

Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

HEBREW 2700 / JEWISH STUDIES 2700
BIBLICAL AND POST-BIBLICAL HEBREW LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION
Autumn 2017
Meeting Time/Location:

Instructor: Office Hours:

Phone:

Email:

OBJECTIVES:

1. to introduce you to the Hebrew Bible by studying Genesis-2 Kings and other related texts;
2. to acquaint you with some of the major themes and literary features of these texts;
3. to familiarize you with different approaches to reading the Bible critically.

College of the Arts and Sciences GEC Expected Learning Outcomes

GE Diversity: Global Studies

Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.

Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

GE Category — Arts and Humanities: Literature

Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

1. Students develop abilities to be informed observers or active participants in the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.
2. Students describe and interpret creative work, and/or movements in the arts and literature.
3. Students explain how works of art and writings explore the human condition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

1. Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive punctually. In the event of absence, please contact other students for material covered in class. Please notify the instructor in advance of any unavoidable absences.
2. Students are expected to read all assigned material.
3. Students are expected to participate in class discussions.

\$HOMEWORK AND PARTICIPATION:

There will be **six** written assignments; they will be due on **August 29; September 12; October 3, 19, 26; November 7**. Each will consist of a **250 word** essay on an assigned topic (you will be given a choice). They are to be submitted electronically via the CANVAS Dropbox. We will discuss them in class. They will be checked, but not individually graded or marked. All assignments must be completed on time.

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QUIZZES:

There will be **eight** short quizzes (5 questions) drawn directly from guiding questions posted in advance on the CANVAS website. The best **six** quiz grades will be averaged into the final grade. Quiz dates: **August 31, September 7, 14, 26; October 24, 31, November 9, 28.**

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be **two** examinations:

1. **Tuesday, October 17**, covering material presented in sessions 1-13;
 2. **Tuesday, December 5**, covering material presented in sessions 14-25;
- The examinations will each be **80 minutes long** and will consist of short-answer and essay questions. Study guides will be distributed in advance and posted on CANVAS.

GRADING:

The final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Homework & Participation:	10%
Quizzes	30%
First Examination:	30%
Second Examination:	30%

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. **The Hebrew Bible = Old Testament** in English translation. Many — but **not all** — translations will do. Recommended translations include: the “New” Jewish Publication Society (NJPS TANAKH), the “Old” Jewish Publication Society (JPS 1917), King James Version (KJV), New American Standard Bible (NASB), New American Bible (NAB), Revised Standard Version (RSV), New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), New English Translation (NET), New International Version (NIV).

You may read many of these translations online at <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

-On Bible translations, see *The Holy Bible: A Buyer's Guide* posted on CANVAS.

NOTE: You can enhance your study of the Bible enormously by investing in a study bible, which contains introductions, annotation, cross-references, essays, and maps. The following are all highly recommended:

- A. *The Jewish Study Bible*, ed. A. Berlin and M.Z. Brettler (Oxford, 2004; rev. ed. 2014) [NJPS]
- B. *The HarperCollins Study Bible*, ed. H.W. Attridge (2006). [New Revised Standard Version]
- C. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*, 4th ed., ed. Michael Coogan et al. (Oxford, 2010)

2. **OCB** = Readings will also be drawn from *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*, ed. Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan (1993). [electronic resource available online via the OSU libraries catalogue]

3. **CANVAS:** Other required readings will be posted online.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Grading Scale:

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	85-89
B	80-84
B-	75-79
C+	70-74
C	65-69
C-	60-64
D+	55-59
D	50-54
D-	45-49
E	<45

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LECTURES AND READINGS

Note: All readings are to be done **before** the lecture under which they are listed.

Tuesday, August 22

1. Introduction: The Pleasures of Biblical Narrative

Note: After the first class, please read “Interpretation, History of: Modern Biblical Interpretation” in OCB.

•See CANVAS for additional required readings

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Thursday, August 24

2. Creation and Complication

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 1-4

OCB: "Genesis, Book of"; "Myth"; "Creation."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Tuesday, August 29

Written Assignment No. 1 Due

3. The Flood: Mesopotamian and Israelite Myths

Readings:

Genesis chs. 6-9

Atrahasis-Tablet:

<http://www.gatewaystobabylon.com/myths/texts/enki/atrahah1.htm>

The Flood Narrative from the Gilgamesh Epic:

<http://alexm.here.ru/mirrors/www.enteract.com/jwalz/Eliade/073.html>

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Please write a short essay (250 words = a double-spaced typed page) on **one** of the following questions:

A. Compare and contrast the creation accounts of Genesis 1-2 with the story in Atrahasis.

B. Compare and contrast the flood stories in Genesis 6-8 and the Gilgamesh Epic.

Thursday, August 31

Quiz No. 1

4. From Ur to Moriah: Abraham and Sarah

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 12-22

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Tuesday, September 5

5. Three Marriages, a Mess of Pottage, and Quite a Few Children

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 23-36

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Thursday, September 7

Quiz No. 2

6. Joseph, an Early Novel

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 37-50

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Tuesday, September 12

Written Assignment No. 2 Due

7. "We Were Slaves in Egypt..." (Deuteronomy 6:21)

Readings:

Exodus 1-6

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

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SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Please write a short essay (250 words = a double-spaced typed page) on **one** of the following questions:

A. In what ways do the opening chapters (1-6) of Exodus represent a continuation of Genesis? How is this narrative new?

B. How is Moses characterized in the opening chapters of Exodus (chs. 2-6)? What makes him distinctive? Why do you suppose he is presented in this manner?

Thursday, September 14

Quiz No. 3

8. The Exodus: From Egypt to Sinai

Exodus 7-18

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Tuesday, September 19

9. Exodus 12, Reception: The Passover Haggadah

Readings:

Exodus 12

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com>: "Haggadah, Passover"

<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Passover.htm> [recommended]

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Thursday, September 21

NO CLASS (ROSH HASHANAH)

Tuesday, September 26

Quiz No. 4

10. Making and Breaking the Commandments: The Ten Commandments and the Golden Calf

Readings:

Exodus chapters 16-20; Deuteronomy 5; Exodus 31-34

OCB: "Ten Commandments"; "Idols, Idolatry"; "Golden Calf"; "Graven Image."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Thursday, September 28

11. Holiness and Purity: Dietary Laws and Their Reception

Readings:

Exodus 23:19, 34:26; Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14; Leviticus 17:10-16

OCB: "Meals."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Tuesday, October 3

Written Assignment No. 3 Due

12. In the Wilderness

Readings:

Numbers chapters 9-21, 22-24, 27, 36

OCB: "Numbers, the Book of."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

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THIRD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Please write a short essay (250 words = a double-spaced typed page) on one of the following questions:

A. Describe the different ways in which the Israelites rebel in Numbers 9-25.

B. In what way(s) is the story told in Numbers 22-24 unusual? Assess the character of Balaam: is he a serious figure or a comic one? Why? What do you suppose is the function of this narrative?

Thursday, October 5

NO CLASS (SUKKOT; see Leviticus 23:33-43)

Tuesday, October 10

13. Deuteronomy: Rhetoric and Covenant

Readings:

Deuteronomy chapters 1-13; 17-18; 20; 26:16-19; 27-34. (for sessions 18 & 19)

OCB: "Deuteronomy, the Book of"; "Deuteronomic History"

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Thursday, October 12

NO CLASS (AUTUMN BREAK)

Tuesday, October 17

EXAMINATION NO. 1 (covering sessions 1-13)

Thursday, October 19

Written Assignment No. 4 Due

14. The Conquest

Readings:

Joshua chapters 1-12, 21-24

OCB: "Joshua, Book of"; "Jericho."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

FOURTH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Please write a short essay (250 words = a double-spaced typed page) on **one** of the following questions:

A. How does the book of Joshua show that God is the main agent of the conquest and not the Israelites themselves?

B. "Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands upon him; and the Israelites heeded him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses" (Deuteronomy 34:9). In what ways does Joshua's career parallel that of Moses? What might be the significance of these similarities?

Tuesday, October 24

Quiz No. 5

15. Judges: History Repeats Itself

Readings:

Judges chapters 1-21

OCB: "Judges, the Book of"; "Philistines."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

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Thursday, October 26

Written Assignment No. 5 Due

16. Priest, Judge, Prophet, King: Samuel and Saul

Readings:

1 Samuel 1-15

OCB: "Samuel, the Book of"; "Kingship and Monarchy."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

FIFTH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Please write a short essay (250 words = a double-spaced typed page) on **one** of the following questions:

- A. Based on your reading (1 Samuel chs. 1-15), compare the functions of **three** of the following: priest, judge, prophet, king.
- B. How might Samuel be a transitional figure between the leaders encountered in Judges and those in the books of Samuel-Kings?

Tuesday, October 31

Quiz No. 6

17. The King and the Outlaw: Saul and David

Readings:

1 Samuel 16-31, 2 Samuel 1-8

OCB: "Samuel, the Book of"; "Kingship and Monarchy."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Thursday, November 2

18. The Davidic Monarchy

Readings:

2 Samuel chapter 9 - 1 Kings chapter 2

OCB: "David."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Tuesday, November 7

Written Assignment No. 6 Due

19. Solomon, the Wisest of All Men

Readings:

1 Kings 1-11

OCB: "Kings, the Books of"; "Solomon"

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

SIXTH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Please write a short essay (250 words = a double-spaced typed page) on **one** of the following questions:

- A. Compare and contrast the characters of David and Solomon. Which one is presented more sympathetically?
- B. How is monarchy presented up to this point in Samuel and Kings —favorably or unfavorably? Your answer should make reference to specific actions, deeds, and accomplishments. You may also wish to refer back to 1 Samuel chapters 8 and 12.

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Thursday, November 9

Quiz No. 7

20. The Northern Kingdom: the Elijah cycle

Readings:

1 Kings 16:23-19:21; 21:1-29; 2 Kings 2:1-25.

OCB: "Kings, the Books of"; "Elijah."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Tuesday, November 14

21. Amos, Sheepbreeder and Prophet

Amos 1-9; 2 Kings 14:1-15:6 (for context)

OCB: "Prophets"; "Amos, the Book of."

•See CANVAS for required readings.

Thursday, November 16

22. Archaeology and the Bible

Readings:

•See CANVAS for required readings.

Tuesday, November 21

23. Kings of Judah, Good and Wicked: Hezekiah, Josiah, and Manasseh

Readings:

2 Kings 17:1-23:30; Compare this with 2 Chronicles 29-31, 33 (Hezekiah & Manasseh)

OCB: "Kings, the Books of"; "Babylon"; "Hezekiah"; "Josiah"; "Manasseh."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Thursday, November 23

NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

Tuesday, November 28

Quiz No. 8

24. The Fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Exile

Readings:

2 Kings 23:30-25:30; Jeremiah 1-10, 18-20, 21-25, 32, 34:1-8, 36-43; 51-52; Lamentations ch 1

Psalms 137; Isaiah 40, 42-47, 52

OCB, "Kings, the Books of"; "Isaiah, the Book of"; "Jeremiah, the Book of"; "Lamentations of Jeremiah, the." (Note references in OCB to "Deutero-Isaiah.")

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

Thursday, November 30

25. Return to Zion

Readings:

Isaiah 60, 62. Ezra 1-10.

OCB, "Isaiah, the Book of"; "Ezra, the Book of."

•See CANVAS for additional required readings.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

EXAM NO. 2 (covering sessions 14-25)