This course will explore a range of interpretive methods while emphasizing how the biblical texts have been read or employed, especially in contexts of gratitude, loss, oppression, and trauma. Topics include: history in and of the Old Testament/Jewish Scriptures; oppression and trauma resulting from patriarchy and empire; the interplay in Scripture between lament or protest and praise; “creation stories” about past, present, and future; how the covenant between Israel’s God and the people is expressed in worship and in constructing community; prophetic experience and prophetic text; and the Bible’s relevance to the world today.