Course: Hebrew Scriptures

REL 2013.70728

Instructor: Jessica Doyle

Email: Jessica.l.doyle@okstate.edu

(Please allow 24 hours for email response)

**Course Time and Location:** MWF 10:30-11:20 Engineering South 201 B

**Office Hours:** by appointment and via Zoom (email to schedule a meeting)

**Course Objectives:** In this course students will be introduced to the text of the Hebrew Bible and will analyze that text as it developed historically. Students will also explore the history of the development of that text and how it became the document that is today’s Hebrew Bible. Students will also be introduced to the Documentary Hypothesis and the sources that make up the Hebrew Bible as well as documents such as the Dead Sea Scrolls and understand the implications that those concepts have on the understanding of the Hebrew Bible and its development.

**Required Text:** *Who Wrote the Bible* by Richard Elliott Friedman; HarperCollins Study Bible

**Lectures and Attendance:** The plan is to have in-class lectures which will be simultaneously streamed via Zoom or Canvas’ Big Blue Button. Students attending class virtually will be able to see my computer screen (slides, written information, images, etc.) as well as hear my voice. These virtual meetings will be recorded and made available to students in Canvas.

Due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no penalties for absences in this class.

If you are at a high risk for COVID-19 or otherwise feel uncomfortable attending class, please feel free to attend virtually. If you are sick—even if it does not appear to be related to COVID-19—please stay home!

However, if you do attend class in person, there will be an assigned seating chart and attendance will be taken before each lecture. This has been mandated in order to help with contact tracing in the event students test positive for COVID-19.

Finally, for the health of all students and faculty, office hours this semester will be held completely virtually. I will hold office hours using Zoom. To set up a meeting, please contact me via email.

**Grading:** Grades will consist of four quizzes/assignments, three exams, and two papers. Quizzes will account for 20% of the student’s final grade, exams will account for 60% of the student’s final grade and papers will combine for 20% of the student’s final grade. Exams and quizzes will be a combination of
multiple choice, true/false, short answer/fill in the blank, and discussion questions (approximately 300-500 character responses).

**Classroom Procedure:** Students should maintain proper behavior in this course. Interactions and discussions should be done with respect and compassion given to others.

**Disability Procedures:** Accommodation letters should be received by the instructor as soon as possible to ensure adequate accommodations are available.

**Additional Information:** Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the Syllabus Attachment at the following link. This attachment has information about Covid-19 and university policy regarding that as well as information about university policies on drop and withdrawal and university schedules.

https://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/Fall%202020%20Syllabus%20Attachment%20as%20of%20June%20%202020.pdf

**Academic Integrity:** All students should familiarize themselves with the Academic Integrity policy at the link provided below. This policy will be strictly enforced in this course. If you have questions or concerns about the policy, please ask before submitting any work that may cause an issue.

https://adminfinance.okstate.edu/site-files/documents/policies/academic-integrity-policy.pdf

**Course Schedule:**

8/17 Academic Study of Religion, Text Interpretation with regard to personal bias, How it all began Albright, Cross, Wellhausen, Freedman, etc.


8/19 Introduction to structure of the Hebrew Bible, Differences with Old Testament, Torah, Nevi’im, Ketuvim (define terms and look at each section and what it contains/why books are in that section)

8/21 Documentary Hypothesis introduction, Wellhausen and background evidence, Genesis examples with creation stories

**Required Reading:** WWTB p. 15-32

8/24 J and E (authorship, alliance, motivations), Flood Exercise

**Required Reading:** Genesis 6:1-9:17

8/26 P and D (authorship, alliance, motivations)

8/28 Sources assignment/quiz
Genesis, creation

**Required Reading:** Genesis 1-3, WWTB p. 33-49

8/31  Flood, Noah, Noic Covenant, Cosmic destruction

**Required Reading:** WWTB 50-69

9/2  Abram and Sarai, Ishmael and Hagar, Isaac, Abrahamic Covenant, Isaac and Abraham post sacrifice and E version of events

**Required Reading:** Genesis 12-22

9/4  Jacob and Esau, 12 tribes, Tamar, Joseph in Egypt

**Required Reading:** Genesis 25:19-32; 37-41; 46-50

9/7  No Class, University Holiday

9/9  Moses in Egypt, Exodus, Song of Miriam, Israelite Covenant

**Required Reading:** Exodus 1-12; 18; 19-24; 32; 34, WWTB p. 70-88

9/11  Quiz

Moses and Aaron, Wilderness, Nehushstan, Meriba, golden calf (which author writes which story/why/motivations?)

**Required Reading:** Exodus 17:2-7, Numbers 20:2-13

9/14  10 Commandments (3 times, compare and contrast), How many total commandments are there?, Numbers, Leviticus

**Required Reading:** Exodus 20-23, 34, Deuteronomy 5

9/16  Prophecy and Moses, Temple and Tabernacle and Aaron and P

**Required Reading:** Exodus 25-31, Leviticus 9; 11; 17; 19; 24:1-9, Deuteronomy 7:1-26, 25:5-10; 27-28

9/18  Deuteronomy and Moses’ last days, D source and Jeremiah, Anathoth

**Required Reading:** Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 32-34

9/21  Exam 1

9/23  Joshua and the Canaanites, Settling a homeland

**Required Reading:** Joshua 1-5
9/25  Judges, Song of Deborah, Prophecy in Judges, Tribal Division, Gideon, Jephthah

   Required Reading: Judges 1-8; 10-12

9/28  Sampson, Nazarite, Philistines, Wanting a King, Judges 19, End of Judges/view on kings

   Required Reading: Judges 13-17 (note 17:6); 19; 21:25

9/30  Samuel and Saul, Benjaminites, First King, Prophets Role

   Required Reading: 1 Samuel 1-3; 7:2-10; 12

10/2   Paper 1 Due

   Saul’s mistakes, sacrifice, Amalekites, David


10/5   David and Jonathan, Saul’s attempts on David’s life, David’s innocence, Cherethites and Peletites, Michal, witch of Endor

   Required Reading: 1 Samuel 19-20; 21-22; 24; 25:1; 26; 28; 31

10/7   David King of Judah, Michal and Ephod, David and Bathsheba, Uriah and Joab, Nathan’s role, the story of the lamb, Solomon’s birth and circumstances, Jerusalem

   Required Reading: 2 Samuel 1-7; 11-12:24; 13-15; 18-19:8

10/9   Quiz

   United Monarchy, Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah, Tamar, Davidic Covenant, Quest for the Throne, Nathan and Bathsheba

   Required Reading: 1 Kings 1-2

10/12  Solomon and the Temple, Zadok and Abiathar (Aaronid and Mushite)

   Required Reading: 1 Kings 4-6

10/14  Divided Kingdom, two paths, Jereboam and Rehoboam, Golden Calf, Dan and Bethel

   Required Reading: 1 Kings 11:26-12

10/16  Line of the kings in Israel and Judah, evolution of religion

   Required Reading: 1 Kings 14-20:43, 2 Kings 1-6:23; 8:16-17:23

10/19  Isaiah, Hezekiah, Josiah, Assyrians and Babylonians, 722 and 587

   Required Reading: WWTB p. 89-116 2 Kings 17:24-25:30
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Role of Prophecy is Israel and Judah</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: WWTB p. 117-135</td>
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<td>10/26</td>
<td>Jeremiah, Lamentations, D Source, Mushites, Diaspora, Baruch ben Neriyah</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: WWTB p. 136-155</td>
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<td>10/28</td>
<td>Ezra and Nehemiah, Editing a text, Chronicles</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: WWTB p. 155-173</td>
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<td>10/30</td>
<td>Ezekiel</td>
<td><strong>WWTB</strong> p. 174-187</td>
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<td>11/ 1</td>
<td>Psalms, Psalm 82 and Monotheism, Compare with Baal</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: Psalm 82, Psalm 74, Enuma Elish, Ba’al and Yam</td>
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<td>11/ 3</td>
<td>Proverbs</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: WWTB p. 188-206</td>
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<td>11/ 6</td>
<td>Job</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: WWTB p. 207-216</td>
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<td>11/ 9</td>
<td>Song of Songs</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: WWTB p. 217-233</td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td>Esther, Purim, and Haman</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: Biblical Book of Esther</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: Biblical Book of Esther</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td><strong>Required Reading</strong>: Biblical Book of Daniel, Who Wrote the Bible p. 234-245</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
<td>Jonah and Puns</td>
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Required Reading:
https://kb.osu.edu/bitstream/handle/1811/58621/HAR_v4_079.pdf?sequence=1

11/20 Exam 3

11/23-11/27 No Class

11/30 Archaeological Corroboration, Soleb Inscription, Merneptah Stele, Shishak inscription, Annals of Sennacherib, Hezekiah's water tunnel

Required Reading:
https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2019/03/08/three-egyptian-inscriptions-about-israel/

12/2 Dead Sea Scrolls (Video) (virtual class meeting)

12/4 Special Topics, Questions, Review (virtual class meeting)

12/9 Final Paper Due by 11:50 am

Paper Topics:

Paper 1: 2-3 pages (5% of final course grade)

Discuss the difference between an academic study of religion and a more devout analysis of religion. Discuss the important factors when examining a religion and religious text in an academic setting, making sure to address the key terms discussed in the article assigned in class (observable data, historical accuracy, descriptive accuracy). Then discuss the important factors in studying religion as they apply to the study of the Hebrew Bible in particular.

Paper 2: 3-5 pages (15% of final course grade—due during designated final exam time in lieu of final examination)

Option 1: Discuss why analyzing the sources of the Hebrew Bible is important in an academic study. Choose a source examined in this course and discuss the source, the historical setting of the source, what can be determined about the identity of the author, and the implications of the historical setting and author in regard to the content of the source.

Option 2: Discuss the biblical text and corresponding archaeological evidence and compare the similarities and differences and what the motivations behind those similarities and differences could have been. Explain the impact of having both accounts of certain events and how that helps in understanding the historicity of the Hebrew Bible.

Option 3: Discuss the struggle of the ancient Israelites to have a king. Be sure to include information and analysis of the relationships between the prophets and the early kings, particularly Samuel and Nathan and their relationships with Saul and David. Examine the roles of both kings and prophets in the monarchy and the power dynamic of both roles in ancient Israelite (and Judean) society.
Option 4: Discuss the biblical texts and other texts from the ancient Near East and compare and contrast the content of those documents. Make sure to address the similarities between the documents as well as the differences. Pay close attention to similar themes and characterizations when doing your analysis.

*When choosing an option, be sure to address all components of the prompt.*

**Weekly Reading Schedule:**

**Week 1**


Who Wrote the Bible p. 15-32

**Week 2**

Genesis 6:1-9:17

Genesis 1-3, WWTB p. 33-49

**Week 3**

WWTB 50-69

Genesis 12-22

Genesis 25:19-32; 37-41; 46-50

**Week 4**

Exodus 1-12; 18; 19-24; 32; 34, WWTB p. 70-88

Exodus 17:2-7, Numbers 20:2-13

**Week 5**

Exodus 20-23, 34, Deuteronomy 5

Exodus 25-31, Leviticus 9; 11; 17; 19; 24:1-9, Deuteronomy 7:1-26, 25:5-10; 27-28

Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 32-34

**Week 6**

Joshua 1-5

Judges 1-8; 10-12

**Week 7**
Judges 13-17 (note 17:6); 19; 21:25

1 Samuel 1-3; 7:2-10; 12


**Week 8**

1 Samuel 19-20; 21-22; 24; 25:1; 26; 28; 31

2 Samuel 1-7; 11-12:24; 13-15; 18-19:8

1 Kings 1-2

**Week 9**

1 Kings 4-6

1 Kings 11:26-12

1 Kings 14-20:43, 2 Kings 1-6:23; 8:16-17:23

**Week 10**

WWTB p. 89-116 2 Kings 17:24-25:30

WWTB p. 117-135

**Week 11**

WWTB p. 136-155

WWTB p. 155-173

WWTB p. 174-187

**Week 12**

Psalm 82, Psalm 74, Enuma Elish, Ba’al and Yam

WWTB p. 188-206

WWTB p. 207-216

**Week 13**

WWTB p. 217-233

Biblical Book of Esther
Biblical Book of Ruth

Week 14

Biblical Book of Daniel, Who Wrote the Bible p. 234-245

https://kb.osu.edu/bitstream/handle/1811/58621/HAR_v4_079.pdf?sequence=1

Week 15

https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2019/03/08/three-egyptian-inscriptions-about-israel/

**Additional Notes: Because of the uncertainty of Covid-19 and its impact on the university, this syllabus is subject to change. Any major changes will be communicated via email.**