Old Testament

Introductory Courses

**OT1151 Introductory Biblical Hebrew** MoTuThFr 1:00-1:50pm
A systematic introduction to Hebrew grammar, with emphasis on reading selected portions of the Hebrew Bible. This course is the first part of a yearlong course. The two semesters are designed to be taken in immediate sequence. If the sequence is interrupted, a placement examination must be passed before the second semester is begun.
- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Section A - Ms. Lapsley; Section B - Mr. Rainey

**OT1152 Introductory Biblical Hebrew—Summer**
An introduction to the elements of classical Hebrew grammar, with an emphasis on reading the Hebrew Bible. Standard reference works for biblical exegesis will be presented.
- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 6 credits.
Summer, 2013; Ms. Kristin Helms

**OT1153 Hebrew Translation** TBA
Designed to enable students to acquire and maintain proficiency in the reading of biblical Hebrew. Some grammar and vocabulary review will be offered as needed.
- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- Pass/D/Fail.
- Prerequisite: OT1152 or permission of the instructor.
- 1 credit.
Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Staff

**OT2101 Orientation to Old Testament Studies** MoTuTh 10:30-11:20am
An introduction to selected perspectives of the Old Testament through lectures, preceptorial group study, and directed reading in the Old Testament itself and in secondary literature.
- Required of M.Div. and M.A. candidates in their first year of study. Not open to Th.M. or Ph.D. candidates.
- 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Ms. Lapsley and Mr. Olson

General Electives and Theme Courses (courses that do not fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement)

**OT/TH3216 Revelation and Biblical Interpretation in a Postmodern World** Mo 2-4:50pm
This course provides a constructive exploration of the doctrine of revelation and biblical interpretation in the light of postmodern challenges to meaning and truth and post-Holocaust questions about the reality of God. Focusing on particular biblical texts, the course explores diverse approaches to biblical meaning, both historical and contemporary, with a view toward appropriating those meanings today. Students consider the changing nature of religious life today and how to formulate a viable approach to theology and biblical interpretation for the twenty-first century.

- This course fulfills the requirement for a doctrine or theologian course or fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- This course does not fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2013-2014: Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp and Mr. Johnson

English Exegesis courses that fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement

**OT3303 The World of the Old Testament**  
Mo8:30-10:20am; We8:30-9:20am  
This course will focus on the political, social, and cultural world that served as the background of the Old Testament. To this end, topics of discussion will include the political history of the broader ancient Near East of which Israel and Judah were a part, archaeological evidence that may shed light on the everyday lives of the ancient Israelites, and what Hebrew and other ancient Near Eastern inscriptions and literature may contribute to our understanding of the Old Testament world.

- This course fulfills the department's "close reading of the text" requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT 2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013-2014; Mr. Dewrell.

**OT3330 Interpretation of Job (English)**  
Tu 8:30-10:20; Th 8:30-9:20am  
This is a course on the interpretation of the book of Job. It will include close reading of selected portions of the book as well as consideration of the broader literary, theological, and ethical issues. Some attention will be given to the consequences of the text in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, English literature, visual arts, and music.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013-2014; Mr. Seow

Language Exegesis courses that fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement.

**OT3400 Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis**  
MoTuTh 1:00-1:50pm  
Introduction to the methods and resources of Hebrew exegesis, through study of selected passages from a variety of biblical material including narratives, legal materials, prophets, psalms, and wisdom literature. The practice of critical exegesis will be combined with concern for the use of Old Testament scriptures for theology and ministry.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT1152.
OT3410 Exegesis of Jeremiah

OT5010 Accelerated Hebrew Reading

OT9020 Biblical Theology I (Old Testament)
OT9001 Readings in West Semitic     TBA
Designed to enable doctoral students to maintain proficiency in the reading of the various ancient West Semitic dialects (other than biblical Hebrew) of the Levant (e.g., Ugaritic, Aramaic, Phoenician). Reading topics will be announced each semester and various members of the Old Testament faculty will undertake joint responsibility for organizing and leading the course. Open to qualified M.Div. and Th.M. students with permission of the instructors. The course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements. S/U or Pass/D/Fail only. 1 credit. Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Staff

OT9090 Old Testament Research Colloquium Fr 1:00-2:50pm
Set to meet six times over two semesters, this graduate seminar will provide participants with opportunities to explore various aspects of Old Testament research through papers, prepared responses, and discussions. The goal of the seminar is to foster scholarly research and discourse that is creative, rigorous, and collegial. Yearlong course. 2 credits, one credit each semester. S/U only. Fall and Spring Semesters, 2013–2014; Staff

NT/OT9095 Issues and Methods Fr 1:00-2:50pm
Set to meet five times during the academic year, this seminar offers doctoral candidates introductions to the history of research, critical issues, and contemporary questions in the literature of the Bible, which are covered over a period of two years. S/U only. 2 credits, one credit each semester. Fall and Spring Semesters, 2013–2014; Staff

Spring Semester

OT1152 Introductory Biblical Hebrew
The continuation of Introductory Biblical Hebrew from the fall term. The completion of Hebrew grammar and the reading of selected Old Testament passages. The two semesters are designed to be taken in immediate sequence. If the sequence is interrupted, a placement examination must be passed before the second semester is begun.
• Prerequisite: OT1151.
• This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
• 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2013–2014; Ms. Lapsley and Mr. Rainey

OT1153 Hebrew Translation
Designed to enable students to acquire and maintain proficiency in the reading of biblical Hebrew. Some grammar and vocabulary review will be offered as needed.
• This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
• Pass/D/Fail.
• Prerequisite: OT1152 or permission of the instructor.
• 1 credit.
Spring Semester, 2013–2014; Staff
General Electives and Theme Courses (courses that do not fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement)

**OT3300 Introduction to English Bible Exegesis: Genesis**
Introduction to exegetical method and close reading of the Bible using the English text of Genesis.
- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT2101.
- 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Olson

**OT3307/3407 The Many Faces of Moses**
Focusing primarily on texts of the Bible and secondarily on the NT, rabbinic materials, and later receptions (including the visual arts and film), the course will explore the variety of roles ascribed to Moses. Students will consider ways in which Moses serves as a “hero,” intercessor, and prophet, and will investigate possible perceptions of Moses as a divine figure. We will also ponder ways in which studying Moses traditions may enhance our understanding of ways religious communities develop.
- English track with option for credit in Hebrew exegesis.
- This course fulfills the department's "close reading of the text" requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT 2101.
- 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2013-2014; Mr. Stephen Garfinkel

**OT3333 Introduction to the Prophets**
This is an introductory course on prophecy and the prophets. It will consider the phenomenon of prophecy and prophetic literature in the ancient Near East, although its primary focus will be on the prophets of the Old Testament, their historical contexts and the messages they preached. In addition, the course will explore a variety of hermeneutical methods that have been brought to bear on the prophetic texts as they continue to be read as sacred Scripture in communities of faith today.
- This course fulfills the department's "close reading of the text" requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT 2101.
- 3 credits.
Spring 2013-2014; Mr. Dewrell

**OT3380 Justice and Social Ethics in the Old Testament and Ancient Near East**
This course will explore concepts of “justice” in the Old Testament and the societies of the ancient Near East. As part of the course, students will look at some of the earliest known written legal collections in the world, with a primary focus on the social ethics communicated by the laws. Issues such as treatment of foreigners and strangers, respect for religious institutions, property, social status, assault, witchcraft, sexuality and gender will be considered. In a society in which the realm of the gods and the realm of humans were inseparable, we will pay particular attention to what role these societies believed God or the gods played in the execution of justice.
- This course fulfills the department's "close reading of the text" requirement.
OT/NT3409 Introduction to the Greek Old Testament
This is an introductory course on the Greek translations of the Old Testament (“the Septuagint”), which served as the Bible for the early church. In addition to grammar and reading of selected texts, the course will address such topics as translation methodologies, the use of the Greek translations for textual criticism, the translations as reception, and questions of canon. Students will be introduced to the tools for the study of the Greek Old Testament and will have numerous opportunities to employ these tools.
  • This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
  • Prerequisites: OT1152 and NT1152.
  • 3 credits.

Spring 2013-2014; Mr. Dewrell

OT3416 Sin and Salvation in the Old Testament
This course will examine selected texts and traditions from the Old Testament with a view toward understanding the ways in which human sinfulness and divine salvation, or deliverance, are presented. What do sin and salvation look like in the diverse traditions of the Hebrew Scriptures? What are the theological and pastoral implications of thinking about sin and salvation in conversation with these texts and traditions?
  • This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
  • Prerequisites: OT2101 and OT1152.
  • 3 credits.

Spring Semester 2013-2014; Ms. Lapsley

NT/OT3480 Biblical Theology and the Practice of Ministry
Exegesis of selected biblical texts that seeks to place the Old and New Testaments in theological and practical dialogue with one another and with contemporary ministry situations and struggles. Designed to help students use scripture as a theological resource for shaping and guiding parish ministry. Topics will include issues of life and death, church and state, worship and sacraments, and law and gospel.
  • This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
  • Prerequisites: OT2101, NT2101, OT1152 or NT1152.
  • 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Olson

Advanced Electives (courses that do not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements)

OT5040 Aramaic II
Reading from selected texts in various Aramaic dialects (e.g., Old Aramaic, Official Aramaic, Palmyrene), with some attention given to a review of the basics of Aramaic grammar. (For
students interested in a systematic introduction to Aramaic grammar, an Introduction to Syriac [NES 515] is offered on a regular basis every fall at Princeton University. Consult the course offerings at Princeton University for further details.)

- This course does not fulfill Biblical Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2013-2014; Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp

**OT5566 Exegesis of Job**

Hebrew exegesis of selected portions of the Book of Job, including textual criticism, Hebrew philology, poetics, and theology. This is an advanced Hebrew exegesis course.

- Prerequisites: OT1152 and at least one 5000-level exegesis course.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Seow

**PhD Seminars**

**OT9002 Readings in West Semitic**

Designed to enable doctoral students to maintain proficiency in the reading of the various ancient West Semitic dialects (other than biblical Hebrew) of the Levant (e.g., Ugaritic, Aramaic, Phoenician). Reading topics will be announced each semester and various members of the Old Testament faculty will undertake joint responsibility for organizing and leading the course. Open to qualified M.Div. and Th.M. students with permission of the instructors. The course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements. S/U or Pass/D/Fail only. 1 credit.

Spring Semester, 2013–2014; Staff

**OT9090 Old Testament Research Colloquium**

Set to meet six times over two semesters, this graduate seminar will provide participants with opportunities to explore various aspects of Old Testament research through papers, prepared responses, and discussions. The goal of the seminar is to foster scholarly research and discourse that is creative, rigorous, and collegial. Yearlong course. 2 credits, one credit each semester. S/U only.

Fall and Spring Semesters, 2013–2014; Staff

**NT/OT9095 Issues and Methods**

Set to meet five times during the academic year, this seminar offers doctoral candidates introductions to the history of research, critical issues, and contemporary questions in the literature of the Bible, which are covered over a period of two years. S/U only. 2 credits, one credit each semester.

Fall and Spring Semesters, 2013–2014; Staff

2014-2015

**Fall Semester**

**OT1151 Introductory Biblical Hebrew**

A systematic introduction to Hebrew grammar, with emphasis on reading selected portions of the
Hebrew Bible. This course is the first part of a yearlong course. The two semesters are designed to be taken in immediate sequence. If the sequence is interrupted, a placement examination must be passed before the second semester is begun.

- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Rainey and Mr. Dewrell

**OT1152 Introductory Biblical Hebrew—Summer**
An introduction to the elements of classical Hebrew grammar, with an emphasis on reading the Hebrew Bible. Standard reference works for biblical exegesis will be presented.

- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 6 credits.

Summer, 2014; Staff

**OT1153 Hebrew Translation**
Designed to enable students to acquire and maintain proficiency in the reading of biblical Hebrew. Some grammar and vocabulary review will be offered as needed.

- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- Pass/D/Fail.
- Prerequisite: OT1152 or permission of the instructor.
- 1 credit.

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Staff

**OT2101 Orientation to Old Testament Studies**
An introduction to selected perspectives of the Old Testament through lectures, preceptorial group study, and directed reading in the Old Testament itself and in secondary literature.

- Required of M.Div. and M.A. candidates in their first year of study. Not open to Th.M. or Ph.D. candidates.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Ms. Lapsley and Mr. Olson

General Electives and Theme Courses (courses that do not fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement)

**OT3211 Interpretation and Theology of the Pentateuch**
Study of the first five books of the Old Testament, with attention to the variety of ways in which this biblical material may be interpreted, with a focus on contemporary issues of theology and faith.

- This course does not fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Olson

English Exegesis courses that fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement

**OT3301 God in the Old Testament**
This course will focus on the central word of the Old Testament, its witness to the God of Israel who was incarnate in Jesus Christ. Such topics as the character or attributes of God, the presence of God, the knowledge of God, distinctiveness and commonality in relation to other religious views of God, the role of anthropomorphic language, and the history of God will be considered. Exploration of these matters in the context of the Old Testament as a whole, and as they affect the way in which we think about Christian theology.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

OT3303 Writing the Biblical Story
Written narrative as known in modern prose emerges for the first time in world literature in the Bible. This course tells the story of that emergence. It begins by considering the oral roots of biblical storytelling and then charts the emergence of written prose narrative in Israel and Judah and its development over the biblical period, surveying leading stylistic features as we go. A substantial selection of biblical prose in translation will be read, from short stories to longer connected narratives, with some attention paid to the formation of larger narrative blocks (e.g., DtrH). The last part of the course fast-forwards to the sixteenth century CE and the story of the King James Bible and its influence on modern American novelists and poets such as Melville, Hemingway, Faulkner, McCarthy, and Whitman. As we will see many of the leading features of this American prose style find their roots ultimately in the written Hebrew prose of the Bible.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

OT3400 Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis
Introduction to the methods and resources of Hebrew exegesis, through study of selected passages from a variety of biblical material including narratives, legal materials, prophets, psalms, and wisdom literature. The practice of critical exegesis will be combined with concern for the use of Old Testament scriptures for theology and ministry.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT1152.
- 3 credits.

OT3413 God, Humanity, and Creation in the Old Testament
This course examines key Old Testament texts in order to reflect theologically on how God relates to humanity and other parts of creation (including animals other than human beings); how human beings relate to other animals within creation; and how human beings relate to creation as a whole. Texts examined in Hebrew will include Genesis, Leviticus, Job, and Psalms, and topics will include violence, food, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. Secondary readings may include Bauckham, Feldmeier and Spieckermann, and Linzey, among others.
• This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
• Prerequisites: OT2101 and OT1152.
• 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2014-2015: Ms. Lapsley

Advanced Electives
(courses that do not fulfill Biblical Department distribution requirements)

OT5010 Accelerated Hebrew Reading
A reading course designed for graduate students and others who desire to gain proficiency in the reading of Hebrew prose and Hebrew poetry. The materials covered vary from term to term, providing exposure to texts of different genres and levels of difficulty. Prerequisite: a middle-level course in Hebrew or Hebrew exegesis. Course may be repeated. This course does not fulfill Biblical Department distribution requirements. 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Rainey

OT5050 Historical Hebrew
An introduction to the study of the historical development of Classical (Biblical) Hebrew.
• Prerequisite: OT1152 and at least one course in Hebrew exegesis.
• This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
• 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Dewrell

PhD Seminars

OT9003 Readings in West Semitic
Designed to enable doctoral students to maintain proficiency in the reading of the various ancient West Semitic dialects (other than biblical Hebrew) of the Levant (e.g., Ugaritic, Aramaic, Phoenician). Reading topics will be announced each semester and various members of the Old Testament faculty will undertake joint responsibility for organizing and leading the course. Open to qualified M.Div. and Th.M. students with permission of the instructors. The course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements. S/U or Pass/D/Fail only. 1 credit.
Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Staff

OT9010 Near Eastern Backgrounds to Israelite Religion
A study of the ancient religious world out of which the biblical faith arose and in which it began to take shape, giving equal attention to elements of continuity and discontinuity. 3 credits.
Fall Semester 2014-2015; Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp

OT9090 Old Testament Research Colloquium
Set to meet six times over two semesters, this graduate seminar will provide participants with opportunities to explore various aspects of Old Testament research through papers, prepared responses, and discussions. The goal of the seminar is to foster scholarly research and discourse that is creative, rigorous, and collegial. Yearlong course. 2 credits, one credit each semester. S/U
OT1152 Introductory Biblical Hebrew
The continuation of Introductory Biblical Hebrew from the fall term. The completion of Hebrew grammar and the reading of selected Old Testament passages. The two semesters are designed to be taken in immediate sequence. If the sequence is interrupted, a placement examination must be passed before the second semester is begun.

• Prerequisite: OT1151.
• This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
• 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Ms. Dewrell and Mr. Rainey

OT1153 Hebrew Translation
Designed to enable students to acquire and maintain proficiency in the reading of biblical Hebrew. Some grammar and vocabulary review will be offered as needed.

• This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
• Pass/D/Fail.
• Prerequisite: OT1152 or permission of the instructor.
• 1 credit.

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Staff

OT3240 Israel’s Wisdom Literature
A survey of the wisdom writings of Israel, especially the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes. The discussion will include the definition, provenance, and scope of wisdom; the nature and character of wisdom literature; problems encountered in the exegesis of such texts; and the place of wisdom in the canon and in Old Testament theology. This course will consider the problems and possibilities of preaching and teaching from these texts and the relevance of wisdom’s perspectives for contemporary theology.

• This course does not fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement.
• Prerequisite: OT2101.
• 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Seow

OT3337 Old Testament Theology of Community
Study of Old Testament texts exploring the positive and negative possibilities of human community in several of its forms: the family, the city, the nation, and the community of faith and worship.

• Prerequisite: OT2101.
• 3 credits.

Spring Semester 2014-2015; Mr. Olson

OT3405 Exegesis of Exodus
Thursday, April 11, 2013

Exegesis and interpretation of the Book of Exodus, with attention to grammatical, literary, and theological features of the text.

• This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
• Prerequisites: OT1152 and OT2101.
• 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Olson

OT3450 Aramaic Daniel and Its Interpretation
An inductive study of biblical Aramaic grammar and the exegesis of the Aramaic portion of Daniel (chapters 2–7). The course will also explore the “afterlife” of Daniel in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, in commentaries, homilies, literature, music, and the visual arts.

• This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
• Prerequisite: OT1152.
• 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Seow

OT3466 Women in Old Testament Narratives
A study, in Hebrew, of Old Testament narratives involving women, with attention to historical, literary, and theological perspectives centered around the issue of gender.

• This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
• Prerequisites: OT1152 and OT2101.
• 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Ms. Lapsley

Advanced Electives
(courses that do not fulfill Biblical Department distribution requirements)

OT5054 Ugaritic
Introduction to the language and literature of ancient Ugarit.

• This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
• 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Dewrell

OT5096 Northwest Semitic Epigraphy
A graduate seminar introducing students to the study of inscriptions in Hebrew and the related languages of Syria-Palestine, especially Moabite, Ammonite, Phoenician, and Aramaic. This course is limited to Ph.D. students; other students may enroll with permission of the instructor.

• This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
• 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp

OT5100 Literary Approaches to Old Testament Interpretation
A study of more recent developments in the literary study of Old Testament texts (structuralism, deconstruction, reader response, canonical analysis). Consideration of the interplay of these approaches with other historical-critical methods of exegesis. 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Ms. Lapsley
PhD Seminars

**OT9100 Literary Approaches to Old Testament Interpretation**
A study of more recent developments in the literary study of Old Testament texts (structuralism, deconstruction, reader response, canonical analysis). Consideration of the interplay of these approaches with other historical-critical methods of exegesis. 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Ms. Lapsley

**OT9004 Readings in West Semitic**
Designed to enable doctoral students to maintain proficiency in the reading of the various ancient West Semitic dialects (other than biblical Hebrew) of the Levant (e.g., Ugaritic, Aramaic, Phoenician). Reading topics will be announced each semester and various members of the Old Testament faculty will undertake joint responsibility for organizing and leading the course. Open to qualified M.Div. and Th.M. students with permission of the instructors. The course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements. S/U or Pass/D/Fail only. 1 credit.
Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Staff

**OT9090 Old Testament Research Colloquium**
Set to meet six times over two semesters, this graduate seminar will provide participants with opportunities to explore various aspects of Old Testament research through papers, prepared responses, and discussions. The goal of the seminar is to foster scholarly research and discourse that is creative, rigorous, and collegial. Yearlong course. 2 credits, one credit each semester. S/U only.
Fall and Spring Semesters, 2014-2015; Staff