BA9006W  War and Peace in the Hebrew Bible

A study of key texts on war and peace selected from Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Isaiah. Attention will be given to the theological influences and implications of these texts.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe selected scholarly theories about human and divine participation in biblical representations of war.
2. Rigorously exegete a biblical text related to the themes of war or peace.
3. Reflect critically on the concept of genocide and its applicability in understanding Deuteronomy 20 and Joshua’s conquest narratives.
4. Analyse the biblical background to notions of ‘just war’ and pacifism.
5. Demonstrate an ability to research and write using appropriate methods and form at postgraduate level.

Prerequisites: 45 points in Foundational Studies

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment: One exegetical paper (2,500 words) (40%)
One essay (2,500 words) (40%)
One tutorial paper (1,000 words) (20%)

Faculty: Mark Brett

Offered: 2016: Semester 1

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase

Decosse, David E. But was it just? Reflections on the morality of the Persian Gulf War. New York: Doubleday, 1992
Dever, William G. Who were the Israelites and where did they come from? Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003
Hobbs, T R. A time for war. Wilmington: Glazier, 1989
Kang, Sa Moon. Divine war in the Old Testament and in the ancient near east. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1989
Ollenberger, Ben C. Zion, the city of the great king. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1987