

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

October 22 - December 16, 2025

8 Week Online Course

REGISTER ONLINE



Course Instructor:
Matthew Boersma

Course Description:

Though the New Testament holds central focus in Brethren tradition, the Hebrew Bible (also known as the Old Testament) forms the theological and cultural foundation for much of its faith. This course explores the books of the Hebrew Bible in their ancient contexts, traces their influence on New Testament writings, and examines modern scholarly approaches that continue to shape interpretation today.

Students will engage selected texts, explore scholarly commentary, and reflect on how the Hebrew Bible informs present-day ministry.

This course is available to:

- **TRIM/EFSM** students:
Fulfills **BHTS, FCR**
- **CEU** credit:
Fulfills **2 Units**
- Anyone seeking personal or spiritual enrichment

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze the text of the Hebrew Bible.
- Identify and describe the cultural and historical influences surrounding these texts.
- Interpret passages using scholarly resources and external sources.
- Apply biblical insights to contemporary ministry settings.

Course Reading Resources

- Study Bible. The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV) ISBN: 978-0-19-528955-8. (Any printing should suffice.) Students who have a Study Bible from TRIM/EFSM Orientation may use that
- Collins, John J. *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Second Edition*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014. (ISBN: 978-1451472943)
- Other readings distributed in class.

Course Fee: \$300.00

**Registration
deadline:
September 10, 2025**

Please wait to order books until after your registration has been confirmed by the Brethren Academy office.

(continued)

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

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bethanyseminary.edu
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Course Withdrawal Refund Policy:

- Full refund available before registration deadline
- 50% refund from registration deadline to course start.
- No refunds once the course has begun.

Exceptions require approval from the Brethren Academy Director.

Who should take this course:

This course is designed for:

- TRIM and EFSM students fulfilling BHTS/FCR credits.
- Pastors and lay leaders seeking CEUs.
- Individuals discerning a call to ministry.

Anyone longing to deepen their understanding of Scripture.

Course Format and Requirements:

This asynchronous online course allows for flexibility in scheduling while maintaining weekly participation and assignment expectations.

Time Commitment: 10–12 hours per week.

Technology Requirements: Basic computer skills and reliable internet. A device less than four years old is recommended.

For TRIM/EFSM Students:

- Fulfills **BHTS** and **FCR** requirements.
- Full participation, reading, and assignments are required.

For CEU Participants:

- Earns **2.0 CEUs**.
- Reading and participation required; papers and projects optional.

Open to All:

This course welcomes anyone seeking theological depth, spiritual enrichment, or ongoing ministerial formation.

Instructor: Matthew Boersma

Matthew Boersma is an adjunct professor with Bethany Theological Seminary. He earned his PhD in Hebrew Bible and its Interpretation at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, graduating in October of 2021. Matt's work focuses on the early interpretation of the Hebrew Bible by both the rabbis and the Christians in the context of their Roman world. Prior to Hebrew Union College, Matt graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary with an MA in 2011. Matt lives in Greensburg, Indiana, with his spouse Nykki and three children: Miriam (18), Malachi (14) and Salome (10).

Church of the Brethren Leadership & Administration – October 22 - December 16, 2025

[Register online](#) or fill out the following information and return, along with payment to:

Brethren Academy * 615 National Road West * Richmond, IN * 47374

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best contact phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I will be taking this course for: _____ TRIM credit _____ EFSM credit _____ CEU credit _____ PE

Course Fee: \$300 payable to Brethren Academy (BAML)

Registration Deadline: Sept 10, 2025