

**Reflections of Genesis in the Old Testament  
(OT710/810)**

Nashotah House Theological Seminary

Summer Term 2024

Residential Week: July 8-12

Professor: The Rev. Dr. Travis Bott

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Office Hours: by appointment

**Description**

The most fundamental text in the Bible is Genesis, the book of beginnings. Using the metaphor of image and reflection, this class will investigate how the narrative images of Genesis are reflected, through similarity and contrast, in later Old Testament stories. We will begin with a literary study of the book of Genesis itself, followed by consideration of various texts that allude to Genesis. Finally, students will discover and explore their own examples of reflections of Genesis in later Old Testament books.

**Course Goals**

Faithful Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life disciplined by prayer and devotion;</li> <li>• <i>Sustained, intentional engagement with Scripture</i> and the Christian tradition;</li> <li>• Jealousy for the apostolicity of the Church, her order, and her mission.</li> </ul>
Faithful Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Demonstrate competence in the classical theological disciplines;</i></li> <li>• Understand the distinctive character of Anglicanism;</li> <li>• Grasp the scope of mission within the Anglo-Catholic tradition.</li> </ul>
Faithful Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Construct and deliver biblically and theologically sound preaching and teaching;</i></li> <li>• Lead worship which appropriates the wealth, the wisdom and the disciplines of the Catholic tradition;</li> <li>• Provide godly counsel, pastoral care and spiritual direction.</li> </ul>

## Readings

### Required

Available under Files on the course site.

Short paper: Zakovitch, Yair. "Through the Looking Glass: Reflections/Inversions of Genesis Stories in the Bible." *Biblical Interpretation* 1.2 (1993): 139-52.

RR1: Postell, Seth D. "Reading Genesis, Seeing Moses: Narrative Analogies with Moses in the Book of Genesis." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 65.3 (2022): 437-55.

RR2: Block, Daniel I. "Echo Narrative Technique in Hebrew Literature: A Study in Judges 19." *Westminster Theological Journal* 52 (1990): 325-41.

RR3: Tooman, William A. *(Re)reading Ruth*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2022. Pages 90-119.

RR4: Postell, Seth D. "Potiphar's Wife in David's Looking Glass: Reading 2 Samuel 11-12 as a Reflection Story of Genesis 39." *Tyndale Bulletin* 71.1 (2020): 95-113.

RR5: Lyons, Michael A. "The Aqedah as 'Template'? Genesis 22 and 1 Kings 17-18." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 46.2 (2021): 161-76.

RR6: Grossman, Jonathan. "'Dynamic Analogies' in the Book of Esther." *Vetus Testamentum* 59 (2009): 394-414.

RR7: Amar, Itzhak. "Echoes of Genesis in the Book of Chronicles: Their Incidence and Significance." *Biblica* 102.2 (2021): 182-205.

### For Further Study

Schnittjer, Gary Edward. *Old Testament Use of the Old Testament: A Book-by-Book Guide*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2021.

## Assignments

Evaluation is based on five components: a reading log, a short paper, reading responses, participation, and a longer paper.

### 1. Short Paper (15%)

Before the residential week, read Zakovitch's article on "reflection stories." Then read the entire book of Genesis looking for reflection stories. Write a five-page, double-spaced paper that discusses one example that Zakovitch did not treat in his article. You can do additional research, but it is not necessary. The focus should be on applying the concept to your own example. How does the reflection story work? What difference does it make to the meaning of the text? This paper will be due on the first day of the residential week.

### 2. Reading Log (10%)

In preparation for the short paper, read the entire book of Genesis. Fill out the reading log and sign your name to give your word that you did the reading by the due date. The reading log will be available on the course site under Files and will be due on the first day of the residential week, along with the short paper.

### 3. Reading Responses (5% X 7 = 35%)

Read seven assigned articles and write a one-page, single-spaced reading response for each (RR 1-7). A reading report should include three elements: a summary of a central argument of the reading, an insight gained from the reading, and a question you have about it. The question can be a criticism or a genuine question it raises for you. Reading reports are due during the residential week and will provide the basis for class discussions. The majority of these should be completed before the residential week.

### 4. Participation (10%)

During the residential week, come to class on time with completed assignments, ready to listen to others and contribute to the discussion. This class depends on thoughtful engagement from all participants.

## **5. Longer Paper (30%)**

After the residential week, write a 15-page, double-spaced paper that considers one example of a later Old Testament story that alludes to Genesis. The paper may focus on an example discussed in class or another example that you discover. This paper should involve additional research. The point is to explore the example at greater depth. How does the allusion work? What difference does it make to the meaning of the later text? The professor will discuss this paper on the last day of the residential week and will be available to have video calls about paper topics during the month of July. This paper is due by midnight on the last day of the summer term (Fri, Aug 30). Please upload your paper to the course site under Assignments.

### **Academic Policies**

Students should assume that all policies of the current academic catalog are in effect, with two clarifications.

1. Technology in the classroom. The catalog allows professors to set their own policies on technology use in the classroom. No use of electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) in class, please. Students should take notes by hand but may use an audio recorder to record lectures. The professor may use a laptop for lectures.

2. Late assignments. The catalog allows professors to set their own policies on late submission of assignments. All assignments are due by the end of class on the class session in the course schedule. Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade. Late assignments will not be accepted after the last day of the course.

**Residential Week Schedule (July 8-12)**

<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>
a.m. 1 9:30-10:50	Inner- biblical Interp.	<i>RR1 due</i>	<i>RR3 due</i>	<i>RR5 due</i>	<i>RR7 due</i>
a.m. 2 11:00-12:20	Intro to Genesis	Discuss Pentateuch	Discuss Ruth	Discuss Kings	Discuss Chronicles
Lunch 12:30-1:30					
p.m. 1 1:30-2:50	<i>Short Paper, Reading Log due</i>	<i>RR2 due</i>	<i>RR4 due</i>	<i>RR6 due</i>	Discuss Longer Paper
p.m. 2 3:00-4:20	Discuss Genesis	Discuss Judges	Discuss Samuel	Discuss Esther	Genesis in Scripture