

BI 224 Hebrew Bible Exegesis for Mission and Ministry

Instructors: Ann Fritschel and Beth Elness Hanson

Required for M.Div and MA-DM students

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is “part two” of a two-semester introduction to the Hebrew Bible. Students will become acquainted with a wide variety of Hebrew Bible texts, socio-historical contexts, themes and issues. The course will focus on how certain themes and issues are recast and reused to meet changing socio-historical contexts. Focus will be on readings from the prophets and writings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) to gain sufficient knowledge of the history and content of the HB to enter the conversation at any point in its many books;
- 2) to understand the process whereby the living conversation is recast within and outside the HB for the sake of addressing changing community contexts, as well as how that process continues today;
- 3) to grow in appreciation of the nature, function, and power of language in the biblical text and in interpretations of it;
- 4) to develop a working knowledge of the multi-cultural and religiously pluralistic contexts of the HB;
- 5) to hear the multiple voices emanating from the religiously pluralistic context of the HB and to discern the implications for interpretation of the cacophony of sound they express;
- 6) to develop skills as Biblical interpreters, able to read the books of the HB as rhetorical literary documents and to teach/preach texts from the HB cognizant of their contextual contours as well as those of the interpreter and the community hearing the interpretation.

PROCEDURE:

The class will consist of lectures with small group discussion time during the lectures. The focus will be on offering a framework with which to read the Hebrew Bible and developing skills in narrative criticism. Exegesis, rather than content knowledge, will also be the focus of the class.

EVALUATION:

Students will be primarily evaluated on their class participation, and four writing assignments that develop skills to be used in ministry.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Required:

Collins, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

Nickelsburg, George. Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah.