

Pentateuch II: Exodus-Deuteronomy

REL 4221.01BB / JST 4936.0648 / RLG 5696.02E9, Spring 2015

Tues 4 (10:40-11:30), MAT 112 / Thurs 4-5 (10:40-11:30; 11:45-12:35), TUR 2306

Professor: Robert Kawashima

office hours: Tues 11:45-12:45, Thurs 12:45-1:45

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Course Description:

In the nineteenth century, philologists revealed, through painstaking criticism of the biblical text, that the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) could not have been composed, as venerable tradition would have it, by Moses or, for that matter, by any one individual, but must have been written and redacted (combined) by a number of authors and editors, in different times and places. This “Documentary Hypothesis,” as their discovery came to be called, is one of the great and enduring achievements of modern philology, and it laid the foundation for the modern study of the Bible. In this course, we will take the analysis of the Pentateuch into its underlying sources as our starting point, and carefully read our way through it, from the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai to Moses’ farewell speech at the border of the Promised Land. If our basic approach is literary, we will not simply read it through as we would, say, a modern novel. Rather, we will interpret the underlying sources individually and then consider the meaning of their subsequent redaction. In addition to tracing the Pentateuch’s narrative arc, we will also devote a substantial part of the semester to studying biblical law in relation to the legal conventions of the ancient Near East. What we will ultimately find is that philological analysis, far from detracting from the Bible’s meaning, actually helps restore it, by stripping away some of the accumulated obscurities that have come to distort readers’ perceptions of this ancient text. Numerous secondary readings will, furthermore, expose students to modern approaches to and interpretations of this foundational book or, rather, collection of composite books.

Required Texts:

Richard Elliott Friedman, *The Bible with Sources Revealed*

Martha T. Roth, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*

Raymond Westbrook and Bruce Wells, *Everyday Law in Biblical Israel*

other secondary readings, available online through e-Learning: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Recommended Texts:

Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*

Richard Elliott Friedman, *Who Wrote the Bible?*

Accommodations for students with disabilities: students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Requirements:

Attendance is mandatory

Participation — 10%

2 Essays (5-6 pages) — 45%

2 Exams — 45%

– Late papers must be approved by instructor beforehand, or justified afterward by providing appropriate documentation (medical, etc.).

Grade scale:

	87–89 = B+	77–79 = C+	67–69 = D+	below 60 = E
93–100 = A	83–86 = B	73–76 = C	63–66 = D	
90–92 = A-	80–82 = B-	70–72 = C-	60–62 = D-	

Schedule

Week 1

1/6 **Introduction to course:** syllabus; general background; Kawashima, “Sources and Redaction”

1/8 **What you missed in Pentateuch I:** Genesis; Exodus 1-15; Kawashima, “Literary Analysis”; Friedman, Bible with Sources, 1-3

Week 2

1/13 **Mount Sinai:** Exodus 15:22-24:18; Schwartz, “What Really Happened at Mount Sinai?”; Schwartz, “Priestly Account of the Theophany and Lawgiving at Sinai”

1/15 **Tabernacle Design:** Exodus 25-31; 1 Samuel 4-7; 1 Kings 6-8; Friedman, “The Sacred Tent”; Halpern, David, 289-93

Week 3

1/20 **Golden Calves:** Exodus 32-34; Friedman on golden calves

1/22 **Tabernacle Construction:** Exodus 35-40; “Epic of Creation,” excerpt; Genesis 1, 6-9; J. Levenson, Sinai & Zion, 137-45

Week 4

1/27 **Introduction to Leviticus:** Knohl, “The Uniqueness of the Priestly Torah”; “Good, Evil, and Holiness”

1/29 **Priestly Offerings:** Leviticus 1-10; Deuteronomy 12, 16; Frymer-Kensky “Pollution, Purification, and Purgation”; Hendel, “Sacrifice as a Cultural System”

Week 5

2/3 **Purity Laws:** Leviticus 11-16; Deuteronomy 14; Hendel, “Table and Altar”

2/5 **The Holiness Code:** Leviticus 17-27; Deuteronomy 15; Knohl, “The Sin Offering Law in the ‘Holiness School’ (Numbers 15.22-31)”; Kawashima, “Jubilee Year and the Return of Cosmic Purity”

Week 6

2/10 **Introduction to Numbers:** Douglas, In the Wilderness, ???

2/12 **Camp and Census:** Numbers 1-4

Week 7

2/17 **Setting up Camp:** Numbers 5:1-10:28; Turner, "Betwixt and Between"

2/19 **EXAM 1** (up to 2/17)

Week 8

2/24 **From Sinai to Zin:** Numbers 10:29-19:22; Sommer, "Reflecting on Moses"

2/26 **TBA: PAPER 1** due in class

Week 9

3/3 **SPRING BREAK**

3/5 **SPRING BREAK**

Week 10

3/10 **Transjordan:** Numbers 20-25; Deuteronomy 2-3; Pardes ch.6???

3/12 **Maintaining the Camp:** Numbers 26-36; Douglas???. PAPER 1 due in class

Week 11

3/17 **Introduction to Deuteronomy; Introduction to Biblical and Ancient Law:** Westbrook & Wells ch.1; Roth, "Hammurabi Law Code"

3/19 **Prelude:** Deuteronomy 1-11; Weitzman, "Sensory Reform in Deuteronomy"???

Week 12

3/24 **Postlude:** Deuteronomy 26:16-34:12

3/26 **Covenant Form:** J. Levenson, "Sinai and Covenant Formulary"

Week 13

3/31 **Deuteronomic Law Code:** Deuteronomy 12:1-26:15; Exodus 21-23; B. Levinson???

4/2 **Litigation:** Westbrook & Wells ch.2; Roth, "Middle Assyrian Laws"

Week 14

4/7 **Status and Family:** Westbrook & Wells ch.3; Kawashima, "Could a Woman Say 'No' in Biblical Israel?"

4/9 **Crimes and Delicts:** Westbrook & Wells ch.4

Week 15

4/14 **Property and Inheritance:** Westbrook & Wells ch.5; Kawashima, "Jubilee Year and the Return of Cosmic Purity"

4/16 **Contracts:** Westbrook & Wells ch.6

Week 16

4/21 **EXAM 2** (2/24 - 4/16)

PAPER 2 due MONDAY 4/27