

**BIBLE 502A**  
**Genres and Themes of Biblical Literature I**

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***MEKOROT***  
**GENRES AND THEMES \* *TANAKH***  
**Prose and Legislation**

Fall 5771

The course objective is to gain some mastery of the prose and legal passages of the *Tanach* through acquisition of a full quiver of interpretive method, broad coverage of the whole biblical canon in its historical and literary context, and close reading, with attention to semantics, grammar, syntax and poetics.

The work of the course is substantially accomplished through preparation for, and participation in class. Typical preparation entails reading, in English, or a large section of biblical text, indicated on the syllabus and a smaller unit underlined, to be studied closely, in Hebrew. Biblical material will, at times, be supplemented by non-biblical primary sources, and selections of modern secondary scholarship, largely from Brettler's *How to Read...* All non-biblical texts will be distributed, or found on reserve. A study guide will standardly be given out, to direct student preparation.

Beyond preparation and participation are the following: A short timeline quiz, a take-home final essay (3-4) pages, and a term paper (10-12 pages). Guidelines for the exam and paper will be reviewed in due course. A special session (meeting 10) is set aside to discuss the paper, and to look at research approaches and resources.

Required texts are a clean, Hebrew-only *Tanach* (Koren edition is recommended but not mandatory) and Marc Brettler, *How to Read the Jewish Bible*.

**1) \* *PETICHTA* ORIENTATION**

**2) \* **BIG BANG****

CREATION – Introduction to methodology, Translation

Genesis 1-2:4

David Clines, "Methods in Old Testament Study" p. 26-43 in J. Rogerson, *Beginning Old Testament Study*

3) \* **ADAM and EVE, NOAH'S ARK**  
PREHISTORY - Source and Redaction Criticism, Comparative Method

Gen 1-11

Gen 8:20-22, 9:8-17, 11:1-9

Brettler 5, 6

4) \* **FIRST FAMILY**

Literary Analysis, Theme Word, Type Scene,

Genesis 12-28    Gen 12:1-20, Gen 22

Brettler 7

5) \* **SLAVERY, EXODUS, SINAI**

Text and Redaction Criticism, Historicism,

Exodus 1-19, 24, Ex 19, 24

Commentary Assignment TBA

6) \* **LOVE and MONEY**

LAWS OF SLAVERY, MARRIAGE, THEFT, HOMICIDE

Intertextuality, Realia, Law and Narrative,

Ex 20-23, Leviticus 19, 24:10-23, 25, Numbers 27:1-11, 35:9-34,

Deuteronomy 5:1-18, Deut 13, 14:22-29, 15:1-18, 17, 19-25

Ex 21:1-7, 22:9-12, Lev 25:35-46, Deut 15:12-16

Yavneh Yam Letter: A Judicial Petition

Transjordanian Judicial Oracle

Brettler 8

7) \* **RINSE and REPEAT**

DEUTERONOMY, DEUTERONOMISM, REDACTION

Deut 1-12, 26, 30-31, 32:48-52, 34, Joshua 1:1-9, 3, 6, 10, 20, 24

Deut 12, 26, 30:11-20

Brettler 10

8) \* **PRIESTHOOD and CULT I – Ritual Law**

Leviticus 7-9, 11-12, 16-17, Numbers 3-4, Numbers 19, Deut 14:1-21, 15:19-23

Lev 7:11-18, 17:10-14

**9) \* PRIESTHOOD and CULT II – Narrative and Geneology**

Exodus 6:14-25, Exodus 32, Leviticus 9:22-10:11, Numbers 16,  
Numbers 25

**10) \* RESEARCH and REVIEW**

**11) \* HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

No Assignment

**12) \* TEXT CRITICISM**

Emmanuel Tov “Textual Criticism (OT)” *Anchor Bible Dictionary*

**13) \* THE CALL GIRL and THE DISMEMBERED WOMAN**

JOSHUA, JUDGES, SAMUEL

Feminist Criticism, Intertextuality

Gen 19:1-11 Gen 34, Joshua 2, 6, Judges 19-21, 1 Sam 28

Cheryl Exum “Feminist Criticism: Whose Interest is Being Served” *Judges and Method*, G. Yee ed., p.65-90

**14) \* MONARCHY I – United Kingdom, David**

I Samuel 1 – I Kings 2:46 I Chronicles 20:1-3, 21:1-3

II Sam 11, 12

Brettler 12

**15) \* MONARCHY II – Divided Kingdom, Omri**

I Kings 3-16, 20, 22 II Kings 3, II Kings 8-17,

Mesha Inscription Moabite Stone

Neo- Assyrian Royal Chronicles

**16) \* MONARCHY III – United Kingdom, Hezekiah**

II Kgs 17-25, II Chron 29-32, Isaiah 36-38, Is 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-5

Neo-Assyrian Royal Chronicles

## **17) \* EXILE**

Lev 26; Ezekiel 36:16-38;

## **18) RESTORATION**

Haggai (All); Zecharia 3-5:4; Ezra 1:1-7, 3-7 8:21-10:19, 10:44;  
Nehemiah 1-2, 4-6, 7:1-7, 8:1-10:1, 10:29-11:2, 13; II Chr 36:22-23  
Elephantine Letters  
Ruth (All), Esther (All), Daniel 1

## **19) Wrap UP**