

## BI 567: Women of Faith and Wisdom: English Old Testament Exegesis (3 credits)

Prerequisites: BI 511 Introduction to the Old Testament  
BI 550 Introduction to the New Testament

Assessment: Letter grade or P/F by permission

Core requirement for M.Div. in Old Testament English Exegesis or required Bible elective when taken for a letter grade. If all Bible requirements have been met, course may be taken as an elective for P/F.

### Faculty Information:

Dr. Sue LeFeber, Instructor, [slefeber@dbq.edu](mailto:slefeber@dbq.edu);

### Overview/Course Description:

This course will feature the accounts of Sarah and Hagar, the books of Esther and Ruth, and the “frame story” of Proverbs. We will consider the interplay of narrative and wisdom themes in the Hebrew Bible, as well as other contemporaneous works of literature and the relationships between women and men in the ancient world. A variety of exegetical methodologies will be employed to interpret historical and contemporary meanings throughout the course.

### Course Objectives:

By participating fully in this course, students will

1. Read the accounts of Sarah and Hagar, the books of Esther, Ruth, and the frame story of Proverbs.
2. Choose among biblical passages for intensive exploration using exegetical methodologies, making use of multiple biblical commentaries that adopt various exegetical, theological, and ideological perspectives.
3. Reflect on and introduce new ways to encourage the distinctive contributions of individuals in both the ancient world and contemporary church and society.
4. Reflect theologically on all of the above.

### M.Div. Curricular Objectives addressed by this course: *(ref. UDTS Catalog 2021-2022)*

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church.
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition.
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity
- Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility.

### M.A.M.D. Curricular Objectives addressed by this course: *(ref. UDTS Catalog 2021-2022)*

- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God’s mission to the world.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness

### Required Texts:

- Bible, NRSV Oxford New Annotated Study Bible with Apocrypha
- Bible, CEB Annotated Study Bible with Apocrypha
- Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis* (3rd ed.), Grand Rapids: Baker Academic (2020). ISBN: 1540960315
- Judy Fentress-Williams, *Ruth* (Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries), Nashville: Abingdon Press (2012). ISBN: 1426746253
- Katherine Doob Sakenfeld, *Just Wives? Stories of Power and Survival in the Old Testament Today*, Louisville: WJK (2003). ISBN: 0664226602
- Articles, chapters, commentaries, and PDFs as assigned

### Recommended Texts:

- Judy Fentress-Williams, *Holy Imagination: A Literary and Theological Introduction to the Whole Bible*
- Additional texts to be determined

### Course Requirements

1. Be prepared for class and faithfully participate in all class discussions (by post or in person).
2. Complete all reading and written assignments on or before due date (please see syllabus). Please submit written assignments through Moodle. Writing assignments will include a combination of reflection questions, class projects and presentations, a book review (2-3 pages), a shorter exegetical paper (4-5 pages), and an in-depth exegetical paper with application (10-15 pages).

### Other Course Administrative Information:

1. All work must be a student's own. You are responsible for adhering to the Seminary's policies on academic honesty. The most recent Student Catalog and Handbook details important information on plagiarism.
2. At the Academic Support Center on the second floor of Myers Library, there are writing tutors who are able to help you with any writing issues or problems you may encounter while working on assignments for this course. This service is provided free of charge by the University.
3. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement: A student who has a disability that may affect his/her performance in this course should consult with the instructor and the Director of the Academic Success Center, in confidence, by the second class session.
4. This course description and syllabus are subject to change.