

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: English Bible Exegesis I/Old Testament

TERM: Fall 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Daniel Frayer-Griggs

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 20
AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces the process of Old Testament exegesis and gives students opportunity to practice exegesis of various Old Testament passages from the English Bible. Students will learn to identify and evaluate the literary, social, historical, and canonical contexts of passages and to articulate the meaning of those passages as Christian Scripture. Students will also learn to identify appropriate scholarly resources for Old Testament interpretation.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Discuss the nature and character of English translations of the Bible, including the process through which translators do their work and basic features of major translations (NRSV, NIV, JPS).
- Articulate a basic hermeneutical theory and show understanding of how interpreters from various perspectives approach the task of interpretation.
- Articulate a basic understanding of biblical authority from various perspectives.
- Use an organized exegetical procedure to explore an Old Testament passage. The procedure should include:
 - Evaluating differences between translations.
 - Analyzing passages for their rhetorical and literary character (as might be displayed in an outline of a passage).
 - Discussing meaning of language of passages as determined by that language in biblical context(s).
 - Reading passages in various contexts (literary, social, historical, canonical).
 - Identifying and articulating theological significance of passages within scripture and for contemporary Christian communities.
- Demonstrate ability to identify and use appropriate resources for Old Testament exegesis.

PREREQUISITES:

- OT110 or OT120

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Brown, William P. *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017, ISBN: 978-0664259938, \$28.66
- Brown, William P., ed. *Engaging Biblical Authority: Perspectives on the Bible as Scripture*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007, ISBN 978-0664230579, \$29.72
- Lapsley, Jacqueline E. *Whispering the Word: Hearing Women's Stories in the Old Testament*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005, ISBN: 978-0664224356, \$21.25

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- A "self-exegesis" reflection paper (2-3 pages; 10% of the grade)
- A critical essay on a secondary reading (4-5 pages; 15% of the grade)
- Exercises leading up to the writing of the final paper (15% of the grade)
- A major exegetical paper (12-15 pages; 60% of the grade)

ATTENDANCE: Required