

The Bible as Literature: The Hebrew Bible BEN52901

Class Times: Mondays 78, 3:30-5:20 Room R0302

Website: <http://english.scu.edu.tw/jmklassen/>

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Office Hours: Mon 10-1; Th 3-6 and by appt.

Text

- Full English text of the Bible in any version. New Revised Standard Version is recommended. Bring this to class each week. On-line versions are fine (Android, iPad, etc.)
- Some copies of the Harper Collins Study Bible are at the bookstore (NTD 982)
- You will need a notebook in which you can insert A4 pages and keep your own notes.
- Supplementary reading available through the moodle website.

Class Goals

This course is an introduction to the Bible as literature. The goals of the class are for students to

- Understand the overarching story told in the Hebrew Bible and many individual stories
- Understand the range and diversity of the books within the Hebrew Bible: genres, forms, & motifs
- Know some of the most important narratives, personalities, and passages that have been influential in English and American literature.
- Understand basic ideas related to the history and development of the Biblical texts, including canonization and translation
- Gain sufficient background understanding of the Hebrew Bible and methods of interpretation so that you will be able to continue reading and studying the Bible on your own, outside of class.
- See the influence of the Bible in modern culture and literature.

How the class will work

- Our focus in this fall semester class is the Hebrew Bible (What Christians call the Old Testament) The Spring semester deals with the New Testament.
- Classes will involve both lecture and small group discussion. Students will work together in groups to discuss meaning, apply criticism, and make presentations to the class.
- Most of our reading involves is of the Bible itself, rather than commentary about the Bible. It is extremely important that you do the weekly Bible reading, and you will often be quizzed on this reading. Some additional readings will be available through the class website.
- Please enroll on the school moodle system. Edit your profile to include your English name and most desired email address.

Assignments

- **Write one essay** "What does it mean?" 4-5 pages long (about 1200-1500 words).
"What does it mean?" Choose a passage or event. Summarize the passage or event and express two ways the significance of this passage or event can be understood.
- **Present one Bible story** to the class with a partner (5-10 min)
Create a PowerPoint presentation to tell the importance and some interpretations of this passage.
- **Critique one other presentation.** Download the form from the moodle website and turn it in to me at the end of class on the day of the presentation you critique.

Class Schedule and Policies

- Please refer to the class website for class policies, reading schedule, supplementary reading, assignments, homework, class topics, and exam times.
- **Note:** Since the official schedule is posted on-line, it is subject to change. Be sure you check it regularly.

Grading

Participation	20%	(attendance, discussion, presentation, critique, groupwork, etc.)
Quizzes	10%	(frequent unannounced quizzes covering the reading and previous class lecture.)
Essay	25%	(4-5 pages. 1200-1500 words)
Midterm	20%	(key terms, ideas related to interpretation, story content, quotations: The Torah)
Final	25%	(key terms, ideas related to interpretation, story content, quotations: The Rest)

Schedule

This is a provisional schedule and is subject to change. The official class schedule is found on the class website where you can also find further details, explanations of assignments, and other helps.

Wk	Mon	Topic	Reading	Presentations
1	9/7	Introduction		
2	9/14	Creation	Genesis 1-3	
3	9/21	The Primeval History: Paradise lost & the Flood	Genesis 4-11	
4	9/28	Holiday		
5	10/5	The Chosen: Patriarchal Story cycles: Abraham & Isaac	Genesis 12-22	1. Abraham & Hagar 2. Abraham & Isaac
6	10/12	Sibling Rivalry: Jacob & Esau, Joseph & brothers	Genesis 23-50	3. Jacob & Esau 4. Joseph
7	10/19	Moses: Deliverance & Pattern of the hero story	Exodus 1-19	5. Moses' youth (Ex 1-3) 6. Passover & the Exodus (Ex 12-15)
8	10/26	The Law: Nation Building	Exodus 20-23, 32-34; Leviticus 19; Numbers 1-2 Deuteronomy 5-11	7. The Golden Calf (Ex 32) 8. Spying on the land (Num 13-14)
9	11/2	Midterm		
10	11/9	Joshua: Conquest of Canaan	Joshua 1-6, 10, 23-24	9. Fall of Jericho (Josh 6) 10. Achan & Ai (Josh 7-8)
11	11/16	Judges: Deborah, Gideon & Samson	Judges 1-2, 4-8, 13-16	11. Deborah & Barak (4-5) 12. Gideon (6-8)
12	11/23	King David	1 Samuel 15-17 2 Samuel 1; 5-7; 11-12 1 Kings 1-3	14. Samuel (1 Sam 1-3) 15. David & Goliath
13	11/30	Psalms & Song of Solomon	Psalms 1, 8, 14, 22, 23, 42, 51, 84, 117, 121, 127, 137, 150 Song of Solomon 1-8	16. David & Bathsheba 17. David & Absalom
14	12/7	Wisdom <u>Analytical Essay due:</u> <u>What does it mean?</u>	The Wisdom Books Proverbs 1, 7, 10, 24, 31 Ecclesiastes 1-3, 9 Job 1-6, 31, 38, 40-42	18. Solomon 19. Solomon's temple
15	12/14	Prophets Elijah, Elisha Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel	1 Kings 16:31-21; 2 Kings 9-10 Isaiah 1-2, 5:1-7, 42:1-9, 53, 61, 65-66; Jeremiah :1-3	20. Elijah & prophets of Baal 21. Ahab & Jezebel
16	12/21	Exile & back	Ezra 1, 3-7, 9-10	22. Ezra 23. Ruth
17	12/28	Hebrews in foreign courts	Ruth 1-4 Daniel 1-7	24. Daniel & Lions 25. Esther
18	1/4	Final exam		

Schedule for e-Syllabus

Wk	Monday	Topic	Reading	Presentations
1	9/7	Introduction: The big story		
2	9/14	Creation Genesis 1-3		
3	9/21	The Primeval History: Paradise lost & the Flood Genesis 4-11		
4	9/28	Holiday		
5	10/5	The Chosen: Patriarchal Story cycles: Abraham & Isaac Genesis 12-22 Presentations: 1. Abraham & Hagar , 2. Abraham & Isaac		
6	10/12	Sibling Rivalry: Jacob & Esau, Joseph & brothers Genesis 23-50 Presentations: 3. Jacob & Esau , 4. Joseph		
7	10/19	Moses: Deliverance & Pattern of the hero story Exodus 1-19 Presentations: 5. Moses' youth (Ex 1-3) , 6. Passover & the Exodus (Ex 12-15)		
8	10/26	Nation Building: The Law Exodus 20-23, 32-34; Leviticus 19; Numbers 1-2; Deuteronomy 5-11 Presentations: 7. The Golden Calf (Ex 32) , 8. Spying on the land (Num 13-14)		
9	11/2	Midterm		
10	11/9	Joshua: Conquest of Canaan Joshua 1-6, 10, 23-24 Presentations: 9. Fall of Jericho (Josh 6) , 10. Achan & Ai (Josh 7-8)		
11	11/16	Judges: Deborah, Gideon & Samson Judges 1-2, 4-8, 13-16 Presentations: 11. Deborah & Barak (4-5) , 12. Gideon (6-8)		
12	11/23	King David 1 Samuel 15-17, 2 Samuel 1; 5-7; 11-12, 1 Kings 1-3 Presentations: 14. Samuel (1 Sam 1-3) , 15. David & Goliath		
13	11/30	Psalms & Song of Solomon Psalms 1, 8, 14, 22, 23, 42, 51, 84, 117, 121, 127, 137, 150 Song of Solomon 1-8 Presentations: 16. David & Bathsheba , 17. David & Absalom		
14	12/7	Wisdom Analytical Essay due: The Wisdom Books Proverbs 1, 7, 10, 24, 31; Ecclesiastes 1-3, 9; Job 1-6, 31, 38, 40-42 Presentations: 18. Solomon , 19. Solomon's temple		
15	12/14	Prophets Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah 1 Kings 16:31-21; 2 Kings 9-10; Isaiah 1-2, 5:1-7, 42:1-9, 53, 61, 65-66 Presentations: 20. Elijah & prophets of Baal , 21. Ahab & Jezebel		
16	12/21	Exile & back Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel Ezra 1, 3-7, 9-10 Presentations: 22. Ezra		
17	12/28	Hebrews in foreign courts Read: Ruth 1-4, Daniel 1-7 Presentations: 23. Ruth , 24. Daniel & Lions , 25. Esther		
18	1/4	Final exam <u>Final Review</u>		