Precourse work is due the first day of class, January 26th. Any student arriving without completed precourse work they will not be allowed to attend the course.

Course Description
This course interprets the developing social institutions and religious traditions of ancient Israel and examines the varying ways in which Hebrew people understood God to be acting in critical events in their history. Attention is given to the creation and patriarchal narratives, the Exodus and wilderness wanderings, the taking of the land, the rise of the monarchy, and finally the exile. We will focus on the biblical books of Genesis through Deuteronomy, and Joshua through 2 Kings.

Course Objectives
• Formation of an historical overview of the life and faith of ancient Israel.
• Exegesis of selected passages that illustrate turning points in Israel’s history
• Correlation of exegesis with its use in preaching and other pastoral functions
• Reflection upon how scripture reveals God at work in the lives of people
• Ongoing development of an exegetical methodology
• Application of these studies to the concerns and issues of the present day

Course Requirements
• Class attendance and reading of the Bible and secondary texts
• Participation in class discussions
• A five page reflection paper
• A five page research summary
• A ten to fifteen page exegesis assignment

Required Textbooks

Required Advance Reading
• The Biblical books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings.

Precourse Assignments
Write a five page reflection paper on the major event you feel was most formative for the history of ancient Israel. How did it change the course of their history and their experience of God at work in that history? (double-spaced, standard margins).