

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: History of Religion in Early Israel

TERM: Spring 2018-2019

PROFESSOR: Ron Tappy

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: 2

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the relationship between the emergent Israelite faith in the early Iron Age (pre-monarchic period) and the cultural and literary contexts in which the new nation developed. Readings will focus on the archaic poetry, the earliest narrative sources in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, and several major Canaanite texts (in translation). Comparative study will highlight points of both continuity and discontinuity between Canaanite and Hebrew views of the creation, structure, and rule over the cosmos, the place of theophany, the function and background of covenant, the rise of human institutions such as the priesthood and kingship, and the use of liturgy in worship.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will engage in the following activities:

1. identify literary and cultural elements traceable in the earliest Hebrew writings;
2. deal with historiographic problems inherent in biblical and ancient Near Eastern texts;
3. participate through class discussions and individual practice in the art of preparing a succinct, coherent thesis statement, developing the structure/organization of a research paper, engaging in the proper use of primary and secondary evidence, using logic and argumentation in a written study, and exhibiting the art of proofreading to ensure the use of proper mechanics (sentence structure, spelling, grammar, syntax, diction, correct punctuation, correct formatting, etc.) in writing;
4. demonstrate the achievement of these three objectives by (a.) writing and submitting a sustained study dealing with a particular aspect of early Israelite religion and (b.) presenting a detailed, oral critique of another paper that assesses the achievement of all elements listed in objectives 1–3.

PREREQUISITES: OT 110 and/or OT 120

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Required text

Patrick D. Miller, *The Religion of Ancient Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel, D. A. Knight, ed., Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2007, ISBN: 978-0664232375, \$32.85.

Suggested text(s)

R. Albertz, *Family and Household Religion in Ancient Israel and the Levant*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2012, ISBN: 978-1575062327, \$89.50.

_____, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period: Volume I: From the Beginnings to the End of the Monarchy*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster/John Knox, 1994, ISBN: 978-0664227197, \$33.83.

_____, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period: Volume II: From the Exile to the Maccabees*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster/John Knox, 1994, ISBN: 978-0664227203, \$35.50.

Z. Zevit, *The Religions of Ancient Israel: A Synthesis of Parallaxic Approaches*. London/New York: Continuum, 2003, ISBN: 978-0826463395, \$67.45.

M. S. Smith, "Review of Zion Zevit, *The Religions of Ancient Israel . . .*." *Maarav* 11 (2004), 145–218.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

General (10%)

Peer Review (30%)

Research Paper (60%)

ATTENDANCE: Required.