UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2013
Instructor: Dr. Joshua Ezra Burns
Course #: THEO 2010
Section: 102
Course Title: Hebrew Scriptures: Old Testament Selected Books
Variable Topic: Biblical Literature of the Hellenistic Period

Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the portions of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament written during the age of Hellenistic or Greek influence over Judea, ca. the fourth through second century B.C.E. The Hellenistic period witnessed dramatic changes in the culture of the Jews following their renaissance under the Persians. The initial Jewish encounter with the west helped spur developments of utmost importance to formative Judaism and Christianity, developments which include the emergence of philosophical theology, the birth of the apocalyptic tradition, and the canonization of the Hebrew Scriptures. Considering these and other key developments through the literary and historical lenses of the biblical text, students will learn how the realities of Jewish life and thought in the Hellenistic world helped shape the Judeo-Christian tradition.

The course will follow a lecture format. Course grades will be determined on the basis of attendance, class participation, a research paper approximately 8-10 pages in length, and two examinations at the middle and at the end of the term.