

**BI 222**      **Hebrew Bible 1: Torah**  
Required for MDiv and MA-DM students  
Grade or Credit/No credit

**FACULTY**    Beth Elness-Hanson, PhD, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible  
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### **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 identities and contexts reflected in the biblical text and embodied by the individuals and communities who 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 three 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*. 5th edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2025.

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