

Pentateuch II: Exodus-Deuteronomy
REL 4221 / JST 4936 / REL 3938, Spring 2021
Tues 4 (10:40-11:30) ONLINE / Thurs 4-5 (10:40-12:35) MAT 102

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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 on Canvas at e-Learning.

Recommended Texts:

Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*
Richard Elliott Friedman, *Who Wrote the Bible?*

Course Requirements:

Attendance is mandatory

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Participation — 10%	Participation – 10%
2 Essays (6 pages) — 45%	2 Essays (3 pages) – 30%

2 Exams — 45%

2 Exams – 60%

Make-up exams and 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-	

Class Etiquette During a Pandemic

If you have enrolled in a face-to-face section, you have committed yourself to wearing a **MASK PROPERLY** in class and to getting **TESTED** regularly, etc. UF's COVID and other policies regarding this class are provided at the bottom of this syllabus. If you have enrolled in an on-line section, you may not attend this class in person. But I do encourage you to pretend that we are all sitting in a single classroom this semester. In particular, I urge all of you to turn on your webcams throughout the semester. It would be nice, after all, to be able to see each other's faces when we talk to each other. I understand that you may have some privacy concerns. First, you should know that our classes will NOT be recorded. Second, you can also use a virtual or blank background on Zoom. Please let me know if you have other concerns regarding our virtual classroom this semester.

Schedule

Week 1

- 1/12 **Introduction to course:** syllabus; general background; Kawashima, "Sources and Redaction"
- 1/14 **What you missed in Pentateuch I:** Genesis; Exodus 1-15; Kawashima, "Literary Analysis"; Friedman, Bible with Sources, 1-3
Philology: Kawashima, "Sources and Redaction"; Genesis 1-3

Week 2

- 1/19 **Mount Sinai:** Exodus 15:22-24:18; Schwartz, "What Really Happened at Mount Sinai?"; Schwartz, "Priestly Account of the Theophany and Lawgiving at Sinai"
- 1/21 **Tabernacle Design:** Exodus 25-31; 1 Samuel 4-7; 1 Kings 6-8; Friedman, "The Sacred Tent"; Halpern, David, 289-93

Week 3

- 1/26 **Golden Calves:** Exodus 32-34; Friedman excerpt on golden calves
- 1/28 **Tabernacle Construction:** Exodus 35-40; "Epic of Creation," excerpt; Genesis 1, 6-9; J. Levenson, Sinai & Zion, 137-45

Week 4

- 2/2 **Introduction to Leviticus:** Knohl, "The Uniqueness of the Priestly Torah"; "Good, Evil, and Holiness"
- 2/4 **Priestly Offerings:** Leviticus 1-10; Deuteronomy 12, 16; Frymer-Kensky "Pollution, Purification, and Purgation"; Hendel, "Sacrifice as a Cultural System"

Week 5

- 2/9 **Purity Laws:** Leviticus 11-16; Deuteronomy 14; Hendel, "Table and Altar"

2/11 **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

2/16 **Introduction to Numbers**

2/18 **Camp and Census:** Numbers 1-4

Week 7

2/23 **Setting up Camp:** Numbers 5:1-10:28; Turner, “Betwixt and Between”

2/25 **Recharge Day: Class Cancelled**

Week 8

3/2 **EXAM 1** (up to 2/23)

3/4 **From Sinai to Zin:** Numbers 10:29-19:22; Sommer, “Reflecting on Moses”

Week 9

3/9 **Transjordan:** Numbers 20-25; Deuteronomy 2-3

3/11 **Maintaining the Camp:** Numbers 26-36; **Introduction to Deuteronomy; PAPER 1 due in class**

Week 10

3/16 **Introduction to Biblical and Ancient Law:** Westbrook & Wells ch.1; Roth, “Hammurabi Law Code”

3/18 **Prelude:** Deuteronomy 1-11; Weitzman, “Sensory Reform in Deuteronomy”

Week 11

3/23 **Postlude:** Deuteronomy 26:16-34:12

3/25 **Covenant Form:** J. Levenson, “Sinai and Covenant Formulary”

Week 12

3/30 **Deuteronomic Law Code:** Deuteronomy 12:1-26:15; Exodus 21-23

4/1 **Litigation:** Westbrook & Wells ch.2; Roth, “Middle Assyrian Laws”

Week 13

4/6 **Status and Family:** Westbrook & Wells ch.3; Kawashima, “Could a Woman Say ‘No’ in Biblical Israel?”

4/8 **Crimes and Delicts:** Westbrook & Wells ch.4

Property and Inheritance: Westbrook & Wells ch.5; Kawashima, “Jubilee Year and the Return of Cosmic Purity”

Week 14

4/13 **Contracts:** Westbrook & Wells ch.6

4/15 **EXAM 2** (2/24 - 4/16)

Week 15

PAPER 2 due MONDAY 4/27

HyFlex Instruction Details

For students enrolled in face to face (F2F) sections: We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. For UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, see: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to me when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments: For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>