Framework syllabus
TRS 097: The Bible & Its Interpretation
Course Description: This course focuses on the Bible, the sacred Scriptures of the Jewish and Christian peoples. This diverse collection of writings has served as inspiration and catalyst for a great number of central events in human history – from the movements of liberation led by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., to the great human tragedies of slavery in the Old South and the medieval Crusades. These texts have also had a profound influence on art, literature, philosophy, and politics for over two thousand years of history, particularly in the West. As such, an understanding of the Bible is essential for a well-informed perspective on the world. This course will introduce students to the most important biblical events and themes, raising questions of the influence and relevance of this text for the modern world. This course will also teach students to employ critical, scholarly tools for reading and interpretation, such as historical- and literary-criticism, as well as various lenses for the modern academic study of religion.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the overarching narrative of the Old and New Testaments;
   - To be assessed through written homework assignments and/or exam questions
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);
   - To be assessed through written homework assignments and/or exam questions
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;
   - To be assessed through written homework assignments and/or exam questions
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of Catholic hermeneutical perspectives on the Bible as a divine and human product;
   - To be assessed through written homework assignments and/or exam questions
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);
   - To be assessed through an essay in which students employ one or more of these methods on a specific biblical text
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);
   - To be assessed through an essay in which students employ one or more of these tools in interpreting a specific biblical text
7. Students will reflect on the contemporary theological, ethical, or social implications of an element of the biblical text.
   - To be assessed through an essay

Course Schedule: (This is a general template for the various sections of TRS 097. Each section will cover the following major components that meet the learning outcomes, as well as other material that is unique to each instructor.)

Old Testament – meeting outcomes #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Major unit #1 – The Torah, Center of the Hebrew Covenant
  - This is the dominant unit of the Old Testament, covering at a minimum the primary stories and themes of Genesis (creation and covenant), the Exodus story, and the covenant at Sinai.
  - Minimum of 3 weeks
- Minor unit #2 – The Covenant with David
- Minor unit #3 – The Internal Critique of the OT (e.g., prophets, Job)

New Testament – meeting outcomes #1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Major unit #1 – The Gospels, Center of the Christian Covenant
○ This is the dominant unit of the New Testament, covering at a minimum the passion and resurrection of Jesus and the theme that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament.
○ Minimum of 3 weeks
● Minor unit #2 – Paul’s Epistles (selected texts and themes)