

BI224 Hebrew Bible 2: Prophets and Writings

MDiv and MA-DM Requirement

Three Credits

Grade or Credit/No Credit

FACULTY

Helen Chukka, PhD, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is part II of a two-semester introduction to the Hebrew Bible/First Testament. In this course, students will become acquainted with Historical books, Writings, Prophetic books, Wisdom tradition and Psalms. The course focusses on exegesis, interpretation, preaching, and teaching of Joshua-Malachi. It explores the religiously plural, multi-cultural, socio-historical, and political backgrounds behind and in the text and interpretative issues in front of the text as well as the witness of the books to the Triune God. Throughout the course, texts will be approached with respect for their Jewish and Christian interpretive contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- to develop knowledge of the plurivocal contents and theological frameworks of the books
- to listen to 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.
- to develop increased competence in critical thinking on biblical hermeneutics and exegetical interpretation
- to cultivate skills to interpret and preach the books with a sensitivity to the key concepts of biblical and contemporary worlds.

PROCEDURE

This course is a combination of lectures, small group discussions, and student presentations. Each class typically consists of a lecture, and a small group discussion to discuss the relevance of the class learnings to the ministerial contexts and engage with interpretive issues. Students will be required to complete the assigned readings prior to the class and participate in the class activities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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.