

BA2040P/ BA2049P/ BA3040P/ BA3049P  
Gender, Justice, Empire: Contextual Readings of the Old Testament

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Intensive unit: BA2040P, BA3040P  
13, 14, 20, 21, 27 March

Online: not available in academic year 2020

### Description

This course explores the relationship between issues of gender, justice and empire in Old Testament interpretation. Through a study of a number of Old Testament texts, particularly those, which narrate the experience of women within the wider social and imperial contexts, we will consider how these themes are configured and related within biblical traditions. The unit will introduce feminist/womanist, African, Asian, Dalit feminist and Latin American/Mujerista and Postcolonial feminist approaches to the study of the Bible and will engage in a close reading of a range of primary Old Testament texts from these varied perspectives. It will also examine how these diverse hermeneutical perspectives engage and critique traditional/classical exegetical approaches in their attention to issues of gender, justice and empire. The overall approach will be interdisciplinary and will provide students opportunity to study these texts alongside contemporary women's experiences and portrayals of women in other media such as art, film, poetry, and law.

### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that **Level 2** students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the Old Testament narratives of Biblical women and knowledge of relevant issues of gender, justice and empire in relation to these texts and the Old Testament overall.
2. Recognize the liberational and the oppressive potential of biblical stories.
3. Discuss and appraise how these new and emerging approaches, namely feminist/womanist; African, Asian, Latino/Mujerista, postcolonial; liberation; and Dalit perspectives inform the interpretation of biblical texts.
4. Interpret Biblical texts with attention to the Australian Context

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that **Level 3** students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth familiarity with the Old Testament narratives of Biblical women and knowledge of relevant issues of gender, justice and empire in relation to these texts and the Old Testament overall.
2. Critically engage with how these new and emerging approaches, namely feminist/womanist; postcolonial; liberation; and Dalit perspectives inform the interpretation of biblical texts.
3. Develop a comparative and global framework in the study of the Old Testament in order to will foster appreciation and respect for other/diverse perspectives
4. Interpret Biblical texts with attention to the Australian Context.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Level 2</b>	
Essay (1500 words)	40%
Short Essay on Reading Material (1000 words)	20%
Exegetical Essay (1500 words)	40%
<b>Level 3</b>	
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Short Essay on Reading Material (1000 words)	20%
Exegetical Essay (2000 words)	40%

**Pre-requisite:** a foundational unit in the Hebrew Bible

**Lecturer:** Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon

### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Bird, Jennifer Grace *Permission Granted: Take the Bible into your Own Hands*. Louisville, Kentucky: WJKP, 2015.

Davies, Eryl W. *The Dissenting Reader: Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible*, England: Ashgate, 2003.

Day, Linda and Pressler, Carolyn (eds). *Engaging the Bible in a Gendered World: An Introduction to Feminist Biblical Interpretation in Honor of Katherine Doob Sakenfeld*. Louisville/London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006

\*Fewell, Danna N., and Gunn, David M. *Gender, Power and Promise: The Subject of the Bible's First Story*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

Junior, Nyasha. *An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation* (Louisville/London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015

Newsome, Carol A. and Sharon H. Ringe, (eds.), *The Women's Bible Commentary (Expanded)*, London/Louisville: SPCK/Westminster John Knox, 1998.

Scholz, Susanne (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Retrospect: Volume II: Social Locations*. Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2014.

Schussler-Fiorenza Elisabeth. *Wisdom Ways: Introducing Feminist Biblical Interpretation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001.

**BA9040P**  
**Gender, Justice, Empire: Contextual Readings of the Old Testament**

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13, 14, 20, 21, 27 March

Online: not available in academic year 2020

**Description**

This course explores the relationship between issues of gender, justice and empire in Old Testament interpretation. Through a study of a number of Old Testament texts, particularly those, which narrate the experience of women within the wider social and imperial contexts, we will consider how these themes are configured and related within biblical traditions. The unit will introduce feminist/womanist, African, Asian, Dalit feminist and Latin American/Mujerista and Postcolonial feminist approaches to the study of the Bible and will engage in a close reading of a range of primary Old Testament texts from these varied perspectives. It will also examine how these diverse hermeneutical perspectives engage and critique traditional/classical exegetical approaches in their attention to issues of gender, justice and empire. The overall approach will be interdisciplinary and will provide students opportunity to study these texts alongside contemporary women's experiences and portrayals of women in other media such as art, film, poetry, and law.

**Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate indepth familiarity with the Old Testament narratives of Biblical women and knowledge of relevant issues of gender, justice and empire in relation to these texts and the Old Testament overall.
2. Articulate the liberational and the oppressive potential of biblical stories arising out of and in relation to hermeneutical approaches and polyvalence of meaning
3. Engage critically with the feminist/liberational/postcolonial critique of traditional fields of knowledge, biblical methodology and hermeneutics and integrate these methodological perspectives into creative thinking and study of the Old Testament
4. Interpret Biblical texts with attention to the Australian Context
5. Develop a comparative and global framework in the study of the Old Testament and to foster appreciation and respect for other/diverse perspectives

**Assessment**

Assessment Type	Weighting
Essay (3000 words)	40%
Short Essay on Reading Material (1000 words)	20%
Exegetical Essay (3000 words)	40%

**Pre-requisite:** a foundational unit in the Hebrew Bible

**Lecturer:** Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon

**Recommended reading**

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Bird, Jennifer Grace *Permission Granted: Take the Bible into your Own Hands*. Louisville, Kentucky: WJKP, 2015.

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