

### Description

This course will introduce the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and critically examine its contents for insight into the life, the history and faith of the people of God in ancient Israel. The unit will survey the contents of the Old Testament which formed and established a people's identity; the historical contexts; the diversity of genres; theological positions and of the OT books. The unit will equip the student to assess the meaning of the texts in their ancient Near Eastern environment; to understand the development of Hebrew religion through the 2nd temple period; and the relation of the OT texts to issues of contemporary faith.

### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that Level 1 students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the textual, cultural, historical, literary, religious, and theological aspects of the Old Testament
2. Describe the historical and socio-cultural contexts of the ancient Near Eastern world in which the books of the Old Testament emerged.
3. Develop a critical framework for reading and interpreting the diverse contents of the Old Testament
4. Engage the Old Testament and its material in theological reflection and in preaching.
5. Discern the significance and relevance of the Old Testament in our times and places.
6. Build a foundation for more advanced study of the Old Testament.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Level 1: Classroom-based</b>	
A short exercise (1000 words)	25%
An Essay introducing a book of the OT (1500 words)	35%
An Exegetical essay (1500 words)	40%
<b>Level 1: Online</b>	
A short exercise (500 words)	20%
Essay introducing a book of the OT (1500 words)	30%
Exegetical essay (1500 words)	40%
Online participation in Tutorials (500 words)	10%
<b>Level 2: Classroom-based</b>	
A short exercise (500 words)	25%
An Essay introducing a book of the OT (2000 words)	35%
Exegetical essay (2000 words)	40%
<b>Level 2: Online</b>	
A short exercise (300 words)	20%
An Essay introducing a book of the OT (2000 words)	30%
Exegetical essay (2000 words)	40%
Online participation in Tutorials (200 words)	10%

**Pre-requisite:** none

**Lecturer:** Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon

### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Revised and Updated by Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington. New York/Mahwah, N. J.: Paulist Press, 2012.

\* Brueggemann, Walter and Tod Linafelt. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

\* Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014.

Dick, Michael B. *Reading the Old Testament: An Inductive Introduction*. Peabody, Massachusetts: 2008.

Drane, Jonathan. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Third Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.

Gertz, Jan Christian, Angelika Berlejung, Konrad Schmid and Markus Witte. T and T Clark. *Handbook on the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Literature, Religion and History of the Old Testament*. London/New York: T and T Clark International, 2012.

\* Gravett, Sandra L., Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen and Donald L. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach*. Louisville/London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

JPS Guide, *The Jewish Bible*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2008.

Knight, Douglas A. and Amy-Jill Levine. *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach us*. New York: Harper One, 2011.

Rutledge, Fleming. *And God Spoke to Abraham: Preaching from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011

Schottroff, Luise and Marie-Theres Wacker, Editors. *Feminist Biblical Interpretation: A Compendium of Critical Commentary on the Books of the Bible and Related Literature*. Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010

**BA8010P/BA8019P**  
**Life, History and the People of God in the Hebrew Scriptures**

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Semester 1: Classroom-based (BA8010P)

Online – (BA8019P)

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**Learning outcomes**

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of the textual, cultural, historical, literary, religious, and theological aspects of the Old Testament.
2. Discuss the relevance of the historical and socio-cultural contexts of the ancient Near Eastern world in which the books of the Old Testament emerged.
3. Develop a critical framework for reading and interpreting the diverse contents of the Old Testament
4. Engage the Old Testament and its material in theological reflection and in preaching
5. Discern the significance and relevance of the Old Testament in our times and places.
6. Build a foundation for more advanced study of the Old Testament at postgraduate level.

**Assessment**

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Classroom-based</b>	
One short exercise (1000 words)	25%
An Essay introducing a book of the OT (2500 words)	35%
An Exegetical essay (2500 words)	40%
<b>Online</b>	
A Short tutorial exercises (1000 words)	20%
An Essay introducing a book of the OT (2000 words)	30%
An Exegetical essay (2000 words)	40%
Online participation in Tutorials (1000 words)	10%

**Pre-requisites:** none

**Lecturer:** Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon

**Recommended reading**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Revised and Updated by Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington. New York/Mahwah, N. J.: Paulist Press, 2012.

Brooks, Roger and John J. Collins, (Eds.). *Hebrew Bible or Old Testament? Studying the Bible in Judaism and Christianity*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1990.

\* Brueggemann, Walter and Tod Linafelt. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

\* Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014.

Dick, Michael B. *Reading the Old Testament: An Inductive Introduction*. Peabody, Massachusetts: 2008.

Drane, Jonathan. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Third Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.

Gertz, Jan Christian, Angelika Berlejung, Konrad Schmid and Markus Witte. T and T Clark *Handbook on the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Literature, Religion and History of the Old Testament*. London/New York: T and T Clark International, 2012.

\* Gravett, Sandra L., Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen and Donald L. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach*. Louisville/London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

*JPS Guide, The Jewish Bible*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2008.

Knight, Douglas A. and Amy-Jill Levine. *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach us*. New York: Harper One, 2011.

Rutledge, Fleming. *And God Spoke to Abraham: Preaching from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011

Schottroff, Luise and Marie-Theres Wacker, Editors. *Feminist Biblical Interpretation: A Compendium of Critical Commentary on the Books of the Bible and Related Literature*. Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010