis of the Old Testament in the Gospel of Mark*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.

Swartley, Willard M. *Israel's Scripture Traditions and the Synoptic Gospels: Story Shaping Story*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

**Books on Reserve:**

Evans, C.A., and J.A. Sanders, eds. *Paul and the Scriptures of Israel*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.

**Course Schedule:**

Date	Course Content	Reading and Assignments
Monday May 11 9:00-12:00 1:00-4:00	<b>Syllabus</b> <b>A. Introduction</b>	O'Day, Gail R. "Intertextuality." In <i>A Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation</i> , edited by J.H. Hayes. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993. Ambrose Reference Wilken, Robert L. "How to Read the Bible." <i>First Things</i> 181 (2008): 24-27. (online) <a href="http://www.firstthings.com/issue.php?id_rubrique=214">http://www.firstthings.com/issue.php?id_rubrique=214</a>
Tuesday May 12 9:00-12:00 1:00-4:00	<b>B. Paul's Use of the Old Testament</b>	Scripture review due: Romans 1:16-17 (Habakkuk 2:1-5) Hays, Richard B. "'The Righteous One' as Eschatological Deliverer: A Case Study in Paul's Apocalyptic Hermeneutics." In <i>Apocalyptic and the New Testament</i> , edited by J. Marcus and M.L. Soards, 191-215. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1989. Bellis, Alice Ogden. "Habakkuk 2:4b: Intertextuality and Hermeneutics." In <i>Jews, Christians, and the Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures</i> , edited by Alice Ogden Bellis and Joel S. Kaminsky. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2000.
Wednesday May 13 9:00-12:00 1:00-4:00	<b>C. The Old Testament in Mark's Gospel</b>	Scripture review due: Mark 15:16-39 (Psalm 22) Collins, Adela Yarbro. "The Appropriation of the Psalms of Individual Lament by Mark." In <i>The Scriptures in the Gospels</i> , edited by C.M. Tuckett, 223-41. Leuven: University Press, 1997. Ambrose reserve
Thursday May 14 9:00-12:00 1:00-4:00	<b>D. The Old Testament in Matthew's Gospel</b>	Scripture review due: Matthew 21:12-17 'Son of David' (2 Samuel 5:6-10) Paffenroth, K. "Jesus as Anointed and Healing Son of David in the Gospel of Matthew." <i>Biblica</i> 80 (1999): 547-54. Ambrose periodicals Kingsbury, J.D. "The Title 'Son of David' in Matthew's Gospel." <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> 95 (1976): 591-602. EBSCO
Friday May 15 9:00-12:00 1:00-4:00	<b>E. The Old Testament In Luke's Gospel</b> <b>F. Conclusions:</b>	Scripture review due: Luke 7:11-17 (1 Kings 17:8-24) Brodie, Thomas L. "Towards Unravelling Luke's Use of the Old Testament: Luke 7:11-17 as an Imitatio of 1 Kings 17:17-24." <i>New Testament Studies</i> 32 (1986): 247-67. Ambrose Mfiche Evans, Craig A. "Luke's Use of the Elijah/Elisha Narratives

		and the Ethic of Election." <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> 106 (1987): 75-83. EBSCO
Monday June 1		NT 645 students; submit electronically Book Review due: Hays, <i>Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul</i> .
Friday July 10		All students; paper copy due at Ambrose Research paper due:

### Course Requirements:

1. Pre-course assignment: carefully review the four pairs of biblical texts listed below. For each one, identify the explicit verbal connection between the texts (cited material, any other common vocabulary), any themes that overlap, and questions/issues the work raises for you. You do not need to use any books except the biblical texts, but a good commentary might be useful. I have listed several articles we will use in class on the course schedule and you may find these helpful in your work.  
This work is preparation for class discussions; no late assignments will be accepted.  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (Jeremiah 9:24) has been provided as a model (below).

Due May 12: Romans 1:16 (Habakkuk 2:1-5)

Due May 13: Mark 15:16-39 (Psalm 22)

Due May 14: Matthew 21:12-17 'Son of David' (2 Samuel 5:6-10)

Due May 15: Luke 7:11-17 (1 Kings 17:8-24)

NT 645 20%

Rel 355 40%

### Corinthians 1:26-31 (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

#### A. Verbal Connections:

Citation ('as it is written') of Jeremiah 9:24:

- "Let the one who boasts, boast ..."

Vocabulary overlap:

- Boast
- Lord
- Wise/ Powerful/ Noble birth and Wise / Mighty / Wealthy

#### B. Thematic connections:

- God's actions: Steadfast love/ Justice/ Righteousness and Righteousness/ Sanctification /Redemption
- Contrast between human ways and God's ways; critique of false confidence.

#### C. Questions/issues this raises:

- Social standing of Corinthian church: were they wise/ strong/ wealthy? Is this text an affirmation that God uses people of low social standing to demonstrate God's values, or is this a challenge to Corinthians of high social standing to put their confidence in the Lord rather than in their social position?
- Relation of Lord (Jeremiah) and Jesus (Corinthians)
- Significance of Jesus as wisdom and life; Christological rereading of Jeremiah text
- Jer.9:25-26 is a strange list: foreign nations listed as among circumcised.

2. Reading for Class: There are articles listed in the course schedule above that are important to read in preparation for class; evidence that reading has been completed will contribute to the class participation grade.
3. Book review of Hays, *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*: A good book review demonstrates that the reader has listened attentively to the argument of the author, has synthesized that argument so that it can be presented concisely, and has reflected on the strengths and weaknesses of the argument. References to pages in the reviewed book can be included in the body of the review. Published reviews of Hays' book are available (full-text on EBSCO) and would be useful to consider. Document correctly any reviews you use. There are also reviews of Hays' work in *Paul and the Scriptures of Israel*, edited by C.A. Evans and J.A. Sanders. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.

Due: June 1 (Monday); submit electronically (rtf attachment).

Maximum length: 6 pages (1500 to 1800 words); please put a word count at the bottom of the paper.

NT 645 20 %

REL 355: A review of Hays' book is **not required**; reading the textbook will still be important for class work.

4. Research Paper on a New Testament text that relies on an Old Testament text.

Proposal due: May 15 (Friday)

- Identify the passages under consideration.
- Identify the commentaries to be used.
- I will respond to these proposals by e-mail so please include an e-mail address.

NT 645 10%

REL 355 10%

Paper due: July 10 @ Ambrose

**Note:** because of mail delivery to the US and my holiday schedule, these papers will not be graded and returned to Ambrose until the end of August.

NT 645

- Minimum number of sources: 8 including
  - 2 articles
  - 1 good (i.e. critical) commentary on the Old Testament text
  - 1 good (i.e. critical) commentary on the New Testament text
- Maximum length: 10 pages (2500-3000 words); please put a word count at the bottom of the paper.
- Paper is worth 40% of the final grade.

REL 355

- Minimum number of sources: 6 including
  - 2 articles
  - 1 good (i.e. critical) commentary on the Old Testament text
  - 1 good (i.e. critical) commentary on the New Testament text

- Maximum length: 8 pages (2000-2500 words); please put a word count at the bottom of the paper.
- Paper is worth 40% of the final grade.

A good research paper demonstrates that the student has attended to the details of the particular New Testament text chosen, especially in its relation to its literary context and to the Old Testament text that it cites/alludes to. For this course, it is also important to consider how the Old Testament text is used to bear witness to Jesus' identity. A good paper has a central thesis that is stated clearly early in the paper and supported, in an organized and coherent way, throughout the discussion. It follows the style and citation conventions of either *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian (6th Edition) or *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition).

**Course Grade:**

	NT 645	REL 355
Scripture reviews:	20 %	40 %
Attendance and Participation:	10	10
Review of Hays:	20	----
Research Paper:		
Proposal	10	10
Paper	40	40

**Important Notes:**

1. Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.

2. Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy: The seminary is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breeches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

3. Research papers are due on July 10, 2009. All coursework is to be marked clearly with your name and student number, as well as the full name and code of your particular course, and delivered to the following address:

Ambrose University College  
 Attn: Spring Modules  
 Coursework Submission for Jo-Ann Badley  
 630, 833 4<sup>th</sup>. Ave. SW  
 Calgary AB T2P 3T5

Please note: Neither Ambrose College nor the professor can assume responsibility for papers lost in the mail. Students are therefore **strongly advised** to retain a photocopy (or backup copy) of all work submitted.

4. Extensions: Coursework submitted after the final due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal Request for Time Extension, will receive a grade of "F."

Requests for a Time Extension will be considered only in the following circumstances:

- the quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond the student's control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; and
- the student submits a Time Extension application to the Registrar on or before two weeks prior to the due date, as indicated in the course syllabus.

5. The procedure for returning assignments to students is as follows:

- The professor will return all papers to Ambrose College after they are graded.
- Students who wish to have their papers returned **must** provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope (*large enough to mail all assignments submitted*) with sufficient postage, together with their coursework assignments.
- Unreturned assignments will be retained in the appropriate Dean's Office for six months after the coursework due date. Papers that are unclaimed will be held for one year from the due date, and then destroyed.