

**Type:** Core  
**Course Code:** CHCU E3015  
**Title:** Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Scriptures  
**Pre-requisites:** The completion of Level II CHCU Examinations.

**Aims and Objectives:**

The main objective of this course is to offer a critical study of the Literature considered as sacred by Christians.

**Learning Outcomes:** The students will learn the methods of historical-critical and narrative-Critical exegesis.

**Course Content:**

1. The Pentateuch: Introduction to the Pentateuch, a specific knowledge of the Yahweh, Elohim, Priestly and Deuteronomic Traditions.

2. The Creation Narratives: Gen 1:1 - 2:4 and the significance of the fourth day and the seventh day; Gen 2:4-3:24 and the meaning of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the concept of communion and the symbolism of serpent and dust/ground; creation and evolution.

3. Exodus chapters 1- 15 (the events linked to the Exodus) and Chapters 19-34 (the Covenant of Sinai) with an emphasis on the following themes: the birth of Moses, the double identity of Moses, the call of Moses, the plagues, the crossing of the Red Sea, the Covenant, the Ten Commandments, the golden calf.

4. The Prophets: A basic knowledge of prophecy in Israel, the Greek and Hebrew terms used to denote prophets, prophets in the countries neighbouring Palestine, the writings about prophecy in Israel, the three periods of history in which the prophets were active. The prophets and justice with emphasis on justice and injustice in the economic, political, forensic, and religious spheres. The life, writings and vision of the

following prophets Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Deutero-Isaiah.

5. The Synoptic Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles: The origin of writings that are called "Gospels", the three stages of their composition, scholarly views on the composition of the Synoptic Gospels. The sources and authorship of Luke's Gospel, the community to which it was addressed and the date of its composition; the main themes found in the Gospel of Luke. The sources and authorship of the Acts of the Apostles, the community to which it was addressed and the date of its composition; the main themes found in the Acts of the Apostles.

6. Pauline Literature: The classification of the "letters" found in the New Testament; life and thought of Paul. The Letter to the Romans (the background of the letter, the main themes found in the letter).

7. Johannine Literature: The sources and authorship of John's Gospel, the community to which it was addressed and the date of its composition, and a comparison of the Gospel of John and the Synoptic Gospels. A critical study of the Prologue (1:1-18), texts on the "Beloved Disciple", and passion narrative (18-19). The sources and authorship of the Book of Revelation, the community to which it was addressed, the date of its composition, and the main themes found in the Book of Revelation.

**Methodology:** Lectures, discussions and presentations.

**Scheme of Evaluation:** Year-end examination.

**Recommend Reading:**

Beale, G.K. (1999). *The Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids, Cambridge.

Brown, R.E. (1979). *The Community of the Beloved Disciple*. Paulist Press, NY.

Brown, R.E. (1966-1970). *The Gospel According to John* (Vols. I – II). AB 29, 29a, Doubleday, NY.

Dunn, J.D.G. (1998). *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI – Cambridge.

Gundry, R.H. (1994). *Matthew. A Commentary on His Handbook for a Mixed Church under Persecution*. Eerdmans, Michigan.

Fitzmyer, J.A. (1998). *The Acts of the Apostles*. AB 28a, Doubleday, NY.

Fitzmyer, J.A. (1993). *Romans. A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. AB 33, Doubleday, NY.

Moloney, F.J. (1998). *The Gospel of John*. Minnesota: Sacra Pagina, The Liturgical Press.

Soggin, J.A. (1989). *Introduction to the Old Testament*, OTL, Westminster/John Knox, Kentucky.

සිල්වා, එච්. (1991). *එළිදරව්වේ ශුභාරංචිය-දේව ධර්ම නිකේතන ප්‍රකාශන 9*. කොළඹ.

විජේසිංහ, එස්.එල්. (2000). *ඊශ්‍රායෙලයේ දිවැසිවරු*, සාවතා 1, සමාජය සහ සාමාජික කේන්ද්‍රය, කොළඹ.

විජේසිංහ, එස්.එල්. (2002). *දිවැසිවරු සහ සාධාරණත්වය*, සාවතා 5, සමාජය සහ සාමාජික කේන්ද්‍රය, කොළඹ.

විජේසිංහ, එස්.එල්. (2006). "ගිනිගෙන නොදැවෙන පඳුර", නිකමයාම 3,1-4,17 වෘත්තාන්ත විමර්ශනය, *දහම් දියඹ* 8, 51-60.

විජේසිංහ, එස්.එල්. (2006). "නිකමයාම 1-2 වෘත්තාන්ත විමර්ශනය", *දහම් දියඹ* 8, 43-50.

විජේසිංහ, එස්.එල්. (2006). "නිකමයාම 19 වෘත්තාන්ත විමර්ශනය", *දහම් දියඹ* 8, 61-72.

විජේසිංහ, එස්.එල්. (2001). "පීඩක පීඩිත භාවයේ සුලමුල", *ජන දෙව්දහමක් සඳහා බයිබලීය සංකේත*, සාවතා 4, සමාජය සහ සාමාජික කේන්ද්‍රය, කොළඹ, 1-24.

විජේසිංහ, එස්.එල්. (2006). "රන් වසු පිළිමය. නිකමයාම 32-34 වෘත්තාන්ත විමර්ශනය", *දහම් දියඹ* 8, 73-80.