

Course Outline KULIS

Course title	Fundamental Themes of Old Testament Theologies
Date/duration	Winter term 2021/22
Lecturer	Univ.-Prof. Dr. Susanne Gillmayr-Buchner / Dr. Magdalena Lass
Teaching language	English
ECTS	3
Contents	
<p>This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to selected themes of Old Testament theology and anthropology.</p> <p>We will discuss the selected 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 texts were created.</p> <p>Course Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images of God: God and creation (Old Testament texts and myths of the Ancient Near East) / Divine justice - divine mercy / God as King / Monotheism-Polytheism-Monolatry (Biblical concepts, Religious History and Iconography) • Images of humans: People as God's creatures / The construction of the human body (Cultural Anthropology) / Individuality and collective body (Social Anthropology) • Concepts of communication and interaction between the deity and the people: Tora: orientation, instructions and laws / Cult: mediation and forgiveness / Covenant between God and people 	
Learning outcomes	
<p>After passing this course successfully students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Recognise and interpret different images of God, humankind and the world within Old Testament texts. They will also be able to place them in their historical contexts. <p>Define and describe fundamental differences between OT and modern concepts of human beings (anthropology)</p>	
Teaching and learning methods	

- Weekly lecture with discussion (this can be changed to "distance learning" in the event that classroom teaching is not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic)
- Online platform with reading material and questions to guide students through the reading materials will be provided

Course preparation

A profound knowledge of the texts and stories of the Old Testament is helpful.

Literature/ Selected Bibliography

- Erhard Gerstenberger, Theologies in the Old Testament. London: T&T Clark 2001.
- Kessler, John. Old Testament Theology: Divine Call and Human Response. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2013.
- Thomas Römer / Raymond Geuss, The Invention of God. Cambridge, MS: Harvard Univ. Press 2015.
- Silvia Schroer, Staubli, Thomas, Body Symbolism in the Bible. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press 2001.

For students able to read German

- Michaela Bauks, Theologie des Alten Testaments. Religionsgeschichtliche und bibelhermeneutische Perspektiven. UTB 4973. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2018. (for students how are able to read German)
- Schmid, Konrad. Theologie des Alten Testaments. Tübingen 2019

Assessment (%)

(methods of examination, requirements for awarding credit points)

- written assignments (40%)
- final written exam (60%) [This may be changed to a final oral test (online) in case written tests cannot be held on site due to the Covid-19 pandemic]

Contact details (lecturer)

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