

HEBI 60003 (Spring 2022) *Interpreting the Hebrew Bible in Context*  
Three Credit Hours

**Instructor:** Gafney

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description of Content:**

**Course Description**

*This course is a graduate level introduction to critical interpretation of the Hebrew Bible and Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books focusing on content and context. It will include a selective survey of the history, literature and religion of ancient Israel focusing on the Torah (Pentateuch) and Prophets (Former and Latter). It is not open to Th.M., D.Min. or Ph.D. students and has no prerequisites.*

We will engage issues of interpretation in light of history, archaeology, canon formation, and, text and translation issues. We will read the bible in its ancient contexts and our own contemporary contexts with particular emphasis on teaching and preaching biblical literature. Our primary questions will include: What does the bible say? What did it mean? How has its meaning developed over time? How do (and should we) we understand and use the bible?

**Class Procedures:**

Lectures, small and large group discussion, peer-to-peer learning and student presentations.

**Requirements & Grading Procedures:**

1. Knowledge of readings, active presence and informed participation, 10%
2. Five close readings, 5% each, total 25%
3. Three papers:
  - a. Interpretive Perspective, 5 pages, 10%
  - b. Translation analysis, 5 pages, 15%
  - c. Exegesis paper, 10 pages, 20%
4. Final Exam, 20%

**Texts** Revised Jan 2020

**Required, (meaning full-time access). We will read more of these books than can be legally copied:**

DeYoung, et al. *Peoples' Companion to the Bible*, ISBN: 0800697022, \$26

Fortress *Student Atlas*, Dowley, ed., ISBN: 9781506400105, \$13

Fox, Everett. *The Five Books of Moses*, ISBN: 0805240616, Schocken, \$26

Fox, Everett. *The Early Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings*: The Schocken Bible, Volume II, ISBN: 0805241817, \$28

Gafney, Wilda. *Womanist Midrash*, ISBN: 066423903X, \$25

*Jewish Study Bible*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford, ISBN: 0199978468, \$26

Weems, Renita, *Battered Love*, ISBN: 0800629485, \$12

***Recommended:***

***These texts are in the recommended category because we will only read selections. It is advised that students purchase the recommended texts whenever possible.***

Falk, Marcia. *The Song of Songs*, ISBN: 1584654236, \$14

Gafney, Wilda. *Daughters of Miriam*, Fortress, ISBN: 080066258X, \$20

Matthews, Victor H. and Don C. Benjamin. *Old Testament Parallels*, ISBN: 0809137313, \$17

Trible, Phyllis, *Texts of Terror*, ISBN: 0800615379, \$13

**Other Approved Translations (Optional):**

Any NRSV Bible with Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal Texts

*Common English Bible*, Abingdon, ISBN: 1609260155, \$10

*Inclusive Bible*, Priests for Equality, ISBN: 1580512143, \$17

***ONLY these translations of the bible are appropriate for this class.***