BA9006W  War and Peace in the Hebrew Bible

Offered: 2016: Semester 1

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

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase

__________ Reading Isaiah. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991


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

Hobs, 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

Lind, Millard. Yahweh is a warrior. Scottdale: Herald, 1980
__________ Monotheism, power, justice. Elkhart: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1990


Ollenberger, Ben C. Zion, the city of the great king. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1987


