

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

(For CUHK undergraduates)

Second Term 2023-2024 Wed 2:30pm-5:15pm CCT T31

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 her 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) [[Library online access to Third edition \(2020\)](#)]. **You must track ALL your reading by filling in the Reading Log** and submit them **by 17 April 2024** by eLearn website/Blackboard. Failure to submit the Reading Log on time means no marks for this requirement.

### 2. Participation: Comments and discussion:(15%)

This course requests 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. **Using your learning in class to response to present, real-life situation is highly recommended.** Questions or comments must be verbally raised in class or posted in our course chat group and/or course blogging site. It needs to be submitted in written form at the end of the course **together with the Final Exam**, recording the date and questions raised and/or comments made.

**(Due Date: 24 April 2024)**

### 3. Reflection (30%)

Write **TWO** reflection essays, each not less than 800 (Eng)/1000 (Chi) words, and reflect on

1. the Introduction/approach of our Textbook (15%)

**(Due Date: 7 Feb 2024)**

2. the Concluding Reflection of our Textbook and/or our course in general (15%)

**(Due Date: 21 April 2024)**

Each reflection should include the summary of what you have read/learnt (10 marks) and your interaction with the content of the lectures and your readings (5 marks). **Marks will be given when you show you are engaging with the course material.** You may submit these assignments by Blackboard **on or before the due date** 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.

**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.**

### 3. Group Presentation (15%)

Student is to make a presentation on a biblical book in group. Each presentation should NOT be more than 15 mins long and then open for class discussion. **The aim is to let the student orally present their understanding of the biblical book and its critical issues.** Marks will be

given according to the clarity of the presented content, the organization of the presentation, and the manner of the response to the discussion questions. Presentation will be scheduled after the add/drop period.

**OPTION IF PRESENTATION CANNOT BE ARRANGED: Introductory Essay**

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 1000 (Eng)/1500 (Chi) words an \*Introductory Essay\*. Content of the essay should include a literature review on an introduction to the content and critical issues of a biblical book. If you choose this option **you are to submit it by 7 April 2024.**

**4. Final Exam (30%) (Due 24 April 2024)**

Take-home exam. At the end of the course, you will be given several open-ended questions. And answer them in a short essay form.

Please submit your exam answers (word documents) to VeriGuide and to the Blackboard (with the signed VeriGuide receipt).

Late submission will be penalized.

Submission without a **signed** VeriGuide receipt will not be accepted.

**Grade Descriptors**

A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.

B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes

F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

### 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 10	<b>Introduction</b>	Course Introduction; Introduction: Imaginative Remembering; Literature and Genre	Brueg, Ch1-2
Jan 17	<b>Torah (1)</b>	Introduction to Torah Hebrew Bible as (Christian) Scripture	Brueg, Ch3
Jan 24	<b>Torah (2)</b>	Genesis; Exodus 1-18 Myth, Legend and ANET/Archaeology	Brueg, Ch4-5
Jan 31	<b>Torah (3)</b>	Exodus 25-40, Leviticus, Number 1-10 Cult and Priestly school	Brueg, Ch6-7
Feb 7	<b>Torah (4)</b>	Exodus 19-24, Numbers 11-36, Deuteronomy Law and Narrative	Brueg, Ch8-10 <b>Due: reflection paper I</b>
Feb 9-Feb15	Lunar New Year Vacation		
Feb 21	<b>Prophets (1)</b>	Introduction to the Prophets, Joshua, Judges History and Deuteronomistic History	Brueg, Ch11-13
Feb 28	<b>Prophets (2)</b>	1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings Narrative and Ideology	Brueg, Ch14-15
Mar 4-Mar 9	Reading Week		
Mar 13	<b>Prophets (3)</b>	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel Literary Prophet and Their Social World	Brueg, Ch16-18
Mar 20	<b>Prophets (4)</b>	Minor Prophets Twelve prophets as a book	Brueg, Ch19-21
Mar 27	<b>Writings (1)</b>	Introduction to the Writings, Psalms The Canonical Study of the Psalms	Brueg, Ch22-23
Apr 3	<b>Writings (2)</b>	Job, Proverbs Wisdom Literature	Brueg, Ch24-25
Apr 10	<b>Writings (3)</b>	Five Scrolls, Ezra-Nehemiah Hebrew Bible and the early Judaism	Brueg, Ch26,28
Apr 17	<b>Writings (4)/ Conclusion</b>	Daniel, 1 and 2 Chronicles Inner Biblical Interpretation in Apocalyptic Literature and the Rewritten Bible Concluding Reflection: Hiddenness of God	Brueg, Ch27, 29-31 <b>Due: Reading log</b> <b>Due: Reflection Paper II</b> <b>(21/4)</b>

**Final Exam: Due 24 April 2024 (with Comments and discussion in written form)**

Brueg = 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. Third Edition, 2020.

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://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk>