

Penn West Academy for Ministry
Course: Old Testament 2022-2023



Instructor: Pastor Julia L. DiFiore

Julia serves as pastor of Bradford Woods Community Church in Bradford Woods. She earned her B.A. in Biblical & Theological studies at Malone University as well as a graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity and a Certificate in Church Planting and Revitalization. She also serves on the Penn-West Conference Justice and Witness team, the Conference Associate for Youth Ministry Board, the Pittsburgh Association Committee on Ministry, as well as the Pittsburgh Association Board.

Contact: Email: JLDIFIORE7@gmail.com

Cell: 330-730-1339

Welcome! to the study of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible! Who wrote the Old Testament? Why was it written? How should we read the Old Testament? Is the Old Testament true? Does it matter in today's world?

Objective: The following will be achieved over a 4-year journey as a student with the Penn West Academy

1. The student will obtain tools to answer the above questions and gain knowledge in the history and literature of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible within its ancient Near Eastern context. Accordingly special care will be taken throughout the course in understanding other cultures, views and the diversity of God's created order.
2. The student will learn the ability to argue why the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible is important for the formation of theology as well as seeing it's importance in justice work and ministry.
3. The student will develop an understanding of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible in how it gives increased knowledge to better comprehend the New Testament. Learning that it is through the lens of the Old that we are able to better understand the New.
4. The student will gain the ability to apply proper exegesis to an Old Testament passage for practical use and application in a modern context including sermon writing.

Required Texts:

Harold Attridge, ed. NRSV, *The Harper Collins Study Bible*, ISBN: 978-0-06-257004-8 (Kindle) \$15.99 ISBN: 9780060786854 (hard copy) \$24.49

William Brown *Wisdom's Wonder; Character, Creation and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature*, 2014 ISBN: 978-0-8028-6793-3 (paperback) \$19.13 (Kindle) \$14.75

Jacqueline E. Lapsley, *Whispering the Word Hearing Women's Stories in the Old Testament*, 2005, ISBN: 0664224350 (Paperback) \$20.25 (Kindle) \$9.99

Patrick Miller *Interpreting the Psalms, 1986*
ISBN: 978-0-8006-1896-4 (Paperback) \$23.49

Required Texts Cont'd:

Gordon Whenham *Exploring the Old Testament; A Guide to the Pentateuch, 2003.*
ISBN: 978-0-8308-5309-0 (Paperback) \$23.99 (Kindle) \$22.49

Gafney Wilda, *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction To The Women Of The Torah And The Throne, 2017* ISBN: 978-0664239039 (Paperback) \$23.33 (Kindle) \$15.12

Recommended:

- Michael Coogan *The Old Testament; A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures.* 4th ed. 2018, ISBN: 978-0-19-060865-1
- *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis* by William Brown, 2017 ISBN: 9780664259938

SURVEYING THE STORY OF ISRAEL

2022 September 9-10

- English Exegesis and Critical Reading
 - Joshua, Judges, Ruth
 - Wrestling with difficult passages
 - Understanding the story of Israel

2022 October 7-8

- English Exegesis Cont'd
 - 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings,

2023 March 10-11

- Seeing how the Bible Explains or Interprets Itself as a tool in English Exegesis
 - 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra

2023 May 12-13

- Nehemiah & Esther