

- Course Outline
- KULIS 2019/20

Course title	Introducing Old Testament Theologies: Themes and Perspectives
Date/duration	2 hours/ week, 12 weeks
Lecturer	Susanne Gillmayr-Bucher /N.N.
Teaching language	English
ECTS	3
Contents	
<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to selected themes of Old Testament theology and anthropology. We will discuss these topics on the example of biblical texts, and we will also compare the biblical texts with literature and artifacts from a wider cultural context. In this way we will explore the biblical concepts within the historical, sociological, and religious world in which the OT was produced. Recent trends in continental discussions on these topics shall be highlighted.</p> <p>The structure is as follows:</p> <p>Images of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God and creation: Old Testament texts and myths of the Ancient Near East</li> <li>• Divine justice - divine mercy</li> <li>• Monotheism-Polytheism-Monolatry (Biblical concepts, Religious History and Iconography)</li> </ul> <p>Images of humans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People as God's creatures</li> <li>• The construction of the human body (Cultural Anthropology)</li> <li>• Individuality and collective body (Social Anthropology)</li> </ul> <p>Concepts of communication and interaction between the deity and the people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tora: orientation, instructions and laws</li> <li>• Cult: mediation and forgiveness</li> <li>• Covenant between God and people</li> </ul>	
Learning outcomes	

- Identify and describe fundamental themes in the OT
- Articulate an understanding of the differences and variations within and between OT themes
- Articulate an understanding of certain key issues in the OT concept of anthropology
- Identify and describe fundamental differences between OT and modern concepts of human beings (anthropology)

#### Teaching and learning methods

- Weekly lecture with discussion (regular participation is required)
- Online platform with reading material and questions to guide through the reading will be provided

#### Course preparation

Weekly reading requirement in preparation for the class or as a follow up

#### Additional literature

- Erhard Gerstenberger, Theologies in the Old Testament. London: T&T Clark 2001.
- Michaela Bauks, Theologie des Alten Testaments. Religionsgeschichtliche und bibelhermeneutische Perspektiven. UTB 4973. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2018.
- Kessler, John. Old Testament Theology: Divine Call and Human Response. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2013.
- Silvia Schroer, Staubli, Thomas, Body Symbolism in the Bible. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press 2001.
- Utzschneider, Helmut, Oswald, Wolfgang, Exodus 1-15. (IEKAT) Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2013.
- The Book of Exodus. Composition, Reception, and Interpretation. Edited by Thomas Dozeman, Craig A. Evans and Joel N. Lohr (VTsupp 164) Leiden, Boston: Brill 2014

- Assessment (%)
  - (methods of examination, requirements for awarding credit points)

- Written final test

#### Contact details (lecturer)

Univ. Prof. Dr. Susanne Gillmayr-Bucher  
S.Gillmayr-Bucher@ku-linz.at