

HEBI 60003 Interpreting the Hebrew Bible and Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books
3 semester hours

Instructor: Professor Toni Craven

Prerequisites: none

Description of Content:

This course introduces the study of the Jewish and Christian biblical literature known variously as the First Testament, Old Testament, Tanakh, Hebrew Bible, The Book of Memories, and Apocryphal/ Deuterocanonical Books. We will examine the contents and recent scholarship associated with the Pentateuch, Historical Books, Prophetic Writings, Poetry and Wisdom, and the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books. We will work together on critical and constructive knowledge of the Bible, the value of dealing generously with Judaism, and the knowledge of and skills necessary to value every human life and confront the forces that would undermine the fullness of all God's people and creation.

Class Procedures:

The course will have multiple formats including lecture, group discussions, quizzes on e-college, and projects and/or presentations on selected topics and biblical texts.

Requirements:

1. Assigned readings in the following:
NRSV (*The New Interpreter's Study Bible with Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books*) and John J. Collins, *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*.
2. Weekly quizzes on e-college.
3. A brief paper of a topic of interest (selected in conversation with Prof. Craven).
4. Self-evaluation at mid-term and at the end of the semester, using a guide that will be provided.

Texts:

1. Walter J. Harrelson, *et al* (eds.), *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: NRSV with the Apocrypha*; Abingdon (2003); ISBN 0687278325. SELECT 1. OR 2. for class.
2. OR Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler, Michael Fishbane (eds.), *The Jewish Study Bible: JPS Tanakh Translation*; Oxford University Press (paperback, 2004); ISBN 10-0195297512, ISBN 13-978-0195297515
3. John J. Collins, *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, Abridged ed.; Fortress (paperback, 2004); ISBN 10-08006-2075, ISBN 13-978-0800662073
4. Philip R. Davies, *Memories of Ancient Israel: An Introduction to Biblical History—Ancient and Modern*; Westminster/John Knox (paperback, Oct 15, 2008); ISBN 10-0664232884, ISBN 13-978-0664232887.

Grading Procedures:

Course grade will be determined by your overall performance across the semester, including the best 10 of 11 weekly quizzes (40%), paper (40%), class participation (10%), and self-evaluations

At mid-term and at the end of the semester (10%).