The Bible through Art and Artifact I

Course Description:

This course combines the riches of the Bible with some of Yale’s greatest treasures. Each day will have a different theme that we will explore through academic study and lively conversation about a biblical text. We will then enrich our learning about each theme with a visit to one of Yale’s stunning collections, guided by world-class experts. Our excursions will take us to the Yale Peabody Museum (Egyptian exhibit), the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (ancient papyri and illuminated medieval manuscripts), the Institute of Sacred Music (organ settings of the Psalms), the Yale Babylonian Collection (artifacts from the ancient Near East), and the Yale Art Gallery (European art collection). We will grow in knowledge and love of the Bible, while discovering the relevance and experiencing the vitality of Scripture.

Reading Material:

Required:

- Please bring a Bible to class every day, preferably a study edition (such as Oxford or HarperCollins).

Optional supplementary articles are listed below under each day and are sent electronically.

Class Expectations:

Please read the assigned Bible passages before class. I am also providing supplementary articles for those who care to read them. (In my experience, some people love to read more material while others would rather pass. The choice is yours.) The first part of the class will consist of a presentation of the academic material and discussion about the biblical texts for the day. We will then travel to the site of our visit. The final hour of class time will be devoted to our excursion, which will feature a tour or presentation from an expert at the given site.
Course Schedule:

Monday, June 3

Introductions and Orientation to the Course

Theme: Israel in Egypt

Scripture: Genesis 12; 37-39 (chapters 40-50 optional), Exodus 1-2 (3-15 optional)

Supplementary Reading:


Excursion: Yale Peabody Museum – Tour of the Egyptian Collection

introduction to the exhibit: http://www.peabody.yale.edu/exhibits/dailyegypt.html

Tuesday, June 4

Theme: The Enduring Book

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17, Esther 1-2, Job 1-2, Ephesians 4:16-29, 4:31-5:13

Supplementary Reading:

Read Wikipedia entries on “Book of Hours,” “Pope Gregory I”
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gregory_I


Excursion: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

introduction to the Beinecke:
http://www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/brblinfo/brblguide_early.html
Wednesday, June 5

Theme: The Music of the Psalms
Scripture: Psalms 23, 33, 31, 39, 40, 84, 90, 94, 121, 130, 137, 150
Supplementary Reading:

Excursion: Marquand Chapel – special organ concert on music of the Psalms
introduction to Yale’s organs: http://ism.yale.edu/academic-life/facilities/organsyale

Thursday, June 6

Theme: People, Power, and Politics
Scripture: 1 Kings 11; 2 Kings 9-10; 16-20
Supplementary Reading:

Excursion: Yale Babylonian Collection, Sterling Memorial Library
introduction to the collection: http://babylonian-collection.yale.edu/
Friday, June 7

Theme: Bible Celebrities

Scripture: Genesis 3, 22; Luke 1-2

Supplementary Reading:


Excursion: Yale Art Gallery – Tour of the European Art Collection

introduction to the exhibit: http://artgallery.yale.edu/european-art

Optional: End-of-Class Happy Hour at The Study 😊 (downtown restaurant/hotel/bar)