

## **BI 248W BIBLICAL LAW, ETHICS, AND JUSTICE**

**Instructor:** Di Kang

**Fall 2023**

1 Semester Hour; either Credit/No-Credit or Letter Grading

Elective: No Prerequisite; Open to everyone

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this one-credit course, we will introduce the legal documents in Pentateuch. The course will offer a general overview of the three major law codes: the Covenant Code, the Deuteronomimic Code and the Holiness Code. In addition to examining the law codes' affinity with the law codes of the Ancient Near East, the course will present various methodologies for approaching the law codes. We will also evaluate the ways in which the theology and ethics of the Israelite people are reflected in the law codes. By exploring different topics in biblical law, I hope that students will have fresh understanding on law and justice in the Hebrew Bible, and its relevance to contemporary debates about justice and equity in today's society.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To identify major law codes, the important themes and topics;
2. To articulate the role that biblical law played in the life of ancient Israel, with special interest to how the law reflects the theology and ethics of the Israelites, especially the ethical relationship to family, community and the marginalized in society, including aliens and slaves;
3. To identify the theme of justice lying behind the law codes, especially as justice is manifested in topics such as the notion of punishment (the famous "eye for an eye" and compensation), intentionality, asylum, and the treatment of socially disadvantaged, such as slaves, widows and orphans and aliens. Students will connect this theme of justice with other texts in the Hebrew Bible.
4. To be able to articulate the role of biblical law within the "Law and Gospel" dialectic and how it plays in the life of the Church.

### **PROCEDURE:**

Our shared learning will be composed of the following:

- A Lecture
- Break-Out sessions with guided questions from the professor
- A Discussion of the Week's Reading

### **EVALUATION:**

In addition to being assessed on their attendance and participation, students will complete a term paper as a final project.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

#### **Required**

Morrow, William S., An Introduction to Biblical Law. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017.