



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Biblical Literature **Theology 011, section 20**

Professor: Adam Rasmussen, Ph.D.

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Time: 1:00-3:00 Monday – Thursday

Class dates: Monday, July 6 – Tuesday, August 7, 2020

Class Location: Maguire 101

Office hours: By appointment

Description

Introduction to Biblical Literature promotes the close reading of ancient texts, first on their own terms and then in relation to how they have been interpreted over time (and may be interpreted today). As such, IBL teaches students to think critically about what a text is and how it functions for those who value it. Learning to read texts in context challenges students to question the assumptions they bring to the Bible and discover the Bible, its origins, and its significance over time. Meeting unfamiliar language, cultures, customs, mores, and ideas requires students to set aside what they think they know and to expect the unexpected.

Texts

The New Oxford Annotated Bible (Revised Standard Version)

Phyllis Trible, *Texts of Terror: Literary-Feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives*

Recommended

Michael Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Very Short Introduction*

Luke Timothy Johnson, *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction*

Learning goals

1. Define important biblical, exegetical, and theological terms.
2. Acquire and hone skills in the close reading of biblical and other ANE texts.
3. Think critically about the meaning and theologies of these texts.
4. Organize and articulate interpretations and opinions, orally and in writing.

Assessments

Attendance and participation: 20%
Three group projects: 5% each (15% total)
Two essays: 16% each (32% total)
Three exams: 11% each (33% total)

Participation

Phones are not permitted in class. A student who needs to use a laptop for **note-taking** must speak to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Religious and athletic absences may be excused by providing a **complete list in advance**. If you suffer a prolonged illness, **contact the Dean's Office**.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the deliberate use of another's ideas, work, or words without properly documenting and crediting the original source. Per university policy, any and all dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council and always result in **automatic failure of the course**.

Academic Resource Center

The Academic Resource Center offers an array of academic support services, including study skills workshops, individual consultations, and tutoring in introductory courses. Dr. Jane Holahan, 202-687-9530. holahajf@georgetown.edu. academicsupport.georgetown.edu.

Disability Support Services

Disability Support Services provides accommodations for students with disabilities, based on documentation from a medical professional. Accommodations are provided on a case-by-case basis following review of this documentation and a meeting with either Dr. Holahan or Annie Riordan. A student with a documented disability must present the appropriate information to the instructor **in advance** to receive accommodations. academicsupport.georgetown.edu/disability

Week 1: Genesis	
<i>Recommended</i>	Coogan, 1-21 (cc. 1-2), 33-42 (c. 4), 111-14
Mon, July 6	Genesis 1:1–2:3; Psalms 74:12-23; 89:6-19; <i>Enûma Elish</i> 4
Tues, July 7	Genesis 2–4 Trible, “Eve and Adam: Genesis 2–3 Reread”
Wed, July 8	Genesis 6–21; <i>Gilgamesh</i> 11 Trible, 8-35 (c. 1)
Thurs, July 9	Genesis 22–34; 38 Susan Niditch, <i>Women’s Bible Commentary</i> , 21-24
Week 2: Exodus, Joshua, and Judges	
<i>Recommended</i>	Coogan, 43-73 (cc. 5-7), 114-16
Mon, July 13	Exodus 1–21; <i>Sargon Legend</i> 24-29
Tues, July 14	Joshua 1–7; Judges 3–5 Gutiérrez, “History Is One”; Warrior, “Canaanites, Cowboys, and Indians”
Wed, July 15	Judges 6–16; Trible, 92-116 (c. 4) Susan Ackerman, “What If Judges Had Been Written by a Philistine?”
Thurs, July 16	Judges 19–21; Trible, 64-91 (c. 3); Exam 1
Week 3: Samuel, Amos, Job, and Ruth	
<i>Recommended</i>	Coogan, 22-32 (c. 3), 74-110 (cc. 8-10), 116-20, 121-24 (c. 12)
Mon, July 20	1 Samuel 1–21; 24; 31 Niditch, <i>War in the Hebrew Bible: Study in the Ethics of Violence</i> , 28-37
Tues, July 21	2 Samuel 11–13 Hilary Lipka, “ David and Bathsheba: Affair or Rape? ”; Trible, 36-63 (c. 2)
Wed, July 22	Amos; Ruth Trible, <i>God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality</i> , 166-99 (c. 6)
Thurs, July 23	Job 1–14; 38–42; Group Project 1 Amy Erickson, “ Job’s Last Words (Job 42:6) ”; Essay 1
Week 4: Afterlife and Synoptic Gospels	
<i>Recommended</i>	Johnson, 1-15 (cc. 1-2), 21-59 (cc. 4-6)
Mon, July 27	Daniel 12; 2 Maccabees 7; Enoch 21-32; 4 Ezra 7; Lk 16:19-31; Mark 1–7 Henning, “Views on the Afterlife in the Time of Jesus”; Group Project 2
Tues, July 28	Mark 8–16; Matthew 5–7; Luke 1–9
Wed, July 29	Luke 10–23; Group Project 3
Thurs, July 30	Luke 24; John 20:1-18 Jane Schaberg, “How Mary Magdalene Became a Whore”; Exam 2
Week 5: Paul, James, John, and Revelation	
<i>Recommended</i>	Johnson, 16-20 (c. 3), 60-83 (c. 7), 89-94, 95-125 (cc. 9-11)
Mon, August 3	Acts 1–15
Tues, August 4	Galatians 1–2; Romans 1–8; James 2
Wed, August 5	John 1–12; 2 Peter 3; Revelation 17–22 Adele Reinhartz, “A Nice Jewish Girl Reads the Gospel of John”
Thurs, August 6	Exam 3 ; Watch “Jerusalem” in class; Essay 2

