

*The John Leland Center for Theological Studies, Arlington Campus
1301 N. Hartford St. Arlington, VA 22201 Tel: 703 812 4757*

B 1301/2: Old Testament Introduction I & II

Time: Spring 2009, Tuesday 6-8 PM (Jan 26-June 9)

Credit: 2 credit hours

Instructor: Daniel Dapaah, Ph.D.; ddapaah@johnlelandcenter.edu

Prerequisites: TP 2103; TP 2515

Course Description and Objectives

This course is a general survey of the Old Testament (OT) history, literature and theology. It is designed to give the student a basic knowledge of the contents of the OT with an emphasis on the literary artistry of the text. Students will be exposed to the various critical approaches to the study of the OT. The course focuses on Israel's origins (antecedents and beginnings), literary tools for OT study, the Pentateuch/Hexateuch, promise and covenant, exodus, the rise and development of the monarchy, the divided monarchy, exilic and postexilic writings (with emphasis on the prophetic, wisdom, poetic and apocalyptic literature).

The course seeks to (i) encourage the student to read the OT; (ii) provide an introduction to historical-critical and literary interpretive methods that have been employed in contemporary scholarship for evaluating and communicating the meaning of the texts; and (iii) help the student acquire competent exegetical skills for teaching and preaching.

Required Texts

1. Anderson, B. W. *Understanding the Old Testament*. 5th edn. Prentice Hall, 2006 (ISBN 0-13-948399-3).
2. Birch, B. C., W. Brueggemann, T. E. Fretheim and D. L. Petersen. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. Abingdon, 1999 (ISBN 0-687-01348-8).
3. Brueggemann, W. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. WJK, 2003 (ISBN 13: 978-0664-22412-7 or 10: 0-664-22412-1).
4. Coogan, M. D, *et al.*, eds. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (NRSV with the Apocrypha). 3rd (or latest) edn. Oxford, 2001 (ISBN 0-19-528485-2).

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions.
2. A careful reading and study of all the assigned texts.
3. A written paper (10 pages, double-spaced, excluding bibliography).
4. Final exam (no midterm).