IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to a previously arranged speaking engagement, this class will **NOT START on Thursday, January 31**. IT WILL START on Thursday, February 7th.

**Course Description:**

Students who have completed at least one term of Hebrew are introduced to the tools and methods of Old Testament exegesis. It is the counterpart to Interpreting the New Testament (NT 502). In addition, the course serves as a general introduction to Old Testament critical issues.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Perform individual steps of exegesis in the various genres of OT literature, especially narrative. This objective will be met through class lectures, workshops, and weekly exegetical assignments.

- Analyze and apply principles of interpretation to poetry and prophecy with special attention to the latter. Pericopes from the books of Joel, Amos, Hosea, and possibly Isaiah 40 will be our laboratory examples for exercises in prophecy. Both Legal and Wisdom Literature will be covered by means of assigned readings in KBH.

- Understand the independent yet dependent nature of interpreting the text. We will strain ourselves to wrestle with meaning (interpretive fruit) by careful observation of the text. In this way the process starts off independently. But we will also see the dependent nature of the process by reading secondary sources (commentaries and articles) and evaluating their contribution to our passage (s).

- Assess and interact with OT critical issues. This objective will be met through assigned readings and class lectures with a view to strengthening one’s commitment to the Scripture as the Word of God.

**Course Relationship to the Curriculum**
OT 511 is a required course for M.Div. students as well students pursuing an M.A. in Old Testament. This class assumes at least one term of Biblical Hebrew (prerequisite: OL 501/Hebrew I) and should be taken in conjunction with Hebrew II (corequisite: OL 502/Hebrew II). It further serves as a prerequisite for all Hebrew exegesis classes.

**Required Readings:**


**Course Evaluation:**

Final Exam: all course readings and lectures (40%)

Ten Exegetical Exercises (60%)

1. big picture of the book assignment (main idea/themes, historical setting)
2. literary context assignment
3. analysis of a text-critical problem (intro. level) + translation
4. grammatical/syntactical assignment
5. lexical assignment
6. structural and narrative art assignment
7. biblical and ANE context assignment
8. Theological context assignment
9. Application exercise
10. Predictive prophesy exercise

**NOTE:** I reserve the right to change anything on this syllabus, at any time, should I deem it necessary for the completion of the course goals.

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**Weekly course schedule:** This will be given when we meet on Thursday, Feb. 7. Students should feel free to commence reading the required texts noted above.