

JS 218 /RS 218 Fall 2021

Seduction, Rivalry, and Dysfunction in the Bible (Old Testament)

Location: Remote
Instructor:

Time: -9:30 -10:20 Mondays Weekly Synchronous Class also posted on Learn

Days: -Second Weekly Asynchronous Lecture to be posted weekly on Learn

Office:

Office Hours: You can always contact me by email or we can arrange a mutually convenient time to meet on Teams to discuss any questions you have. I am always available to address your concerns.

Course Description

Students will be introduced to the Hebrew Bible by way of selected readings which deal with a particular aspect of the human predicament. The focus will be on exploring relationships via narrative passages in the Old Testament and particularly in the Book of Genesis. The following are some of the relationships that will be explored: (a) Spousal (b) Human/God (c) Parent/child (d) Siblings (e) Gender issues in narratives of rape, incest, seduction and dominance (f) Human/Environment

Course Requirements

- Attendance at all course sessions throughout the semester .
- All reading assignments
- One minor term paper (6-8; typed, double spaced pages) analyzing and responding to one of the class readings and topics (25%).
- One major term paper (9-11 typed, double spaced pages) (35%).
- Final Exam – Take home (on all material including class lectures, discussions, and all readings) (40%).

Required Texts

- (1) **Old Testament -Any English translations** that you have including the King James version, etc. (It is also no problem if you use Old Testament that are combined with New Testaments in one volume). There are also many online versions as well that you can access .

Online versions of numerous translations both in English and many other languages can be accessed here <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/>

For those who wish to view the Hebrew and English side by side see here:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/>

NB- PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE SOME VERSION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AVAILABLE WITH YOU AT EVERY CLASS.

(2) All Course readings including articles and biblical passages that are posted on LEARN

Note on Cross-listed courses:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (University): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without

compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Help With Writing Skills

The University offers excellent advice, training, and workshops to improve your writing skills. I urge you to take advantage of the services offered by the **Writing and Communication Centre**
<https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/services-0/services-undergraduate-students>

Submissions of Assignments

-Drop boxes will be available on LEARN for submission of assignments

Penalty for Late Submissions

Any late submissions without legitimate and documented medical or other emergency excuse will be subject to a penalty of a 25 % reduction in grade for each day it is handed in past the deadline.

There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Topics

NOTE- During the first week of class familiarize yourselves with the language, style, and narratives of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and read the entire book of Genesis.

Approximate Due Dates for Assignments-This is just an approximation so you know about when to expect them. The assignments will usually be handed out two weeks prior to due date at which time instructions will be clearly given and posted:

- First assignment approximately end of 4th or 5th week of class**
- Second assignment approximately end of 8th or 9th week of class**

Lecture 1

- Overview
- Goals of Course
- What is the Hebrew Bible?

Readings: Module 1 (on LEARN)-

Biblical Interpretations- Approaches (Hendel)
Interpretive Assumptions (Kugel)

Lecture 2

How did the Old Testament Come to Be? Editing and Authorship

Readings: Module 2

Editing –*Dating Biblical Sources*
Problems of Translations (Minkoff)
Alter Translation-Symposium

Lecture 3-4

Creation- Does it Make Sense?

Readings-

-Genesis, chapters 1- 2
-Module 3

Genesis- Making Sense of Creation

-*Evolution and the Bible-* (Kass)
-*Creation Ch.1 vs Creation Ch.2* (Luis)
-*Differing Conceptions of Divine Creator* (Brettler)
-*Divine Cosmology*(Zevit)

Lectures 5-6

Adam and Eve: Partners or Antagonists?

Readings

-Genesis 2-3
-Module 4
-*Man and Woman: An Old Story* (Kass)
-*Was Eve Cursed?*

Lectures 7-8

The Conflicted Human Being and Relating to the World

Readings

Module 5
Two Adams: *Adam 1 vs Adam 2*

Lecture 9-10

Knowledge of Good and Evil: Relating to Morality or Something Else?

Readings:

Genesis chapters 3- 11
Module 6 A
Knowing Good and Evil (Knohl)

Sibling Relationships- Cain vs Abel

Module 6B

Tower of Babel

Crossing Boundaries

Totalitarianism

Slavery- Noah's Curse

Lecture 11

An Elusive God: Which God is it to which Human Beings Relate?

Readings

Module 7

-Elusive God (Magonet) –Please look up all the biblical passages mentioned in this reading.

-Male Bonding- Relationship Between Abraham and Yahweh

-Obstacles to Promises- Abraham's Crises

-Flood Story- Does God Change or Humanity?

Lectures 12-14:

Gen. chs. 16 & 21- 22

Binding of Isaac (Akedah) : Expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael

Parents & Children

Slaughtering children

Readings:

Module 8

Lecture 15-16

Loving Woman vs. Loving God

Readings:

-Genesis 3; 12; 16; 20; 21; 23; 25-33

-Judges 4-5; Joshua 2

-Module 9

Loving Woman vs Loving God (Kass)

Love in Bible- (Diamond)

Women as Unlikely Heroes (Rendsburg)

Mothers

Lecture 17

Wrestling with Angels/God

Readings:

-Genesis 32-33

-Module 10

God of Old (Kugel)

Wrestling with Angels: Struggle for the Text (Hartman)

Lecture 18

Debating God

Readings:

-Genesis 18

Job 1-2; 37-42

-Module 11

Questioning God's Justice (Blenkinsopp)

Conflict with God: Moses/Job

Prophets vs God (Muffs)

Lectures 19

Deception

Readings:

Gen. 25-38

Module 12

Lectures 20-21

Siblings and Dysfunctional Families

Readings:

-Genesis 37-50

-Module 13

Joseph and Brothers (Cohen)

Freud on Sibling Rivalry

Joseph Dream Schemer

Alter on Siblings

Lecture 22-23:

Abusing Women

Readings:

-Genesis 30; 34; 49; Judges 19-21; 2 Samuel 13

-Module 14

Rape Dinah

Concubine at Gibeah

Lecture 24

Wrap Up

FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM HANDED OUT IN LAST CLASS