

United Theological Seminary  
COS 211-Hebrew Bible I  
Torah and Israel's History  
January 15-February 27, 2016  
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### **Course Description:**

This course interprets the developing institutions and traditions of Israel and examines the varying ways in which the Hebrew people understood critical events of their history as acts of God. Attention is given to the earliest covenants, the Exodus, the rise of the monarchy, and other events up to the eighth-century prophets.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Formation of a historical overview of the life and faith of ancient Israel.
2. Exegesis of selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.
3. Correlation of exegesis with its utilization in preaching and other pastoral functions.
4. Reflection upon ways in which God has been at work in the lives of people in these biblical materials.
5. Ongoing development of an exegetical methodology.
6. Application of these studies to the concerns and issues of the present day.

### **Course Format:**

The course is a hybrid. This means that we will work in a combination of formats, both online and in the classroom. The classroom setting will take place in the first week, January 15-16. The following five weeks will be online instruction with forum discussions. The subject matter of the online forum discussions will be provided at the conclusion of the in class instruction.

### **Assigned Readings:**

- 1) Barry Bandstra. *Reading the Old Testament: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, Fourth Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2009. ISBN 13-978-0-495-39105-0
- 2) Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. ISBN 978-0-8010-7
- 3) NRSV Study Version of the Bible (Oxford; HarperCollins; Abingdon).

## Outline of Class Meetings:

**Week One** (January 15-16): In Class (Friday and Saturday); Syllabus for online instruction will be provided.

Friday, January 15, 2012

- 2:30-5:00 Introduction to the Course and the Book of Genesis
- A. 2:30-3:34 Genesis 1-11 The Stories of Creation  
Reading: Banstra, pp. 34-76
  - B. 4:00-5:00 Genesis 12-50 The Stories of the Ancestors  
Reading: Banstra, pp. 77-113
- 5:00-6:00 Dinner
- 6:00-8:30 The Story of Moses in Exodus-Deuteronomy: Part 1
- A. The Call of Moses and the Exodus (Exodus 1-15)  
Reading: Banstra, pp. 114-129
  - B. The Revelation at Sinai (Exodus 19-40)  
Reading: Banstra, pp. 129-147

Saturday, June 23, 2012

- 8:30-11:15 The Wilderness Journey into the Promised Land: Part 2
- A. 8:30-9:45 The Revelation at Horeb in Deuteronomy  
Reading: Deuteronomy 1-5  
Banstra, 167-183
  - B. 10:00-11:15 The Entry into the Land in Joshua and Judges  
Reading: Banstra, pp. 186-238
- 12:45-2:30 The Rise of the Monarchy
- Reading: 2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Kings 1-11  
Banstra, pp. 253-270

**Weeks Two-Six** (June 23-August 27): Online Forum on Specific Topics (from The class topics discussed on January 15-16). The forums will utilize the research methodologies from Gorman, Elements of Biblical Exegesis.

Finally a word on how I will evaluate you in this course. I will evaluate your work in two ways: (1) class participation and (2) written work. The class participation consists of your interaction with classmates online and in our classroom time together. The written work will consist of specific forum topics that I will want you to reflect upon.

