

Intro To The Old Testament

REL 110-001 | Fall 2019 | 3 Credit Hours

Lecture

Dr. Steve Jacobs

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

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Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prereqs found

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

Introduction to the books of the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible as it is known in Judaism, in their historical setting, with emphasis on textual analysis and on literary forms and their function and use in the past and present.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- MOSS (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) BIBLE NATION : THE UNITED STATES OF HOBBY LOBBY (RENTAL)
- MOSS / BIBLE NATION : THE UNITED STATES OF HOBBY LOBBY (Required)
- JACOBS (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) YEAR OF LIVING BIBLICALLY (RENTAL)
- JACOBS / YEAR OF LIVING BIBLICALLY (Required)
- HAYES, CHRISTINE / INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE (Required)
- HAYES, CHRISTINE (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE (RENTAL)
- JIGOULOV, VADIM / THE SCRIPTURES OF ANCIENT JUDAISM:(FIRST EDITION) (Required)

Course Objectives

Learning Goals: The primary goal of this survey course of the books of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is to acquaint students with an academically-rigorous and objective view of these texts as they are presently understood by scholars in the Academy, noting full well the complexities of our knowledge of these books as well as their importance to both the Jewish and Christian religious traditions and communities (and, to a lesser extent, the Islamic traditions and communities as well).

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Students will be able to summarize concisely in a single paragraph the contexts of each of these books of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) within its three divisions: (a) the Five Books of Moses, (b) the Prophets, and (c) the Writings.
- 2. Students will be able to state in written form the relevant issues and controversies surrounding the study of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) as well as specific texts.
- 3. Students will be able to identify at least five (5) of the ten (10) major themes of the Book of Genesis.
- 4. Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the Dietary System (*Kashurt*) as presented in the book of Leviticus, along with its contemporary applications.
- 5. Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the concept of Holiness (*K'dusha*) as presented through the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).
- 6. Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the concept of the Covenant (*B'rith*) as presented through the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).
- 7. Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion the concept of prophecy as presented in the second section of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).
- 8. Students will be able to orally explain in class discussion why the first four books of the second section of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) do not meet the criteria of prophecy.
- 9. Students will be able to successfully critique the arguments for and against dividing the Book of Isaiah into 1st, 2nd, 3rd, (and 4th) Isaiah.
- 10. Students will be able to briefly summarize orally in class discussion the twelve books which comprise the so-called "Minor Prophets".
- 11. Students will be able to successfully explain in class discussion why some books of the third section of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) are considered "Wisdom Literature" and others are not.
- 12. Students will be able to demonstrate in class discussion and give examples of five (5) of the ten (10) different types of Psalms contained within the Book(s) of Psalms.
- 13. Students will be able to demonstrate their writing proficiency through the use of a brief 3-5 page (MS Word, 12 point font, double-spaced) Response Paper to the text *Bible Nation*.
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Other Course Materials

Additional handouts, if appropriate, will be distributed by the instructor or added to the Blackboard Home Course Page.

Outline of Topics

1. Issues and Concerns associated with studying the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible).
2. The Five Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
3. The Pre-Classical Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel 1&2, Kings 1&2.
4. The Major Prophets: Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel
5. The Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
6. Writings: The Wisdom Literature I: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs
7. Writings: The Wisdom Literature II: Job, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes
8. Writings: The "Non-Wisdom" Literature: Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles 1&2
9. Apocrypha, Commentaries, & Interpretations
10. Other Jewish Literatures I
11. Other Jewish Literatures II
12. Wrap-Up

Exams and Assignments

1. 3-5 Page Paper on Bible Nation (MS Word, 12-point font, double-spaced; one-sided)
2. Exam #1: The Five Books of Moses (50 questions, multiple-choice)
3. Exam#2: The Prophets (50 questions, multiple-choice)
4. Exam #3: The Writings (50 questions, multiple-choice)

Grading Policy

25% = Response Paper

25% = Exam #1

25% = Exam #2

25% = Exam #3

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

Missed exams and missed coursework to be determined in consultation with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is *required* unless otherwise noted in the Calendar of Meetings.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/academic-misconduct-policy/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<https://ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy/>).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines (<https://provost.ua.edu/oa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance/>).

UAct Statement

The UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/>) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.