

**Wesley Theological Seminary**  
**Doctor of Ministry Program**

**Course: DM-TL601 Old Testament Perspectives on Transformative Leadership**

**Date and Location:** December 29, 2015 - January 2, 2016 | Wesley House, Cambridge

**Faculty: Dr. Bruce C. Birch**

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***Purpose of the Course:***

This course will explore perspectives on leadership of God's people in the Old Testament that are still helpful in developing faithful leadership in today's church. We will focus on three crucial moments in the Old Testament story and the leaders associated with those moments: Moses and the formation of God's people; David and the experience of kingship in Israel; and the exilic prophets (Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Deuteron-Isaiah) and the crisis of Babylonian exile. The course will discuss ways in which these themes are still foundational for the life and witness of the church today and should be reclaimed for our ministries.

***Course Reading:***

1. Any modern translation of the Bible. None of the paraphrase versions, please. Study Bibles with notes, maps and other helps are often useful.
2. Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence Fretheim, David Petersen, A *Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* (Abingdon). Hereafter TIOT.
3. Lewis A. Parks and Bruce C. Birch, *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership* (Abingdon). Hereafter DSDM.
4. Walter Brueggemann, *Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles* (Westminster/John Knox). Hereafter *Cadences*.

Specific readings in each of these are specified as reading for individual sessions in the course outline below. All assigned texts may be ordered through Amazon.com

***Outline of the Course:***

Tuesday, December 29

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| Session 1 | Introductions; organization of program and course<br>The Old Testament as Theology for Preaching and Teaching<br>Brueggemann, <i>Cadences</i> , Chapter 7 |
| Session 2 | Moses and the Birth of God's People<br>Exodus 1-15<br>Birch, et.al., TIOT, Chapter 4  |

Wednesday, December 30

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| Session 3 | From Sea to Sinai: God's Covenant People<br>Exodus 16-20; 33; Deuteronomy 5<br>Birch, et. al., TIOT, Chapter 5 |
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- Session 4      David: A Man After God's Own Heart  
                          1 Samuel 8-10; 15-31; 2 Samuel 1-2  
                          Birch, et. al., TIOT, Chapter 7 (Saul and David sections)  
                          Parks and Birch, DSDM, Chapters 1-6
- Thursday, December 31
- Session 5      David: Sin and Repentance  
                          2 Samuel 3-20  
                          Parks and Birch, DSDM, Chapters 7-10
- Session 6      Solomon: The Challenge of Establishment  
                          1 Kings 1-11; 19-20  
                          Birch, et. al., TIOT, Chapter 7 (Solomon section)
- Friday, January 1
- Session 7      Reclaiming Prophetic Leadership  
                          Amos 1-9; Isaiah 1-11  
                          Birch, et. al., TIOT, Chapter 9
- Session 8      Jeremiah and Ezekiel: The Path to Exile  
                          Jeremiah 1-9; Ezekiel 1-2; 37; Psalm 137  
                          Birch, et. al., TIOT, Chapter 10  
                          Brueggemann, *Cadences*, Chapter 1
- Saturday, January 2
- Session 9      Deutero-Isaiah: Singing the Lord's Song  
                          Isaiah 40-55  
                          Brueggemann, *Cadences*, Chapters 2-4

***Course Assignments:***

**For Sessions 2-9:**

Bring to class a question or an insight that came from your reading for each session. Write this in a brief paragraph (2 or 3 sentences) and prepare them as you do your reading in advance of the class. Be prepared to share and discuss these in class; they will be handed in. These brief paragraphs will count 20% of the final grade.

**For Session 10:**

The final assignment for the course is to write two sermons, one on a passage from the Babylonian exile themes of this course and another on any text from the other Old Testament themes we have explored. Include one or two paragraphs describing the context where they would be preached. If your ministry does not include regular preaching this could be material for a teaching session. These will be due by March 1, 2016. Each sermon will count 40% of the grade.

In Session 10 you must come prepared to share what your first thinking is about the text and concept of these sermons. This may change and develop when you begin work on them, so we are sharing initial thoughts.

