This course examines God’s Word as expressed through Israel’s prophets, selected Psalms, and selected passages from Wisdom literature. Students will be able to:

1. Understand the origin, history, and use of these forms of biblical literature among God’s people.
2. Exegete these forms of biblical literature.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

**Required Texts:** (*indicates book is available electronically)*

- **John H. Walton,** *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*
- **Bill T. Arnold,** *Introduction to the Old Testament*
- **Michael D. Coogan,** *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures (3rd Ed)*
- One of the following Bible Dictionaries:
  - *Harper Collins Bible Dictionary* by Mark Allan Powell
  - *Eerdman’s Dictionary of the Bible,* ed. by David Noel Freedman

**Pre-Class Assignments:** These assignments are based on the newest and best research into how people learn (see: *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* by Peter C. Brown, et. al.). This might be very different from what you have been asked to do previously or from what you expect. Please follow the instructions and I am confident you will be well-prepared for class. The short version of how to learn effectively long-term is to continually challenge and self-test. As hard as it is to discipline oneself to do this, I can assure you that doing a little bit every day and working for 20-30 minutes at a time will serve you much better than trying to do a lot at once. Rereading is not actually as effective as flash cards and self-testing. Thus, I have incorporated those two elements into the pre-class assignment. If you have any questions, please email me at mvmyre@gmail.com. Or my phone number is 214-755-5930.

1. **Flash Cards**
   I want you to make flash cards for the listed items. You will have to read the textbooks to find the definitions/significance of these terms. I suggest that you do this by the end of January and send me a list by email of what you are putting on your flash cards so that you will not learn incorrect material. (For most of these terms that won’t be an issue – but just in case.) Then use the cards in the following way: use them to test yourself frequently – once a day if possible. This should not take a long time. When you get the answer right, don’t take the card out of rotation immediately, but wait until you have gotten it right several times. Then put them aside into a pile that you will look at once a month until class.

2. **Read the indicated text and answer the following questions.**
   A. **Read the book by Anderson and chapters 16 and 18 of Arnold.** This will help you on the flash cards that have to do with the Psalms. Suggest ways in which the various kinds of Psalms mentioned by Anderson might be used in worship or ministry. Tell how you think the Psalms can speak for us today. (1-2 pages)
B. Walton – Read Part 1, Comparative Studies and answer the following:
   a. What does Walton mean when he speaks of “cognitive environment” and what is its significance for the study of the Old Testament? (short answer)
   b. What are at least three ways that comparative study challenges critical scholarship? What are at least three ways in which confessional scholars can feel threatened by comparative study? (short answer)

C. Read Arnold, Chapter 17 and answer the following:
   a. What is the relationship between Israelite wisdom and monotheism? (several paragraphs)
   b. In Israel, who most likely produced the literature found in the book of Proverbs? (short answer)

D. Read Walton, Chapter 11 and answer the following:
   a. What are the different kinds of omens? (short answer)
   b. What is magic? (short answer)
   c. What were the purposes and functions of divination in the Ancient Near East? (1-2 pages)

E. Read Coogan, Chapter 18. Answer questions 1 and 2, on page 309, for your own benefit, and write an answer for question 3. (1-2 pages)

F. Read Coogan, Chapter 19. Answer questions 1, 2, and 4 for your own benefit and write an answer for question 3 (1-2 pages).

Terms for Flashcards: Definition and significance

For some of these you might have to scan through the first few chapters of Arnold to find the definitions

Acrostic
Synthesizing parallelism
Antithetical parallelism
Synonymous parallelism
Standard wisdom
Speculative wisdom
The concept of “wisdom” (Hokma in Hebrew)
Ma’at
Theodicy
Retribution theology
Marduk
Leviathan
The Instruction of Amenemope
Types of Psalms:
   Hymns
   Community lament
   Individual lament
   Thanksgiving songs
   Royal Psalms

Form criticism
Sitz im leben
Tanak (or Tanakh)
YWHW
Henotheism, Monolatry, Monotheism
Torah
Pentateuch
Deuteronomistic History
Nevi’im
Ketuvim

Martha Myre Hebrew 421, 2016
Septuagint
Apocrypha
Masoretic Text
Divisions of the Psalms
Redaction Criticism
Tradition criticism
Rhetorical criticism
Canonical criticism
Hermann Gunkel
Divination
Prophecy
3 types of prophetic speech: Prophecies, utterances, narratives
Announcements of judgment
Announcements of salvation
Dates:
1000 – 922 BCE
722 BCE
586 BCE
539 BCE
Syro-Ephraimitic War

Pay attention to the Sidebar 20.4 on page 333 of Arnold entitled “The Sequence of Events Defining the Exile,” as well as Sidebar 21.1 on page 343 entitled, “Sequence of Events Defining the Post-exilic period.” Be able to outline this sequence.
Categories of Divination:
Inspired
Official prophecy
Informal prophecy
Dreams
Terminology of words relating to the future (Walton):
Plan
Prediction
Forecast
Prognosis
Vision cast
Inductive Divination
Deductive Divination
Categories of prophetic oracles in Ancient Near Eastern cultures (Walton):
Indictment
History
Support
Warning
Categories of prophetic oracles in Israelite Culture (Walton):
Indictment
Judgment
Instruction
Aftermath
Omens: Extispicy, lots, celestial, terrestrial, physiognomic