

April 22, 2014

Biblical Studies

Old Testament

Introductory Courses

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. Dewrell and Mr. Rainey

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Dewrell and Ms. Lapsley

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; Mr. Dewrell and Mr. Rainey

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Dewrell and Ms. Lapsley

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; Mr. Dewrell

Summer, 2015; 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

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Staff

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Staff

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; 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

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Ms. Lapsley and Mr. Olson

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

OT/CH3205 The English Bible in the Sixteenth Century

Scripture in the language of the people was one of the key demands of Protestant reformers; it was not a new concept but in some places, like England, it was a very controversial idea. The course traces the (hi)story of the translation of the Bible into English, from the late medieval Lollards through to the King James Bible, with the various English bibles from the period (especially from the sixteenth century) serving as a primary lens through which to examine critical questions about the English Reformation—questions of the Bible and translation; literary and theological factors; liturgical and devotional uses; political and ecclesiastical contexts; etc.

- This course does not fulfill “close reading of the text” requirement.
- This course fulfills the Reformation church history distribution requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp and Ms. McKee

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.

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Seow

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.
- Prerequisite: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Seow

OT3304 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.
- Prerequisite: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp

OT3311 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 fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Olson

OT3330 Interpretation of Job (English)

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.

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Seow

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: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Dewrell

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

OT3365 Ethnicity and Race in the Old Testament

This course engages modern, theoretical perspectives on ethnicity and race to look at constructions of Israelite identity as well as the identities of foreigners in the Old Testament. The course will also probe constructions of foreigners in other ancient Near Eastern cultures. We will engage such questions as: "What is ethnicity?" "Is ethnicity or race an appropriate term to apply to a civilization like ancient Israel?" "How should exclusionary material in the Old Testament be understood both from a scholarly perspective and theologically?"

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: OT2101.

- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Rainey

OT3370 Texts of Terror, Texts of Hope

An assessment of the use of Old Testament texts to support problematic social structures such as slavery and the patriarchal household and to marginalize women, ethnic groups, and LGBT people. The course will also look at how marginalized groups marshaled other Old Testament texts about liberation, inclusion of foreigners, and just treatment of outsiders and the poor to hermeneutically resist oppressive uses of the Bible.

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

Spring Semester 2015-2016; Mr. Rainey

NT/OT3380 Biblical Theology and Practice of Ministry (English)

Exegesis of selected Old and New Testament texts 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. Weekly use of case studies.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and NT2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Black

OT3381 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.
- Prerequisite: OT2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Rainey

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

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.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Seow

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Seow

OT3405 Exegesis of Exodus

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

OT3409 King David

Hebrew exegesis of the David narratives in Samuel (1 Samuel 16 - 2 Samuel 24). In addition to engaging typical aspects of exegetical method (e.g., literary, history, theology), the course will probe issues related to these stories’ written composition, their sources, and relation(s) to the larger Deuteronomic History and will evolve a portrait of King David as it emerges from them, with reference both to the period evoked in the stories (10th c.) and to the time of these stories’ first writing (8th/7th c.). Students will have an opportunity to enhance their skills in reading biblical Hebrew prose.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and OT1152
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2015-2016; Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp

OT3442 Exegesis of Amos

A Hebrew-track exegesis course. In addition to addressing typical aspects of exegetical method (e.g., literary, history, theology), the course will probe issues related to how this prophetic collection of oracles emerged as a written composition. Students can expect to gain a thorough introduction to this prophetic book and to work through the entire book in Hebrew.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and OT1152
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester 2015-2016, 3 credits, Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp

OT3410 Exegesis of Jeremiah

This course will look at the Book of Jeremiah with a special emphasis on the portrayal of Jeremiah as a prophetic figure situated in a period of political crisis and intrigue for ancient Judea. Other themes that will be explored include: sin and redemption, explanations for tragedy and horror, and determining the “truth” in the midst of conflicting truth claims.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and OT1152
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Rainey

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. (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2014–2015: Ms. Lapsley

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. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Ms. Lapsley

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. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Ms. Lapsley

Advanced Electives (courses that do not fulfill Biblical Studies 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 Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Rainey

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Rainey

OT5020 Biblical Theology I (Old Testament)

This seminar will consider a number of recent proposals and issues in the theological and ethical study of the Old Testament relating to God, humans and the world. We will reflect on the character of God, the search for coherence within the diversity of biblical traditions, the relationship of history and faith, the interplay of ideology and theology, the contributions of feminist, liberationist, Jewish and postcolonial perspectives, and the role of wisdom and creation in Old Testament theology.

- Designed for Ph.D., Th.M., and advanced M.Div. students.
- Prerequisite for M.Div. students: permission of the instructor.
- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2015-2016; Mr. Olson.

OT5025 Near East Background-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.

- Designed for Ph.D., Th.M., and advanced M.Div. students.

- Prerequisite for M.Div. students: permission of the instructor.
- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp

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 511] 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 Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.

Spring 2015–2016; Mr. Dewrell

OT5050 Historical Hebrew

An introduction to the study of the historical development of Classical (Biblical) Hebrew.

- Prerequisites: 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

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

Ph.D. Seminars

OT9001–OT9006 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.

OT9003, Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Staff

OT9004, Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Staff

OT9005, Fall Semester, 2015-2016; Staff
OT9006, Spring Semester, 2015-2016; 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

OT9020 Biblical Theology I (Old Testament)

This seminar will consider a number of recent proposals and issues in the theological and ethical study of the Old Testament relating to God, humans and the world. We will reflect on the character of God, the search for coherence within the diversity of biblical traditions, the relationship of history and faith, the interplay of ideology and theology, the contributions of feminist, liberationist, Jewish and postcolonial perspectives, and the role of wisdom and creation in Old Testament theology. Designed for Ph.D., Th.M., and advanced M.Div. students. 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2015-2016; Mr. Olson

OT9030 Hebraica

A critical exploration and application of comparative philology, historical Hebrew grammar, textual criticism, and historical reconstruction to the exegesis of selected Old Testament texts. Texts treated will include samples of archaic Hebrew poetry as well as standard Hebrew poetry from prophetic, wisdom, and liturgical materials. 3 credits.
Spring Semester, 2015-2016; Mr. Seow

CH/OT9045 The Old Testament in the Reformation

This seminar will focus on close readings of Luther's exegetical works involving the Old Testament, including excerpts from several of his commentaries, as well as his use of the Old Testament in other writings. Exegetical approaches, theological commitments, and historical context will be among the themes covered. 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Appold and Mr. Seow

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
Fall and Spring Semesters, 2015–2016; Staff

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

New Testament

Introductory Courses

NT1151 and NT1152 Introduction to New Testament Greek

A yearlong introduction to the elements of New Testament Greek with emphasis on the mastery of forms, basic vocabulary, and syntax. Selected portions of the Greek New Testament are read in the second

semester. The two semesters are designed to be taken in immediate sequence. If the sequence is interrupted, a placement examination must be taken before registering for the second semester of the course.

- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits (each semester).

Fall Semester and Spring Semesters, 2014–2015; Ms. Bowens

Fall Semester and Spring Semesters, 2015–2016; Ms. Bowens

NT1152 Introduction to New Testament Greek—Summer

An introduction to the elements of New Testament Greek, with an emphasis on mastering forms, basic vocabulary, syntax, and reading the Greek New Testament. Standard reference works for biblical exegesis will be presented.

- 6 credits.

Summer, 2014; Ms. Mary Schmitt

Summer, 2015; Staff

NT1153 Greek Translation

Designed to enable students to acquire and maintain proficiency in the reading of Hellenistic Greek. Readings will come primarily from the Greek Bible, but will also include selected extra-biblical texts.

- This course does not fulfill Biblical Studies Department distribution requirements.
- Pass/D/Fail.
- Prerequisite: NT1152 or permission of the instructor.
- 1 credit.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Staff

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Staff

Fall Semester 2015–2016; Staff

Spring Semester 2015–2016; Staff

NT2101 Introduction to the New Testament

This course will provide an introduction to the New Testament by (1) developing a basic knowledge of the New Testament writings with respect to their literary and theological characteristics, (2) providing insight into the cultural and religious matrix of early Christianity, (3) introducing the academic study of the New Testament and the art and methods of exegesis. A consistent concern throughout will be the integration of exegesis, theology, and life in Christ.

- This course is required of all M.Div. and M.A. students in their first year.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Allison and Mr. Black

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Allison and Mr. Parsenios

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

NT3223 Hermeneutics and the History of Interpretation

This course is designed to help students think critically and theologically about the Bible by exploring the different ways in which a number of important texts and themes have been interpreted throughout Christian history. By looking at the exegetical history of controversial texts and topics students will learn to appreciate the profound questions that attend moving from historical-critical exegesis to contemporary application. In each class we will (a) look at a number of related biblical texts, (b) consider the history of their interpretation, (c) attempt to understand that history of interpretation in terms of wider cultural and theological currents, and then finally (d) discuss and evaluate various contemporary readings. Topics will include women, hell, christology, and resurrection.

- This course does not fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and NT2101.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Allison

NT3232 What is “Love”?

What is love? This class critically examines the diversity of relationships represented by love, as expressed in biblical passages like Lev. 19, 1Cor. 13, and the commandment of love in the Gospel of John. To what extent is love (ahava, hesed, eros, agape, philia), according to our biblical traditions, the foundation of hope? The course begins with a search for comprehending love from Plato to Fromm and will include a component on preaching (e.g., How can we preach love of enemies today?).

- This course does not fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and NT2101.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester 2015-2016; Mr. Charlesworth

NT/TH3251 The Historical Jesus and Christology

A critical and constructive exploration of issues generated by the so-called quest for the historical Jesus, including implications for doing Christology in our current cultural and ecclesiological contexts. Paying close attention to the first-century context, the course will cover a range of scholarly approaches with an emphasis on helping students engage in constructive theological reflection on the doctrine of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

- This course fulfills the doctrine/figure requirement in theology or fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- This course does not fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement but does fulfill a New Testament department distribution requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101 and TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2015–2016; Mr. Allison and Mr. Johnson

NT3285 African-American Pauline Hermeneutics

Pauline language and tradition have impacted the lives of many African-Americans in terms of religious thought and experience. Yet this community’s relationship with Paul is a complicated one and this course provides the opportunity to explore the complex nature of that relationship. African-American Pauline hermeneutics involves recognizing the rejection of Paul by some and examining the adoption and adaptation of Pauline language by others. By reading texts that range from ex-slave narratives to contemporary sermons and writings, students will engage in thorough analyses of the varied appropriations of Pauline scripture among African-Americans.

- This course does not fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: NT2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2015-2016; Ms. Bowens

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

NT3305 The Bible and Religious Experience

The Bible is full of accounts of extraordinary religious experiences--speaking in tongues, miraculous healings, answers to prayer, unexpected conversions, inspired dreams, visions of angels, supernatural auditions, etc. Christian history is also full of such things, which continue to play a role in many contemporary Christian circles. This class is an attempt to think in an informed, critical manner about such religious experiences in the light of Scripture, tradition, and modern knowledge. Each class will look at a collection of biblical texts and at what important theologians and modern scholars have said about those texts; this will then be followed by discussion of interpretations and applications in the light of modern knowledge.

- Enrollment is limited to twenty students.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: NT2101.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Allison

NT/TH3310: Jews and Judaism in Christian Scripture, Preaching and Theology

Exploration of the portrayal of Jews and Judaism in Christian scripture, preaching, and theology through a critical examination of selected New Testament texts, read within their Jewish milieu, as well as Christian sermons and theological treatises from the second century to the present day. Focal topics include the identity and character of God, the concepts of “election” and “the people of God,” the relationship between the church and the Jewish people, and the nature of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism. The goal is to develop better informed and more reflective preaching, teaching, and writing on these topics.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement and a theology distribution requirement.
- Prerequisite: NT2101 and TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2015-2016; Mr. Allison and Ms. Charry

NT3314 English Exegesis of Romans

An exegetical study of the letter, with particular attention to its historical setting, its theological argument, and its continuing significance for the Christian church.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and NT2101.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Black.

NT3318 English Exegesis of the Epistle to the Galatians

Reading and exegesis of the entire letter in English. Special attention will be given to the significance of the inclusion of the Gentiles into the church, the nature of justification, and the apocalyptic dimensions of Paul’s thought.

- This course does fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Ms. Bowens

NT/OT3380 Biblical Theology and Practice of Ministry (English)

Exegesis of selected Old and New Testament texts 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. Weekly use of case studies.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and NT2101.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Black

NT4220 Non-Traditional Approaches to New Testament Texts

This course will explore a variety of interpretive methods for reading New Testament texts. After a brief overview of “traditional” methods of biblical interpretation (the historical approaches of redaction-, form-, and source-criticism), the course will devote most of the semester to exploring several “non-traditional” approaches: among others, feminist, womanist, Latino/a, African-American, Asian-American, LGBT/Queer, postcolonial, and ability/disability. These approaches will be analyzed, applied to select

New Testament texts, and evaluated for their effectiveness in interpreting the text and in application for specific ministry settings.

- This course is an English track elective and does not fulfill any department requirement.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Ms. Melanie Howard

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

NT3400 Introduction to New Testament Exegesis

An introduction to exegetical methods by means of translation and interpretation of selected passages from the Greek New Testament, with attention to the place of critical biblical study in the church’s ministry.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisite: NT1152.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2014-2015; Ms. Bowens

NT3405 Exegesis of the Gospel of John

The Gospel of John holds in tension what appear to be competing theological visions. It expresses, for instance, both high and low Christology, both future and realized eschatology, both positive and negative evaluations of Jesus’ “signs,” etc. Interpreters often ease this tension by deciding that only one side of each issue represents the “real” thought of John. This course will take seriously the tension, however, not by erasing it, but by demonstrating how the apparently tense elements force one to a higher level of theological reflection. We will also reflect on how the Gospel’s literary qualities contribute to its unique theological expression.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101 and NT1152.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Parsenios

NT3406 Greek Exegesis of the Gospel According to Mark

A study of the earliest Gospel, in which literary and historical approaches will be enlisted in engaging a contemporary audience with the goal of shaping a Christian theological imagination.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101 and NT1152.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Black

NT3408 The Greek Exegesis of the Gospel According to Luke

A study of the Third Gospel in which literary and historical approaches will be enlisted in engaging a contemporary audience with the goal of shaping a Christian theological imagination.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101 and NT1152.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Black

NT3411 The Parables of Jesus

An exegetical and theological study of the parables in Mark, Matthew, and Luke, with attention to their historical setting, theological emphases, and hermeneutical implications.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101 and NT1152.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Black

NT3416 Greek Exegesis of 1 Corinthians

The Corinthian Christians struggle to be the Body of Christ while continuing to live each day within the body politic of first century Corinth. As they navigate between their new lives and old, they are divided on issues related to eschatology, spiritual gifts, boundaries between believers and non-believers, and many other matters. 1 Corinthians will be read as a call to concord in response to the divisions in Corinth, and our consistent concern will be to interpret this theologically rich letter as a tool of pastoral care and moral formation.

- This course fulfills the "close reading of the text" requirement.
- Prerequisite: course NT2101 and NT1152.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2015-2016; Mr. Parsenios

NT3419 Greek Exegesis of 2 Corinthians

Students will engage in a close reading of the Greek text of 2 Corinthians. The course readings will expose students to the historical and cultural background of first century Corinth and the variety of ways this letter has been analyzed and interpreted. A significant aspect of the historical and cultural context of the letter will be enlightened by reading sections of additional ancient texts, such as the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs and the Hodayot. These readings will be useful to students as they learn to read the text carefully and to discover the value of exegetical analysis.

- This course fulfills the "close reading of the text" requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101 and NT1152.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Ms. Bowens

NT/TH3438 Missional Hermeneutics

A cross-disciplinary investigation of the scriptural formation of the missional congregation as exemplified in 1 Peter. Working with exegetical and theological methods, we will examine the contextualization of the gospel in first-century Asia Minor, asking how this letter shapes the community for witness. The implications of this investigation for an understanding of biblical authority and interpretation, for ecclesiology, and for exegetical discipline will be explored. (This is a teleconference event with students enrolled from the Duke site and students enrolled from the Princeton Seminary site.)

- This course fulfills major doctrine/theologian requirement.
- This course fulfills the "close reading of the text" requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101, NT1152, TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Guder and Mr. J. Ross Wagner

NT3450 The Historical Jesus

A struggle with the question of what can be known reliably about Jesus' life and essential message. Through references to the Jewish literature contemporaneous with Jesus, with insights obtained from archaeological research, and by an in-depth exploration of selected New Testament texts especially, the course will search for the history behind and within the kerygmatic faith. The dimension of history and faith in all credal formulae.

- This course fulfills the "close reading of the text" requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101 and NT1152.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester, 2014-2015; Mr. Charlesworth

NT3460 Ancient Artifacts, Texts, and Symbolism: A Re-examination of Christian Origins

In this seminar, ancient artifacts dating from 4,000 BCE to 200 CE will be examined in class as we attempt to enter the world that produced Isaiah, the Qumranites, Jesus, Paul, and the Evangelists. Coins will be held as we seek to appreciate how political powers expressed dominance with images and values. Animal images will be examined as we attempt to interpret what the artists may have intended and what those who viewed them assumed they could mean. Besides select biblical texts, Josephus's historical works, and some of the Pseudepigrapha and Dead Sea Scrolls will be read. Such explorations in the phenomenology of first-century culture, and an awareness of how symbology transcends particulars, will help the student to understand humanity and not only the concept of the incarnation but the precursors to the belief in ascensions to another world. In the process, the phenomenology of language will become apparent as we attend to the symbolic world of those behind and in the biblical stories.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: NT2101, NT1152.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Charlesworth

NT3471 The Dead Sea Scrolls

A study of the paleography and theology of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and an examination of the history and archaeology of the Qumran Essenes. Portions of the major scrolls will be read from photographs.

Enrollment by permission of the instructor.

- This course fulfills the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and OT1152.
- 3 credits . (Capstone course)

Fall Semester, 2015-2016; Mr. Charlesworth

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

NT5020/NT9020 Biblical Theology II

A review of the history of research and the background of major theological concepts, an examination of the diverse theologies, and a search for the heart of biblical theology.

- Designed for Ph.D., Th.M., and advanced M.Div. students.
- Prerequisite for M.Div. students: permission of the instructor.
- 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Black

NT5021/9021 Earliest Christianity in Its Greco-Roman Context

Exploration of the Hellenistic and Roman worlds as context for the rise and development of earliest Christianity. Topics to be addressed include political and economic history, social relations, and Hellenistic-Roman philosophy and religion. Intensive reading in primary and secondary sources.

- Enrollment is open to Ph.D. candidates in Biblical Studies; M.Div. and Th.M. students may enroll with permission of the instructor.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2015-2016; Mr. Parsenios

NT5035 The Apocalypse and the Apocalypses

An intensive exegetical study of the Apocalypse of John and a comparison of this apocalypse with roughly contemporaneous Jewish apocalypses (e.g., 1 Enoch 37–71, 4 Ezra, 2 Baruch, Apocalypse of Abraham).

- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Charlesworth

NT5050 Early Judaism

What can be known about life, thought, and hope in Early Judaism (300 BCE–200 CE)? A study of the major Jewish compositions during this period in search of a better perception of the Judaism of Hillel and Jesus. Historical, archaeological, sociological, and theological perspectives will be placed in conversation with literary readings of works that figured prominently in Jewish thought. Focus on development of messianic ideas and beliefs about resurrection from the dead. The student will better appreciate the diversity within Judaism of this period and explore what unified most Jews.

- Designed for Ph.D., Th.M., and advanced M.Div. students.
- Prerequisite for M.Div. students: permission of the instructor is required.
- 3 credits. (Capstone course)

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Charlesworth

PhD Seminars

NT9020 Biblical Theology II

A review of the history of research and the background of major theological concepts, an examination of the diverse theologies, and a search for the heart of biblical theology. Designed for Ph.D., Th.M., and advanced M.Div. students. Prerequisite for M.Div. students: permission of the instructor. 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Black

NT9021 Earliest Christianity in Its Greco-Roman Context

Exploration of the Hellenistic and Roman worlds as context for the rise and development of earliest Christianity. Topics to be addressed include political and economic history, social relations, and Hellenistic-Roman philosophy and religion. Intensive reading in primary and secondary sources.

- Enrollment is open to Ph.D. candidates in Biblical Studies; M.Div. and Th.M. students may enroll with permission of the instructor.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Parsenios

NT9025 Early Jewish Apocalyptic Texts

A critical introduction to the theologies of major Jewish apocalyptic writings composed during the Second Temple period, based on a study of text- and source-critical problems, literary design, ‘authorial’ claim, and major themes, including evil, clash of cultures, human nature, covenant faithful community, cosmology, biblical interpretation, eschatology, heavenly beings, and divine agents. 3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Charlesworth

NT9028 Hellenistic Jewish Texts

This course is a Greek reading course. It will involve weekly in-class translation and discussion of portions of a number of Greek Jewish texts including the Septuagint, the Testament of Abraham, the Testament of Job, the Testament of Solomon, Fourth Baruch, and Josephus. The aim of the class is to improve the students' understanding of early Judaism as well as their Greek skills.

3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Allison

NT9035 The Apocalypse and the Apocalypses

An intensive exegetical study of the Apocalypse of John and a comparison of this apocalypse with roughly contemporaneous Jewish apocalypses (e.g., 1 Enoch 37–71, 4 Ezra, 2 Baruch, Apocalypse of Abraham). 3 credits

Spring Semester, 2014–2015; Mr. Charlesworth

NT9040 Paul and Tradition

This course is designed to explore the ways in which Paul was indebted to early Christian traditions. Topics will include Paul and the sayings of Jesus, Paul and the passion traditions, Pauline eschatology,

Pauline Christology, and Paul and Christian exegetical traditions. The desired outcome for students is that such exploration will help them to gain a better profile of Paul's unique contributions as well as a clearer picture of pre-Pauline Christianity.

3 credits.

Spring Semester, 2014 2015; 3 credits, Mr. Allison

NT9049 Studies in Mark

A review of recent Markan research and investigation into selected issues of literary analysis, theological interpretation, and historical reconstruction. 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2015–2016; Mr. Black

Departmental Faculty

Dale C. Allison Jr., the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Studies. M.A., Duke University; Ph.D., Duke University. His research and teaching interests include the historical Jesus, the canonical Gospels, especially Matthew, early Jewish and Christian eschatology, inner-biblical exegesis, the Jewish Pseudepigrapha, and the history of the interpretation and application of biblical texts. (Presbyterian)

Carl Clifton Black II, Otto A. Piper Professor of Biblical Theology. M.A., University of Bristol (U.K.); M.Div., Emory University; Ph.D., Duke University. His interests are the Synoptic Gospels, particularly Mark, theology of the Old and New Testaments, Greco-Roman rhetoric, and the history of the interpretation of scripture. (United Methodist)

Lisa Marie Bowens, Instructor of New Testament. M.S.B.E., M.L.I.S., University of North Carolina at Greensboro; M.T.S., Th.M., Duke Divinity School. Her particular interests include 2 Corinthians, the letters of Paul, the relationships between epistemology, cosmology, and anthropology in the Pauline correspondence, elements of discipleship in the gospels, exegetical methods, and New Testament interpretation. (Pentecostal)

James Hamilton Charlesworth, George L. Collord Professor of New Testament Language and Literature. B.D., Duke University Divinity School; Ph.D., Duke University Graduate School; E.T., Ecole Biblique de Jerusalem. His teaching interests are in Early Judaism and Christian origins, with special attention to Jesus research, the Gospel of John, the Apocalypse of John, Judaism and Christianity today, and the New Testament and sociology. (United Methodist)

Heath Daniel Dewrell, Assistant Professor of Old Testament. M.A.R., Yale Divinity School; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University. His teaching and research interests include the history of Israelite religion, the ancient Near Eastern context of the Old Testament, the Hebrew prophets, and Semitic languages and literature. (Episcopalian)

Frederick William Dobbs-Allsopp, Associate Professor of Old Testament. M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University. His research and teaching interests include Hebrew poetry (especially Lamentations and Song of Songs), integration of literary and historical methods of interpretation and postmodern thought and theology, Semitic languages and linguistics, and comparative study of Old Testament literature within its ancient Near Eastern context. (Presbyterian)

Jacqueline Evangeline Lapsley, Associate Professor of Old Testament. M.A., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Emory University. Her primary research and teaching interests include literary and theological approaches to the Old Testament, with a particular interest in theological anthropology; interdisciplinary connections between the Old Testament, ethics, and theology; and the history of interpretation. (Presbyterian)

Dennis Thorald Olson, Professor of Old Testament. M.Div., Luther Seminary; M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University. His primary teaching and research interests are in the Pentateuch, literary approaches to Old Testament interpretation, and Old Testament theology. (Lutheran)

George Lewis Parzenios, Associate Professor of New Testament. M.Div., Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology; Ph.D., Yale University. His research and teaching interests include the Johannine literature, the interaction between early Christianity and classical culture, and patristic hermeneutics, particularly in the interpretation of the Gospel of John. (Greek Orthodox)

Brian Rainey, Assistant Professor of Old Testament, M.Div., Harvard Divinity School; Ph.D., Brown

University. His research and teaching interests include ethnicity in the Old Testament and the ancient Near East, gender and sexuality in the Old Testament, and biblical hermeneutics. (Episcopalian)

Choon-Leong Seow, Henry Snyder Gehman Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature. M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Harvard University. His research and teaching interests include the history of Israelite religion, wisdom literature, and the relation of myth and tradition in Old Testament theology. (Presbyterian)