

BI 222 Hebrew Bible 1: Torah

Required for MDiv and MA-DM students

Grade or Credit/No credit

FACULTY

S.D. Giere, PhD, Professor of Biblical Interpretation

Helen Chukka, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The introduction to the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible spans two consecutive semesters with an emphasis on critical and faithful engagement with the biblical text interpreted in context: historical, inter-cultural, and theological. Attention is given to developing sound exegetical practices. The Torah – Genesis through Deuteronomy – is the textual heart of Hebrew Bible 1.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In addition to the primary objective of gaining further appreciation and critical engagement with the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible as Christian scripture, this course provides space for students...

- to demonstrate sufficient knowledge and appreciation of the variegated socio-historical and literary aspects of the biblical text;
- to grow in understanding of the nature, function, and power of language, especially in the biblical text and in interpretations of it;
- to develop a working knowledge and appreciation of the multi-cultural and religiously pluralistic contexts reflected in the biblical text and embodied by the communities who have and do interpret biblical texts; and
- to develop awareness and understanding of current research related to the Pentateuch and discern the implications for interpretation.

PROCEDURE

The class will consist of lectures with small group discussion time during the lectures.

EVALUATION

Students will be primarily evaluated on four writing assignments and class participation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required

Bible (NRSV or NRSVue — consider a reputable study bible, e.g., HarperCollins, Oxford Annotated)

Coogan, Michael D., and Cynthia R. Chapman. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. 4th edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Other readings and articles available via open-source Internet or through DTL.