

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: The Book of Judges

TERM: Spring 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Professor Kimberly D. Russaw

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 10
AUDITORS: 2

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Building on a general knowledge of the Historical Books and a survey of the book of Judges, *The Book of Judges* is a one-semester, three-credit-hour elective course that enables students to examine the book's content and engage the critical scholarship associated with its study. This course relies heavily on students' close reading of both biblical passages and scholarly writings to scrutinize how factors such as methodological approaches, socio-historical contexts, and individual or community urgencies collaborate to produce various understandings of the book of Judges. *The Book of Judges* is designed to help students draw on a specific book of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament as a conversation partner in helping interpret God's presence in the world.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

As a result of participating in this course, participants should be able to:

1. Identify the structure, characters, and themes of the book of Judges
2. Discuss the socio-historical backdrop of the book of Judges
3. Discuss aspects of their location as an interpreter of the book of Judges
4. Critique the use of biblical literature in contemporary society based upon biblical scholarship

PREREQUISITES:

Course prerequisites
Successful completion of an introductory course such as *Genesis through Esther* (OT 110), *Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature* (OT 120), *Gospels, Acts, and Johannine Epistles* (NT 110), or *New Testament Letters and Apocalypse* (NT 120), or permission from the professor.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING: Please include ISBN numbers and price.

McCann, J. Clinton. *Judges: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0664235987 \$25.43

McKenzie, Steven L. and John Kaltner (ed.). *New Meanings for Ancient Texts: Recent Approaches to Biblical Criticisms and Their Applications*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0664238162 \$23.35

Trible, Phyllis. *Texts of Terror (40th Anniversary Edition) Literary-Feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives*. Fortress Press, 2022. ISBN-13: 978-1506481388 \$22.00

Yee, Gale A. *Judges and Method: New Approaches to Biblical Studies* (Second Edition). Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0800638580 \$18.29

An NRSV or NRSVue Bible (ISBN-13: 978-0062969439 \$37.50)

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Final grades will be calculated thusly:

- 5% Journal Entries
- 5% Book Structure Assignment
- 10% Thematic Annotated Bibliography
- 20% Judges in Contemporary Society
- 20% Interpretation Exercise
- 40% Website Final Project

ATTENDANCE: Required.