This entry-level course focuses on the Bible’s core narrative, the Pentateuch and those historical books that share the theological perspective of Deuteronomy (Joshua, Judges, 1–2 Samuel, and 1–2 Kings). A grasp of this core narrative is crucial to understanding much other biblical literature, including the New Testament. Presuming the divine inspiration of the biblical texts, we will seek to understand them in a way that takes seriously the human agents responsible for them. The rationale for this approach is this: the better contemporary believers understand the human factors that shaped the biblical texts, the better they may identify with and benefit from the experience of faith to which these texts attest. With current theological and pastoral issues in view, this course prepares students to engage in exegesis and interpretation of biblical texts in light of the cultural, historical, literary, and theological contexts from which they emerged and in which they were canonized.