

BI 222 Hebrew Bible Exegesis for Mission and Ministry

Instructor: Ann Fritschel

Required for M.Div and MA-DM students

Grading options: Letter grade, Credit/No credit options

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is “part one” 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. Large group lectures will give student an opportunity to work through Genesis and Exodus in some depth and Leviticus and Numbers in overview. Successful completion in the fall semester course is a pre-requisite for admission to the second semester course.

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

Jeansonne, S. Women of Genesis.