

Violence: The Old Testament

Description

Having completed this one-credit hour micro-credential offering, life-long learners will have become familiarized with difficult passages concerning violence from the Old Testament along with different hermeneutical and exegetical means to approach these texts. As a result, they will have new interpretive tools and perspectives to help them navigate divine and human violence in these texts, and a greater ability to carefully illumine their present applicability and pastoral value.

This micro-credential offering will help you¹

- Engage the Bible, Christian tradition, and interdisciplinary resources, and dialogue to analyze violent texts in the Old Testament
- Propose Christ-centered and wise pastoral applications of these texts, based on engagement with scripture, theology, interdisciplinary resources, and dialogue
- To challenge, correct, and guide modern assumptions about violence in the Old Testament and its practice in a modern context

Outline

Content
First Session
Front Matter
Introduction
Background & Theory
Part 1. What is Violence?
Part 2. Violence in the Ancient Near East

¹ See below for possible connections to competencies that are a part of credentialed Northwest competency-based theological undergrad and graduate programs.

Part 3. Violence in the Old Testament: Different Perspectives Overview
Interpreting Violence in Old Testament Narratives
Part 1. Narrative: Prescriptive vs. Descriptive
Discussion
Second Session
Interpreting Violence in Old Testament Narratives (Pt. 2-3)
Part 2. Narrative: God's Wrath and Covenant Curses
Part 3. Narrative: The Violence of the Conquest Narratives
Discussion
Third Session
Interpreting Violence in Law; Interpreting Metaphorical and Poetic Violence
What is Law in the Bible?
Violent Laws (pt. 1)
Violent Laws (pt. 2)
Metaphoric and Poetic Violence
Conclusion
Discussion

Supplementary Inputs

- Matthew Lynch, *Flood and Fury*
- John H. Walton and J. Harvey Walton, *The Lost World of the Israelite Conquest*
- Tremper Longman III, *Confronting Old Testament Controversies*
- Paul Copan, *Is God a Vindictive Bully?*
- Charlie Trimm, *The Destruction of the Canaanites*
- Helen Paynter, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: A Biblical Theology of Human Violence*
- William J. Webb and Gordon K. Oest, *Bloody Brutal and Barbaric? Wrestling with Troubling War Texts*

- K. Lawson Younger Jr., *Ancient Conquest Accounts: A Study in Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical History Writing*
- Eric A. Seibert, *Disturbing Divine Behavior*
- Randal Rauser, *Jesus Loves Canaanites*
- Peter Enns, *The Bible Tells Me So*
- Gregory A. Boyd, *Crucifixion of the Warrior God*

Learning & Assessment

Live discussion dialogue: 30% of final grade

Curious and constructive dialogue is integral to engaging with people in conversations about contentious questions, so meaningful participation in live discussions is an essential part of this micro-credential offering. In terms of 'meaningful participation,' I mean showing up to each of our meetings and speaking thoughtfully to the questions we explore with each other. If you can do that, you will receive full marks for this assessment component.

Paper on your Theology of Violence: 30% of final grade (Due December 1)

Write up your own theology of violence as it relates to the Bible and your own perspective in relation to how you embody your faith. Cover areas such as how or if violence should be used in different spheres of life (policing, government, self-protection), and in what ways. Discuss how you conceptualize God in relation to violence, and how you integrate the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament into your conceptions of violence.

Exam: 40% of final grade

A multiple choice exam that covers the input content, as well as any major discussions that took place in the discussion groups.

Resulting Academic Credit

This micro course leads to 1 hour of academic credit at Northwest. Usually this will be recognized with a "Letter of Completion" issued to document continuing education work. Completion of 3 Lifelong Learning micro courses in a three-part series (or 3 closely related topics), worth a total of 3 credit hours, may be applied to another Northwest competency-based credential such as the GAP Year, CCF, or possibly a Graduate Certificate.

If you are in or are thinking about enrolling in a CBTE program at Northwest, work you do for this micro course offering may be used for advanced standing in the following competencies:²

Undergraduate

104. Study the Bible: competency 104.3

202. Interpret the Old Testament: competency 202.2

Graduate

502. Scripture: competency 502.2

602. Holiness: competency 602.1

700. Exegesis: competency 700.3

² Completion of this micro-credential offering does not guarantee achievement of competency in a credentialed Northwest program. Assessment of competency achievement in all of our credentialed programs are performed by mentor teams who are assigned to students.