BA2/3006W  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 implications of these texts.

Upon successful completion of the unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Describe selected scholarly theories about human and divine participation in war.
2. Rigorously exegete a biblical text related to the themes of war or peace.
3. Analyse the biblical background to notions of ‘just war’ and pacifism.
4. Level 3: Reflect critically on the concept of genocide and its applicability in understanding Deuteronomy 20 and Joshua’s conquest narratives.

Prerequisites:  Level 2: BA1001W or equivalent
Level 3: 45 points in Field B with 30 points in Hebrew Bible

Class Time:  Three hours per week

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

Level 3:
- One tutorial paper (1,500 words) (20%)
- One exegetical paper (2,000 words) (40%)
- One essay (2,000 words) (40%)

Faculty:  Mark Brett

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase

Dever, William G. Who were the Israelites and where did they come from? Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003
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