



Department of Old Testament Studies

PROFESSORS

Robert B. Chisholm Jr.
Department Chair, Senior Professor

Richard A. Taylor
Senior Research Professor

James E. Allman
Professor

Dorian G. Coover-Cox
Professor

Gordon H. Johnston
Professor

Brian L. Webster
Professor

ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

Milad F. Dagher
James R. Frohlich

VISITING PROFESSOR

JoAnna M. Hoyt

The purpose of the **Department of Old Testament Studies** is to equip students to do accurate exegetical work in the Old Testament and to expound the Old Testament in their ministries, with the goal of meeting contemporary needs. The required courses give students the skills necessary for work in the following areas:

- Hebrew grammar, syntax, textual criticism
- lexicography
- literary forms
- Old Testament backgrounds
- critical theory
- hermeneutics
- biblical theology

The elective courses provide opportunity for further development of students' proficiency in these disciplines as well as in the exegesis of various kinds of Old Testament literature.

Required Courses

Please consult the program curriculum charts in the Academic Programs section of this catalog for the specific courses required in each degree program.

OT5101 Elements of Hebrew I

The Department

An introduction to the basic principles of Hebrew phonology and morphology. *3 hours.*

OT5102 Elements of Hebrew II

The Department

A study of Hebrew morphology and syntax, with an introduction to lexical tools and methods of lexical analysis. Includes translation of the Book of Jonah, with lexical analysis of key words and syntactical analysis of selected forms, phrases, and clauses. *Prerequisite:* OT5101 Elements of Hebrew I. *3 hours.*

OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I

The Department

An introduction to the exegesis of Hebrew narrative, including an introduction to textual criticism, as well as a review of Hebrew morphology and syntax in conjunction with translation of the Book of Ruth. The course will also include a survey of the historical, cultural, literary, and theological backgrounds of the Old Testament and an introduction to various forms of Old Testament criticism. *Prerequisite:* OT5102 Elements of Hebrew II or a satisfactory score on the advanced standing exam. *3 hours.*

OT5104 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction II

The Department

An introduction to the exegesis of Hebrew poetry focusing on the Book of Psalms. The course will also include an introduction to background and interpretive issues in prophetic, wisdom, apocalyptic, and legal literature. *Prerequisite:* OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I or a satisfactory score on the advanced standing exam. *3 hours.*

Elective Courses

ThM students in the Old Testament Studies concentration must take 12 hours in the department, including at least one 5400-level exegetical course and/or OT5720 The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Keep in mind that elective offerings for a given term are subject to change without advance notice.

Introductory Studies

OT5205 Introduction to Old Testament Criticism

The Department

An investigation of the origins, development, and impact of various critical approaches to the Old Testament, with a view to understanding and responding to them. Special attention is given to how modern criticism affects exegesis, interpretation, and theology. This elective is highly recommended for students intending to pursue doctoral studies in Old Testament. 3 hours.

OT5206 Seminar in Old Testament Criticism I

Chisholm, Johnston, and Taylor

A seminar addressing special issues in Old Testament criticism of the Torah and Former Prophets. *Prerequisite:* OT5205 Introduction to Old Testament Criticism. 3 hours.

OT5207 Seminar in Old Testament Criticism II

Chisholm, Johnston, and Taylor

A seminar addressing special issues in Old Testament criticism of the Latter Prophets and Writings. *Prerequisite:* OT5205 Introduction to Old Testament Criticism. 2 hours.

OT5210 The Old Testament in Contemporary Culture

Johnston

An examination of current issues in Old Testament studies that engages the student in a critical dialogue with contemporary approaches to the sacred texts, culture, history, and religion(s) of ancient Israel. This course is open to MA students. 3 hours.

Philological Studies

OT5302 Historical Hebrew Grammar

Taylor

An inductive and deductive study of biblical Hebrew from the perspective of its historical development within the Semitic family of languages. Enrollment requires consent of professor. 3 hours.

OT5305 Advanced Hebrew Grammar

Taylor

An advanced study of Hebrew grammar and syntax as an essential phase of Old Testament exegesis. The major steps in grammatical and syntactical analysis are explored and then applied to specific passages. *Prerequisite:* OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I. 3 hours.

OT5310 Hebrew Reading

Coover-Cox

Studies in selected portions of the Old Testament to improve the student's ability to read Hebrew, emphasizing morphology, vocabulary, and syntactical recognition. *Prerequisite:* OT5102 Elements of Hebrew II. 2 or 3 hours.

OT5315 Old Testament Textual Criticism

Taylor

A study of the history of the Hebrew text and versions of the Old Testament, with a view to developing ability in doing textual criticism. Students gain practice in solving textual problems and in relating textual criticism to exegesis. *Prerequisite:* OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I. 3 hours.

OT5320 The Septuagint

Taylor

An introduction to the Greek translation of the Old Testament, with attention to its value for textual and lexical studies. Selected Old Testament passages are studied in relation to their use in the New Testament. May also be credited in the Department of New Testament Studies. *Prerequisites:* OT5102 Elements of Hebrew II and NT5102 Elements of Greek. 3 hours.

OT5325 Biblical Aramaic

Taylor

A study of the basic principles of phonology, morphology, and syntax of biblical Aramaic. Translation and analysis of the Aramaic portions of Ezra and Daniel are accompanied by discussion of the relevance of Aramaic studies to Old and New Testament research. *Prerequisite:* OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I. 3 hours.

The following courses are offered to master's-degree students concurrently with the corresponding doctoral courses listed in the PhD Course Descriptions section of this catalog. Doctoral students have increased course requirements, and consequently these courses cannot be credited at a later time in the PhD program at DTS.

OT5330 Introduction to Ugaritic

Webster

An introduction to Ugaritic grammar, with reading and analysis of selected poetic texts that have special bearing on the literature and thought of Old Testament Israel. *Prerequisite:* OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I. 3 hours.

OT5335 Northwest Semitic Inscriptions

Taylor

Translation and analysis of Aramaic, Hebrew, Phoenician, and other Northwest Semitic inscriptions, with emphasis on their contribution to Old Testament studies. *Prerequisite:* OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I. 3 hours.

OT5340 Introduction to the Aramaic Targums

Taylor

An introduction to the grammar and syntax of targumic Aramaic, with selected readings from the major Aramaic Targums. Attention is given to targumic translation techniques and the relevance of targumic studies to Old and New Testament research. *Prerequisite:* OT5325 Biblical Aramaic. 3 hours.

OT5345 Introduction to Syriac

Taylor

An introduction to the grammar and syntax of classical Syriac, with readings from both biblical and extrabiblical Syriac texts. Particular attention is given to the value of a working knowledge of Syriac for Old and New Testament studies. *Prerequisite:* OT5325 Biblical Aramaic. 3 hours.

OT5350 Readings in Syriac Literature

Taylor

Practice in reading various Syriac texts, with particular attention given to the Syriac Peshitta. Emphasis is on developing a working knowledge of Syriac and an understanding of its application to biblical studies. *Prerequisite:* OT5345 Introduction to Syriac. 3 hours.

OT5355 Introduction to Coptic

Taylor

A study of the basic principles of phonology, morphology, and syntax for the Sahidic dialect of the Coptic language. The course will provide experience in translation and analysis of selected Coptic texts, introduction to the major scholarly tools

available for Coptic research, and discussion of the relevance of Coptic studies for biblical and theological research. *Prerequisite:* OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I. *3 hours.*

OT5360 Introduction to Akkadian

Webster

An introduction to the grammar of Akkadian, with reading from texts relevant to the study of the Old Testament.

Prerequisite: OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I. *3 hours.*

OT5365 Readings in Akkadian

Webster

A course devoted to the reading and analysis of selected Akkadian legal and mythological texts. The significance of Akkadian literature for the study of the Old Testament will be emphasized.

Prerequisite: OT5360 Introduction to Akkadian. *2 hours.*

Exegetical Studies

Credit or concurrent enrollment in OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I is required for enrollment in all exegetical electives.

OT5405 Exegesis of Genesis

Chisholm

An exegetical study of the Book of Genesis in its cultural and historical setting, with attention to its critical problems, theological content, literary features, and modern exposition. *3 hours.*

OT5407 Exegesis of Exodus

Coover-Cox

An exegetical study of the Book of Exodus in its cultural and historical setting, with attention to its literary features and contributions to theology. Attention also is given to preparation for preaching and teaching and to enhancing facility in reading Hebrew. *3 hours.*

OT5408 Exegesis of Leviticus

Allman

An exegetical study of the Book of Leviticus with attention to the fundamental theological issues in the book and on preparation for teaching and preaching the book. *3 hours.*

OT5410 Exegesis of Deuteronomy

Allman

An exegesis of the Book of Deuteronomy, with attention to argument, critical problems, and application. *3 hours.*

OT5415 Exegesis of Judges-Samuel

Chisholm

An interpretive, literary, and theological study of the Book of Judges and selected portions of 1 and 2 Samuel. The course will include an introduction to Old Testament narrative literature, addressing issues of hermeneutics, theology, and application. *3 hours.*

OT5420 Exegesis of Ecclesiastes

Johnston

A literary, exegetical, and theological study of the Book of Ecclesiastes. The course will address issues of hermeneutics, theology, and application. *3 hours.*

OT5425 Exegesis of Proverbs

Johnston

An exegetical study of selected portions of the Book of Proverbs in its cultural and historical setting, with attention to its critical problems, theological content, literary features, and modern exposition. *2 hours.*

OT5430 Exegesis of Isaiah

Chisholm

An exegetical study of selected portions of the Book of Isaiah, with attention to exegetical-theological method and homiletical application. *3 hours.*

OT5435 Exegesis of the Minor Prophets

Chisholm

An exegetical study of selected Minor Prophets, with emphasis on principles of interpreting prophetic literature, exegetical-theological method, and homiletical application. *3 hours.*

OT5445 Exegesis of the Song of Songs

Johnston

An exegetical study of the Book of Song of Songs (Song of Solomon), with special focus on the historical-cultural-literary interpretation of the book as well as contemporary application and modern exposition. The exegesis will emphasize its literary features and the contribution of the literary genre of ancient Near Eastern love literature to understanding the book and dealing with interpretive problems. The course also will address introductory, critical, and hermeneutical issues unique to this book. *3 hours.*

OT5450 Exegesis of Job

Chisholm

A literary, exegetical, and theological study of the Book of Job. The course also will address issues of hermeneutics, theology, and application. *3 hours.*

Historical Studies

Unless otherwise noted, these electives do not require a knowledge of Hebrew and are open to students in all master's-level degree programs.

OT5605 Old Testament Backgrounds

Johnston

A survey of the physical, historical, and cultural world of the Old Testament, with special attention to its influence on Israel and the Bible and to its value in a modern understanding and communication of the Old Testament. *2 hours.*

OT5606 Seminar in Old Testament Backgrounds

Chisholm and Johnston

A seminar addressing special issues related to Old Testament backgrounds. *Prerequisite:* OT5605 Old Testament Backgrounds. *2 hours.*

OT5610 History of Israel

The Department

A study of the history of Israel in the context of the ancient Near Eastern world. May also be credited in the Department of Bible Exposition. *2 hours.*

OT5615 Israelite Religion in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context

The Department

A study of the religion of Israel in Old Testament times in both a descriptive and normative sense against the background of the historical, cultural, and religious world of which it was a part. May also be credited in the Department of Bible Exposition. *3 hours.*

OT5630 Old Testament Backgrounds of the Epistle to the Hebrews

Allman

This course focuses on Old Testament contributions for understanding the Epistle to the Hebrews. Attention is given to exegetical and biblical-theological studies of major passages and themes in the book, such as sanctification, covenants, sonship, and sacrifice.

Prerequisite: Credit or concurrent enrollment in OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction II. *3 hours.*

Theological Studies

Unless otherwise noted, these electives do not require a knowledge of Hebrew and are open to students in all master's-level degree programs.

OT5705 Introduction to Old Testament Biblical Theology

Allman

A study of the nature and history of the biblical theology movement, a survey of major contributors to the study of Old Testament biblical theology, and a proposal for doing biblical theology according to proper exegetical, hermeneutical, and theological method. May also be credited in the Department of Theological Studies. *3 hours.*

OT5710 Knowing God through the Old Testament

Chisholm

A study of divine names, titles, roles, attributes, and acts/self-revelation, with a view to their relevance for Christian theology, worship, and ethics. The course also will compare and contrast Israelite monotheism with ancient Near Eastern polytheism in an effort to help the student appreciate the unique revelatory nature of Israel's religion. *3 hours.*

OT5720 The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament

Johnston

A textual, exegetical, hermeneutical, and theological study of selected quotations of the Old Testament in the New Testament. May also be credited in the Department of New Testament Studies or the Department of Bible Exposition. *Prerequisites:* OT5102 Elements of Hebrew II and NT5102 Elements of Greek II. *3 hours.*

OT5725 A Biblical Theology of the Covenants

Johnston

An exegetical, hermeneutical, and theological study of the major biblical covenants in their relationship to the historical unfolding of the history of salvation (*Heilsgeschichte*). Special attention will be placed on understanding the biblical covenants in light of ancient Near Eastern treaties and on their historical inauguration and eschatological fulfillment. *3 hours.*

OT5730 A Biblical Theology of the Law

Johnston

An exegetical, hermeneutical, and theological study of the law of God. Special attention will focus on historical-cultural, literary, exegetical, hermeneutical, and theological issues, such as the relation of the Mosaic Law to Mesopotamian law codes, the relation of the Decalogue to the case laws, the relation of the Law to the covenants and promise, continuity and discontinuity in the relation of the Old Covenant law to the New Covenant, and the relevance of the Law in the Christian life. The course also will compare and evaluate the various models of the role/relevance of the Mosaic Law in the Christian life, as presented in various schools of dispensational and Reformed theology. *3 hours.*

OT5735 Sacral War in the Old Testament

The Department

An exegetical and biblical-theological study of the theme of sacral war in the Old Testament and its development in biblical history. It brings together the major biblical themes of election, covenant, deliverance, retribution, religious holiness, and land. Special attention is given to the comparison of the biblical concept to other sacral war traditions, ancient and modern. *3 hours.*

Directed Studies

OT5901 Independent Study in Old Testament

The Department

Independent research on some aspect of Old Testament studies not specifically treated in other courses. Credit is allowed proportionate to the amount of work but not to exceed four credit hours in any one subject. Limited to advanced students and subject to consent of the professor. *1-4 hours.*

OT5902 Old Testament Thesis

The Department

Independent research and writing of a thesis on an approved topic under the supervision of two faculty advisors. Students will have one calendar year to complete the thesis. If the thesis is not completed by the end of a year, students will be registered in OT5903. Enrollment requires consent of the department. *2 or 3 hours.*

OT5903 Old Testament Thesis Continuation

The Department

The thesis continuation course is required of all students writing a thesis who are beyond one year in the thesis process. Students must register for this course each fall, spring, and summer until completion of the thesis. Thesis continuation is permitted for a maximum of one additional term (for a 2-hour thesis, including summer) or two additional terms (for a 3-hour thesis, including summer). *1 hour.*

OT5905 Special Topics in Old Testament Studies

The Department

This course is designed for students who choose to participate in special conferences, training, or programs that are more formal in nature and require student participation other than a standard independent study. Approved special topics will provide expertise or training not specifically covered in the seminary curriculum. Credit is allowed proportionate to the required amount of work but is not to exceed four credit hours on any one topic. Enrollment requires consent of the department. *1-4 hours.*