

HEBREW 2700H / JEWISH STUDIES 2700H
THE HEBREW BIBLE IN TRANSLATION (HONORS)
Autumn 2022
Tuesday, Thursday 9:35AM-10:55AM
Enarson Hall 206

Instructor: Professor Daniel Frank
Office Hours: via Zoom
W, F, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (by appointment; other times by arrangement)
Phone: 614-292-7494 (office; email preferred)
Email: frank.152@osu.edu

**Class will not meet on the following days: September 27; October 11, 13, 18;
November 24**

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.

→ This course will introduce students to cultural, social, intellectual, and religious aspects of ancient Israelite and Near Eastern culture. The course will show how diverse ancient cultures and texts continue to shape contemporary ideas and attitudes.

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.

→ This course will teach students how to read and appreciate the biblical text as a literary and cultural production. It will provide the critical tools and vocabulary essential to interpreting the Bible, and will help students understand how biblical literature explores the human condition.

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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.

ESSAYS AND POWERPOINTS:

Homework will consist of essays and class presentations.

Each student must complete all **FIVE** essay assignments. Each essay will consist of a **250-word** essay on an assigned topic (there will usually be a choice). They are to be submitted electronically via CARMEN. We will discuss them in class. They will be checked, but not individually graded or marked. All essays must be completed on time; they will be due on **August 30, September 13, October 25, November 1 and 10.** In addition, each student must complete **one** five-minute Powerpoint presentations on an assigned topic. Please submit these to the instructor via the CARMEN Dropbox; they will be marked and checked but not graded.

EXEGETICAL PAPER:

For this paper you will be required to select a passage for close analysis. Further guidance will be provided. Papers should be **10-12 pages** in length. They will be due on **Thursday, November 17.**

QUIZZES:

There will be **eight** short quizzes (5 questions) drawn directly from guiding questions posted in advance on the CARMEN. The best **five** quiz grades will be averaged into the final grade. Quiz dates: **September 1, 8, 22; October 4, 27; November 8, 15, 29.**

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be **two** examinations:

1. **Thursday, October 6**, covering material presented in sessions 1-12;
2. **Tuesday, December 6**, covering material presented in sessions 13-24.

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 CARMEN.

GRADING:

The final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Essays and PowerPoints:	10%
Exegesis Paper	25%
Quizzes	25%
First Examination:	20%
Second Examination:	20%

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REQUIRED TEXT:

Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler (eds.), *The Jewish Study Bible: Featuring the Jewish Publication Society Tanakh Translation*. **1st edition**. Oxford University Press, 2004. [=JSB]: available here <https://archive.org/details/the-jewish-study-bible-featuring-the-jewish-publication-society-tanakh-translation-pdfdrive.com/mode/1up>

•NOTE:

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] [= OCB]

Other required readings will be posted on CARMEN.

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://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

DISABILITIES

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

MENTAL HEALTH STATEMENT:

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

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Grading Scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	60-66.9
E	0-59

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LECTURES AND READINGS

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

Tuesday, August 23

1. Introduction: The Pleasures of Biblical Narrative

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

•See CARMEN for additional required readings

Thursday, August 25

2. Creation and Complication

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 1-4

OCB: “Genesis, Book of”; “Myth”; “Creation.”

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Tuesday, August 30

Essay No. 1 Due

3. The Flood: Mesopotamian and Israelite Myths

Readings:

Genesis chs. 6-9

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

ESSAY NO. 1:

Please write a short essay (250 words) 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, September 1

Quiz No. 1 (Genesis 12-22)

4. From Ur to Moriah: Abraham and Sarah

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 12-22

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

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Tuesday, September 6

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

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 23-36

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Thursday, September 8

Quiz No. 2 (Genesis 37-50)

6. The Joseph Story: An Early Novel

Readings:

Genesis, chapters 37-50

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Tuesday, September 13

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

Essay No. 2 Due

Readings:

Exodus 1-6

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

ESSAY NO. 2:

Please write a short essay (250 words) 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 15

8. The Exodus: From Egypt to Sinai

Exodus 7-18

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Tuesday, September 20

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 CARMEN for additional required readings.

Thursday, September 22

Quiz No. 3 (Exodus 16-20, 31-34)

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 CARMEN for additional required readings.

Tuesday, September 27

No Class: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

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Thursday, September 29

11. Cult and Calendar

•READINGS:

Leviticus chs. 1-7, 10, 16, 19, 23

OCB: “Leviticus”; “Priests and High Priest”; “Sacrifice”; “Tabernacle”; “Feasts and Festivals.”

See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Tuesday, October 4

Q4 (Numbers)

12. In the Wilderness

Readings:

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

OCB: “Numbers, the Book of.”

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Thursday, October 6: **FIRST EXAMINATION**

Tuesday, October 11: **No Class: Sukkot (Feast of Booths; Lev 23:33-43)**

Students are expected to view the recorded lecture, “The Hebrew Bible in Translation” [To be viewed at your convenience during the week of October 9-15.]

<https://youtu.be/uSfIIZo35Z0>

Readings:

See CARMEN

Thursday, October 13: **No Class: Autumn Break**

Tuesday, October 18: **No Class: Simhat Torah (conclusion of Sukkot festival)**

Students are expected to view the recorded lecture, Who Wrote the Bible? (Parts 1 and 2) [To be viewed at your convenience during the week of October 16-22.]

Part I: <https://youtu.be/6QkuGEBzHVQ>

Part II: <https://youtu.be/9DOpy3-z-rY>

Readings:

See CARMEN

Thursday, October 20:

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 CARMEN for additional required readings.

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Tuesday, October 25

Essay No. 3 Due

14. The Conquest

Readings:

Joshua chapters 1-12, 21-24

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

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

ESSAY NO. 3:

Please write a short essay (250 words) 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?

Thursday, October 27

Quiz No. 5 (Judges 1-21)

15. Judges: History Repeats Itself

Readings:

Judges chapters 1-21

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

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Tuesday, November 1

Essay No. 4 Due

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

Readings:

1 Samuel 1-15

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

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

ESSAY NO. 4:

Please write a short essay (250 words) 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?

Thursday, November 3

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 CARMEN for additional required readings.

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Tuesday, November 8

Quiz No. 6 (2 Samuel)

18. The Davidic Monarchy

Readings:

2 Samuel chapter 9 - 1 Kings chapter 2

OCB: "David."

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

Thursday, November 10

Essay No. 5 Due

19. Solomon, the Wisest of All Men

Readings:

1 Kings 1-11

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

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

ESSAY NO. 5:

Please write a short essay (250 words) 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.

Tuesday, November 15

Quiz No. 7 (1 Kings-2Kings 2)

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 CARMEN for additional required readings.

Thursday, November 17

EXEGETICAL PAPERS DUE

21. Hosea and Amos, Prophets of Israel

Hosea 1-4, 13-14; Amos 1-9; 2 Kings 14:1-15:6 (for context)

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

•See CARMEN for required readings.

Tuesday, November 22

22. 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 CARMEN for additional required readings.

Thursday, November 25

THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS

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Tuesday, November 29

Quiz No. 8 (Jeremiah)

23. 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
Psalm 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 CARMEN for additional required readings.

Thursday, December 1

24. Return to Zion

Readings:

Isaiah 60, 62. Ezra 1-10.

OCB, “Isaiah, the Book of”; “Ezra, the Book of.”

•See CARMEN for additional required readings.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

EXAM NO. 2 (covering sessions 13-24)