BA8001W  Introducing the Hebrew Bible

Offered:  2016: Semester 2  (Also offered online – see BA8701W)

This unit aims to introduce the student to the diversity of Old Testament traditions, by exploring a number of themes that run through the Hebrew Bible; exploring the possible relationships between these themes and different historical, geographical and traditional contexts; developing an awareness of modern schools of study, as well as the history of research into the Hebrew Bible; developing a familiarity with exegetical tools and methods, using problem-based learning.

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

1. Describe the historical and social world of the Hebrew Bible.
2. Demonstrate a working familiarity with a range of interpretive approaches to the Hebrew Bible.
3. Effectively use the tools for biblical interpretation: lexicons, dictionaries, commentaries, journals, monographs and primary sources.
4. Develop and summarise an awareness of and appreciation for the history of Hebrew Bible research and a variety of interpretive approaches current in biblical scholarship.
5. Support theological and hermeneutical applications of the Hebrew Bible to their current context.
6. Undertake postgraduate-level research into the Hebrew Bible, and demonstrate this by writing an exegetical paper using appropriate methods and skills.

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment: One 3,000 word essay (mid semester) (50%)
One 3,000 word exegetical paper (end semester) (50%)

Faculty: Mark Brett

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase