

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
BI 411/511D – God’s Word: The Old Testament
Fall Semester 2018
Online & Residential

Faculty Information:

Professor: The Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Schlimm
Preferred Title: Dr. Matt
Office: Severance 210
Office Phone: 563/589-3101
Email: mschlimm@dbq.edu
Website: www.MatthewSchlimm.com

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the content, historical background, canon, theological and critical issues of the Old Testament. This course fulfills the M.Div. basic first-year requirement in Old Testament studies (3 credits, letter grade only), but is open to all UDTS students.

Course Objectives:

Students who complete this course will:

1. Develop a sound understanding of the fundamentals of the Old Testament's content;
2. Gain proficiency in recognizing and articulating the context of biblical passages;
3. Become trained in expounding upon the Old Testament's theological depth and homiletical power; and
4. Enhance their ability to interpret Scripture.
5. Acquire skills for critically assessing Old Testament scholarship;

In keeping with the stated purpose of the M.Div. degree (“to serve the one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and prepare women and men for faithful, compassionate, and effective pastoral ministry”), this course helps meet the following M.Div. curricular objectives:

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church.
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity.

Additionally, this course helps meet the following MAMD curricular objective:

- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world.

Additionally, this course helps meet the following MACL curricular objective:

- The student will be able to identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures.

Required Textbooks:

- Aharoni, Yohanan, et al. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 5th Revised and expanded edition. Jerusalem: Carta, 2011. ISBN: 978-9652208149.
- Davis, Ellen F. *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*. Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 2001. ISBN: 1561011975.
- Erlander, Daniel. *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*. Mercer Island, Wash.: The Order of Saints Martin and Teresa, 1992. Available: <http://www.danielerlander.com/manna.html> ISBN: 9786000020743.
- Fretheim, Terence E. *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2009. ISBN: 9780806657677.
- Green, Joel, et al., eds. *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville: Common English Bible, 2013. ISBN: 978-1609260286.
- Schlimm, Matthew R. *This Strange and Sacred Scripture: Wrestling with the Old Testament and Its Oddities*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015. ISBN: 978-0801039799.

Summary of Course Requirements:

1. Exam 1: focused on Gen–Ruth. (25%)
2. Exam 2: focused on Sam–Eccl. (25%)
3. Exam 3: focused on Isa–Malachi. (25%)
4. Five reading reflections, either [1] asking a question about the Bible, [2] asking a question about the assigned readings, or [3] expressing disagreement with the assigned readings. (25%)
5. It is assumed that students will view all lectures and material posted to our course website within a week of their being posted. Moodle tracks whether students do this. Any student failing to do this will receive a significant reduction in final grade, which may entail failing the course.