

# University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

## BI 511D – Old Testament Introduction

### Fall Semester 2025

#### Faculty Information:

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Professor: The Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Schlimm

Preferred Title: Dr. Matt

Office: Van Vliet 316. This building does not have an elevator. If you would like to meet elsewhere, just let the professor know.

Office Hours: By appointment (phone, Zoom, or Teams)

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#### Course Description:

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This course provides an introduction to the Old Testament. Students will gain an introductory understanding of the content, historical background, canon, theology, and critical issues of the Old Testament. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to lead Bible studies and preach sermons informed by the field of biblical studies. This course fulfills the M.Div. basic first-year requirement in Old Testament studies (3 credits, letter grade only), but is open to all UDTS students.

#### Course Objectives:

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Students who complete this course will:

1. Classify the fundamentals of the Old Testament's content, canon, and theology;
2. Identify the historical, literary, and canonical context of biblical passages;
3. Apply key tools of biblical scholarship to problems faced in ministry contexts; and
4. Evaluate (i.e., critically assess) biblical scholarship.

In keeping with the stated purpose of the M.Div. degree (“to serve the one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and prepare women and men for faithful, compassionate, and effective pastoral ministry”), this course helps meet the following M.Div. curricular objectives:

- 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.

Additionally, this course helps meet the following MAMD curricular objective:

- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world.

Additionally, this course helps meet the following MAM curricular objective:

- The student will be able to identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures.

## Required Textbooks:

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Coogan, Michael, ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0190276089.

Green, Joel, ed. *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville: Common English Bible, 2018. ISBN: 978-1609262167.

Schlimm, Matthew R. *This Strange and Sacred Scripture: Wrestling with the Old Testament and Its Oddities*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015. ISBN: 978-0801039799.

**NOTE #1:** Students are required to obtain all three of these resources. Even though two are study Bibles, these study Bibles are different.

**NOTE #2:** Students are required to obtain the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the *New Oxford Annotated Study Bible*. They will be tested on its contents, and students using different editions will have different content.