Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

RHS 302: Instruction for Life: Pentateuch and Wisdom Literature

(On site, including online option)

Course Profile – Fall 2020, Mon, Wed 1-4pm

Teaching Team:
Faculty: tbd.

Rationale for the course
This course in the M. Div. (M.A.) program introduces to the literary genres, the development and the interpretation of the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch and Biblical Wisdom Literature. At the end of the course students will be able to recall and understand these parts of the Bible, the narratives about the creation and the Fall and about Israel’s matriarchs and patriarchs, the Exodus from Egypt and the wanderings through the desert in more detail.

The course outlines the material of the Pentateuch in four parts:
1 Genesis (Primeval history, Patriarchs);
2 The middle books of the Pentateuch: Exodus-Leviticus-Numbers (themes: Exodus, Sinai, the Covenant and the law);
3 Deuteronomy.
4 A brief introduction to Wisdom Literature/Psalms (Job, Proverbs, Psalms).

As students prepare for ministry, this course seeks to read texts from the Pentateuch and to engage with them in a pluralistic world. We will consider how to build on traditional Protestant/Lutheran hermeneutics and on contextual (gender, queer, feminist, post-holocaust, Latinx, African American, womanist) approaches to scripture.

Outcomes
This course enables the student to understand his religious heritage in the form of the scripture of the Old Testament (Competency M. Div. # 2; MA # 2; MAM # 2). It enables the student to become aware of the cultural contexts of the biblical texts (Competency M. Div. #5; MA # 4; MAM # 5).

Textbooks: tbd.
Previous courses have used:
or:

Further recommended bibliography will be included in the syllabus.