

**Course Title: THEO1211 INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW Bible**

(For CUHK undergraduates)

Second Term 2020-2021    Wed 9:30pm-12:15 pm    ZOOM meeting room

Lecturer: Dr. Li Kwan Hung Leo

**Course Description:**

This course is an introductory survey of books which made up the Hebrew Bible, and the lives of the people whom these books are about. It covers the period of the Patriarchs to the beginning of the Christian era within the context of the ancient Near Eastern world. This introductory survey will also introduce students to the life and faith and literature of the Jewish people. During the course, students are expected to read and become familiar with the Hebrew Bible.

**Course Objectives:**

1. The students will know and understand

- a. the general overview of the contents in the Hebrew Bible
- b. the direct relationship of the composition of the books to their contexts
- c. a general grasp of the scholarship pertaining to the study of the Hebrew Bible
- d. the meaning of the Hebrew Bible as Christian Canon/Scripture

2. The students can describe, explain and discuss

- a. the main issues related to the critical study of the books in the Hebrew Bible
- b. the main issues of critical scholarship concerning the composition and redaction of the books, as well as the origin and identity of Israel
- c. the proposed historical contexts of the Hebrew Bible

3. The students will appreciate

- a. the making/compilation of the Hebrew Bible
- b. the necessity for language acquisition in the study of the Hebrew Bible
- c. the diverse research faculties in the study of the Hebrew Bible

## **Course Requirements:**

### **1. Reading Assignment (10%)**

Either the English or Chinese version of Brueggemann Walter, An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003). You have to track ALL your reading by filling in the Reading Log and submit them by 2:30 pm, 26 April 2021(?) by elearn website/Blackboard.

Failure to submit the Reading Log on time means no marks for this requirement.

### **2. Assignments 1: Reflection (2 x 15% = 30%)**

Write TWO reflection essays, each not less than 2000 (Eng)/2500 (Chi) words, and reflect on

1. the Introduction/approach of our Textbook (10%)

(Due Date: 10 Feb 2021)

2. the Concluding Reflection of our Textbook and/or our course in general (10%)

(Due Date: 26 April 2021(?))

Each reflection should include the summary of what you have read/learnt (6 marks) and your response (comments or questions) to what you have read/learnt and/or interact with the content of the lectures and your readings (9 marks). You may submit these assignments by elearn web-site/Blackboard on or before the due date 2:30pm accordingly. If you need to, only cite the bible references, BUT NOT the bible text itself. Marks will be heavily penalized if you do not comply.

3. Comments and discussion:(10%)

As online teaching making student's discussion and presentation a bit difficult, this course will request each student to actively participate in class discussion through raising AT LEAST THREE relevant questions or comments both on Brueggemann's viewpoint in our textbook and contents during lectures. Questions or comments must be verbally raised in class or posted in our social media group and/or course blogging site. It needs to be submitted in writings at the end of the course together with the term paper, recording the date and questions raised and/or comments made.

(Due Date: 16 May 2021)

### **3. Term Paper (60%)**

In order to facilitate your preparation and writing of the Term Paper, the assignment will be divided into three tasks:

#### **A. Paper proposal (10%)**

Write a page of proposal for your term paper. The following should be included:

- a. the proposed title and the thesis of the paper;
- b. preliminary: What critical issues associated with the Hebrew Bible you want to investigate? Why do you want to explore in this area? What is/are the reason(s) that you

- make such a proposal and choose such Biblical book? What is your intention to write such a paper?
- c. the research statement and/or question(s) [See class notes]
  - d. What is the methodology employed? Or what will be the interpretative approach used?
  - e. an outline (with appropriate explanatory notes);
  - f. the expected result of the paper; and
  - g. a preliminary book list (two or three books that you intended to read/consult).

You are to submit your proposal to your lecturer at least 3 days before your oral presentation (see below). Marks will be given according to the degree of preparation (e.g. details of notes of explanation, delimitation of scope, expected difficulties, preliminary readings...e.t.c.). Some topics for the paper will be suggested during the classes, or you can consult the lecturer and/or tutor.

#### B. Oral presentation (10%)

Each student is to make a presentation on his/her paper proposal individually. Your presentation should NOT be more than 15 mins long and then open for class discussion. The aim is to let the student orally present and test his/her idea in front of the others before committing to his/her final draft. Marks will be given according to the clarity of the presented content (4 marks), the organization of the presentation (3 marks), and the manner of the response to the discussion questions (3 marks).

#### OPTION IF PRESENTATION CANNOT BE ARRANGED: Introductory Essay = A+B (20%)

In the case that the class size is too big and not every student can be arranged to have an oral presentation, some students can opt for writing not less than 2000 words an \*Introductory Essay \*. The content of the essay should include a literature review on EITHER an introduction to a methodology approach to the studies of Hebrew Scripture OR an introduction to the content and critical issues of a biblical book. The essay is strongly suggested to be related to your exegetical term paper. You are to submit it on 14 April 2021 by elearn website/Blackboard.

#### C. Term Paper (40%)

Write a Term Paper not less than 4000 words (and if you opt for writing an introductory essay, other than referring back to this essay, no more than 10% of the content can be overlapped). Paper MUST be submitted via the Webpage of the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine VeriGuide:

[https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login\\_CUHK](https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK) on 16 May 2021. A soft copy should

be posted onto the BLACKBOARD and give a print out of receipt and signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement from VeriGuide (received via e-mail after you have submitted your assignment) to their tutors.

Note that the requirement for the undergraduate student will be weight heavier on an understanding of the content (here: the Hebrew Bible and its scholarship) and descriptive accuracy. Examples in order to clarify the requirements will be demonstrated during the first few tutorials. Also, refer to the Paper-grading Rubric on the next page.

NOTE: Attendance in lectures and tutorial are expected. Tutor will mark attendance for both. Less than 70% attendance is not accepted and will affect overall grade.

## A Paper-grading Rubric

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor/ Inadequate</b>
<b>Introduction/ Thesis</b>	*exceptional introduction that grabs interest of reader and states topic. **thesis is exceptionally clear, arguable, well-developed, and a definitive statement.	*proficient introduction that is interesting and states topic. **thesis is clear and arguable statement of position.	*basic introduction that states topic but lacks interest. **thesis is somewhat clear and arguable.	*weak or no introduction of topic. **paper's purpose is unclear/thesis is weak or missing.
<b>Quality of Information/ Evidence</b>	*paper is exceptionally researched, extremely detailed, and historically accurate. **information clearly relates to the thesis.	*information relates to the main topic. **paper is well-researched in detail and from a variety of sources.	*information relates to the main topic, few details and/or examples are given. **shows a limited variety of sources.	*information has little or nothing to do with the thesis. **information has weak or no connection to the thesis.
<b>Support of Thesis/Analysis</b>	*exceptionally critical, relevant and consistent connections made between evidence and thesis. **excellent analysis.	*consistent connections made between evidence and thesis **good analysis.	*some connections made between evidence and thesis. **some analysis.	*limited or no connections made between evidence and thesis. **lack of analysis.
<b>Conclusion</b>	*excellent summary of topic with concluding ideas that impact reader. **introduces no new information.	*good summary of topic with clear concluding ideas. **introduces no new information.	*basic summary of topic with some final concluding ideas. **introduces no new information.	*lack of summary of topic.
<b>Organization/ Development of Thesis</b>	*exceptionally clear, logical, mature, and thorough development of thesis with excellent transitions between and within paragraphs.	*clear and logical order that supports thesis with good transitions between and within paragraphs.	*somewhat clear and logical development with basic transitions between and within paragraphs.	*lacks development of ideas with weak or no transitions between and within paragraphs.
<b>Citation/ Bibliography Format</b>	*conforms to academic rules for formatting and citation of sources are perfect.	*conforms to academic rules for formatting and citation of sources with minor exceptions.	*frequent errors in academic format.	*lack of academic format/numerous errors.

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines, and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

### Course Content and Schedule:

The class will meet three periods each week for lectures and discussion. Occasional Tutorial will be arranged.

Date	Topics	Key concepts	Basic Readings
Jan 13	<b>Introduction</b>	Course Introduction; Introduction: Imaginative Remembering; Literature and Genre	Brueg, Ch1-2
Jan 20	<b>Torah (1)</b>	Introduction to Torah Hebrew Bible as (Christian) Scripture	Brueg, Ch3
Jan 27	<b>Torah (2)</b>	Genesis; Exodus 1-18 Myth, Legend and ANET/Archaeology	Brueg, Ch4-5
Feb 3	<b>Torah (3)</b>	25-40, Leviticus, Number 1-10; Cult and Priestly school	Brueg, Ch6-7
Feb 10	<b>Torah (4)</b>	Exodus 19-24, Numbers 11-36, Deuteronomy; Law and Narrative	Brueg, Ch8-10 <i>Due: Reflection Essay (1)</i>
Feb 11-17		Lunar New Year Period	
Feb 24	<b>Prophets (1)</b>	Introduction to the Prophets, Joshua, Judges; History and Deuteronomistic History	Brueg, Ch11-13
Mar 3	<b>Prophets (2)</b>	1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings; Narrative and Ideology	Brueg, Ch14-15
Mar 10?	<b>Prophets (3)</b>	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel; Literary Prophet and Their Social World	Brueg, Ch16-18
Mar 17	<b>Prophets (4)</b>	Minor Prophets; Twelve prophet as a book	Brueg, Ch19-21
Mar 24	<b>Writings (1)</b>	Introduction to the Writings, Psalms; The Canonical Study of the Psalms	
Mar 31-Apr 7		Reading Week	
Apr 14	<b>Writings (2)</b>	Job, Proverbs; Wisdom Literature	Brueg, Ch22-23 <i>Due: Introductory Essay</i>
Apr 21	<b>Writings (3)</b>	Five Scrolls, Ezra-Nehemiah; Hebrew Bible and the early Judaism	Brueg, Ch26,28
Apr 26?	<b>Writings (4)/Conclusion</b>	Daniel, 1 and 2 Chronicles; Apocalyptic Literature and the Rewritten Bible Concluding Reflection: Hiddenness of God	Brueg, Ch27, 29-31 <i>Due: Reading Log</i> <i>Due: Reflection Essay (2)</i>

May 16: Term Paper Due

Brueggemann = Brueggemann, Walter. An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003). [CC-BS1140.3 .B78 2003] Second Edition, 2012. Chapters in the reading are according to 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

(中譯本：布魯格曼著，許子韻譯《布氏舊約導論：正典與基督教的想像》香港：天道，2012)

The Old Testament: in English, preferred NRSV or NJB; in Chinese, preferred Revised Union Version.

\* Course material will be delivered via course webpage in <http://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk>

Other Old Testament Introductory books:

Recommended Books:

Note: Drane's book has a good list of books. Here are others and these are the ones you should consult for your assignments:

Bible Dictionary:

Anchor Bible Dictionary (REF BS 440.A54 vols. 1-6)

Ancient Near Eastern Texts:

James Pritchard, Ancient Near Eastern Texts relating to Old Testament Translators and Annotators (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969). (REF BS 1180.P83 1969)

Hallo, William W. and K. Lawson Younger. The Context of Scripture: Canonical Compositions, Monumental Inscriptions and Archival Documents from the Biblical World (3 vols.: Leiden; New York: Brill, 1997). (BS1180. C66 1997)

Barton, John (ed.). The Biblical World. (2 vols.; London; New York: Routledge, 2002).

Carr, David McLain, An Introduction to the Old Testament: sacred texts and imperial contexts of the Hebrew Bible (Chichester, West Sussex, U.K.; Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010). [CC -BS1130 .C37 2010]

Coggins, R. J. Introducing the Old Testament (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1992/2001). (BS 1140.2.C64 2001) check the new edition (2001).

Collins, John C. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004).

Coogan, Michael D. A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament: The Hebrew Bible in Its Context (New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

Collins, John C. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004).

Dell, Katherine. Opening the Old Testament (Oxford: Blackwell, 2008).

John Drane, Introducing the Old Testament (Oxford: Lion Hudson plc, 2011, 3rd Ed.; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011, 3rd Ed.) [CC -BS1140.3 .D73 2001] (中譯本：約翰·德雷恩著，許一新譯《舊約概論》北京：北京大學，2004) [CC -BS1197.D712 2004]

Perdue, Leo (ed.). The Blackwell Companion to the Hebrew Bible (Oxford/Mass.: Blackwell, 2001). [BS1171.3 .B53 2001]

Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman III, An introduction to the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1994). [CC -BS1140.2 .D55 1994] (中譯本：狄拉德，朗文合著；劉良淑譯，《21世紀舊約導論》台北：校園書房，1999) [BS1140.2.D5512 1999 ]

Rendtorff, Rolf, The Old Testament: An Introduction (London: SCM Press, 1985). [BS 1140.2.R3913]

Series:

Exploring the Old Testament (London: SPCK, 2003). [BS 1140.3.E97 2003]

Commentaries:

Anchor Bible Commentary, The New Interpreter's Bible, New Century Bible, Hermenia, Word Biblical Commentary

Chinese:

李熾昌。《古經解讀：舊約經文的時代意義》香港：香港基督徒學會，1997。

李思敬。《恩怨情仇論舊約》（簡體字版）香港：更新資源出版社，2013。

陳貽繹。《希伯來語聖經：來自考古和文本資料的信息（至公元前 586 年）》北京：昆崙出版社，2006。

游斌。《希伯來聖經的文本、歷史與思想世界》北京：宗教文化出版社，2007。

-----。《聖書與聖民：古代以色列的歷史記憶與族群構建》北京：宗教文化出版社，2011。

謝品然。《公理：舊約+世界》香港：研道社，2010。

-----。《轉向：聖經+公共》香港：研道社，2011。

彭國璋。《見證耶穌是基督》香港：研道社，2012。

黃天相。《希伯來聖經導論》香港：明道社，2010。

Contact details for teacher

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\*\*The Course Outline will be subject to change due to class size and other circumstances;  
Please see the updated version via the course webpage in <http://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk>