Course: TRS 097, The Bible & Its Interpretation

1. Date of Application: 11/16/201
2. Name, Dept of Proposer: Zach Flanagin, Theology & Religious Studies
3. Name of Dept/Program housing course: Theology & Religious Studies
4. Name of Chair/PD: Michael Barram
5. How often is the course taught: semesterly
6. Course Prerequisites: NA
7. Unit value of course: 1
8. Normal Class Size: 25
9. Number of sections expected Fall 2012: 6+
10. Number of sections expected Spring 2013: 6+
11. Is the course appropriate for first-year students: Yes
12. Relevant Learning Goal(s): Theological Understanding
13. Chair will oversee submission of student work: Yes
14. Chair will oversee instructor participation in norming/asst: Yes
15. Teaching: “In TRS 097, we will teach the broad core curriculum outcome #1 through the following specific course outcomes (numbered as on the syllabus):

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the overarching narrative of the Old and New Testaments;
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of Genesis, Exodus, the Sinai covenant, the Davidic covenant, and the internal criticism of the Hebrew tradition (e.g., the prophets, Job);
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the gospels and Paul, focusing especially on the passion and resurrection of Jesus and the theme that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament;
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of Catholic hermeneutical perspectives on the Bible as a divine and human product;
7. Students will reflect on the contemporary theological, ethical, or social implications of an element of the biblical text.

In this context, students will be required to spend significant amounts of time reading the stated biblical texts, which will be the focus of lectures and discussions in the class that both examine texts in their own integrity and also in dialogue with the Catholic theological understanding of the overarching biblical narrative, the Catholic hermeneutical perspectives on the Scripture, and the modern implications of the text.

In TRS 097, we will teach the broad core curriculum outcomes #2 and #3 through the following specific course outcomes (numbered as on the syllabus):

5. Students will demonstrate an ability to read biblical texts in appropriate contexts using one or more methods of modern historical-criticism (e.g., source, form, redaction, narrative, social science criticism);
6. Students will demonstrate an ability to use one or more of the standard tools in the study of the Bible (e.g., marginal notes, commentaries, concordances);

In this context, secondary source readings, practice with interpretive tools, and lectures/activities geared toward the understanding and practice of historical-critical methods will ensure that students learn how to read the biblical text in their appropriate historical and literary contexts."
16. Learning: As a course with a common core but many varied instructors, TRS 097 does not have a fixed assignment for each outcome. Instead, we have stipulated the appropriate kinds of assignments that we will individually construct for each outcome. Course outcomes #1-4, like core curriculum outcome #1, ask students to demonstrate knowledge about particular topics on both the micro- and macro-levels. Instructors will measure this student knowledge through targeted written assignments and/or specific short-answer questions given on exams. Course outcomes #5-6, like core curriculum outcomes #2 and #3, ask students to employ methods and tools in contextualizing biblical passages. Instructors will measure this student ability through substantive essay writing (either on an exam or in a paper). Course outcome #7, like the final element of core curriculum outcome #1, asks students to reflect on implications of the text. Instructors will measure this student reflection through essay writing, whether in daily assignments, a larger paper, or on an exam.