

Spring 2025 Syllabi

Course 1: BIBHB 500 X -- Introduction to the OT

This course is designed to introduce and reintroduce you to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible (OT/HB) and to its interpretive life forms in the church, in academia, and in the larger society. Although the course will give you an overview of the structure and content of portions of the OT/HB, this is not a survey course in the usual sense. The course rather presumes that it is vitally important to interpret the Bible with theological depth, ethical sensitivity, cultural significance, and contextual relevance. This requires attention to readers' expectations and assumptions about the OT/HB as a text, its authority as a theological resource, and its appropriations in social and communal life. Therefore, it is critically important to learn and apply insights from various methods of biblical interpretation, including historical-critical, social-scientific, literary-critical, postcolonial studies, and so-called "ordinary readers."

Required Texts

A. Bible:

The Harper Collins Study Bible. New Revised Standard Version. Wayne Meeks, ed. Harper Collins.
(NRSV in the Class Schedule)

B. Introductory Text:

Sandra Gravett et al, *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach*. Louisville:
Westminster John Knox, 2008. ISBN: 9780664230302