

**RELS 21 Course Outline as of Summer 2022****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: RELS 21 Title: JEWISH BIBLE &amp; BIRTH GOD

Full Title: The Jewish Bible and the Birth of God

Last Reviewed: 4/22/2019

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: HUMAN 10.1

**Catalog Description:**

A study of the emergence of the Bible of Judaism within the context of Egyptian and Mesopotamian religions, the emergence of the Jewish people and religion, and their impact on world cultures.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: A study of the emergence of the Bible of Judaism within the context of Egyptian and Mesopotamian religions, the emergence of the Jewish people and religion, and their impact on world cultures. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

### **Approval and Dates**

Version:	07	Course Created/Approved:	8/1/1981
Version Created:	12/13/2021	Course Last Modified:	7/18/2023
Submitter:	Eric Thompson	Course last full review:	4/22/2019
Version Status:	Approved (Changed Course)	Prereq Created/Approved:	4/22/2019
Version Status Date:	1/24/2022	Semester Last Taught:	
Version Term Effective:	Summer 2022	Term Inactive:	

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Use a critical-historical vocabulary to describe the composition, history and socio-historical contexts of the Hebrew Bible.
2. Compare and contrast the different religious ideas among texts of the Hebrew Bible.
3. Explain similarities and differences between the religions of Ancient Israel and Judaism.

### **Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Acquire the skills to read and discuss the biblical text with reasonable ease and comprehension.
2. Name the genre and describe the generic features of a passage from the Hebrew Bible.
3. Distinguish among the assumptions of traditional biblical interpretation and the methodology and conclusions of modern biblical criticism.
4. Distinguish between the assumptions and techniques of traditional biblical exegesis and the theory and methodology of modern biblical criticism.
5. Describe historical origins and redaction of biblical literature.
6. Discern the major literary and religious themes and recount their development.

7. Identify the major personalities, events and political geography of Ancient Israel.
8. Demonstrate familiarity with the unfolding story line of the biblical narrative.
9. Discuss the biblical text as the classical literature of an ancient people with sources in and shared cultural features with Mesopotamia, Egypt, Hatti and Canaan-Phoenicia, which has helped to shape the development of the western world.
10. Explain the evolution of the religion of Judaism from the matrix of Ancient Israel.

### **Topics and Scope:**

- I. Introduction to Traditional Understandings of the Hebrew Scripture
- II. Modern Methods of Biblical Research
  - A. Documentary Theory
  - B. Comparative Near Eastern literature
  - C. The theory of the original matriarchy, the nature of patriarchy and its literary heritage
  - D. Midrash and biblical literary style compared with other narrative styles
  - E. Contemporary historiographic and hermeneutic criticism
- III. The Covenant -- Tracing its Literary Presence in the Creation Story
  - A. The flood and Abraham
  - B. Abraham as ancestor of the Israelite and Ishmaelite traditions
- IV. The Akedah
  - A. Its literary history, traditional interpretations
  - B. Its connections to the sacrificial cult
  - C. Its centrality in the history of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem
- V. Machpelah -- the Burial of Sarah and Narratives Concerning Claim to the Land of Canaan
- VI. The story of Sodom and the Code of Hospitality
- VII. The Jacob Tradition: Tribal History and Legend
- VIII. The Rape of Dinah and the Levitical Origins
- IX. Judah and Tamar and the Beginnings of the Judean Davidic Traditions
- X. Joseph and the Northern Israelite Traditions
- XI. The Exodus Story
  - A. Testing the historical reality of the story
  - B. Testing the durability and thematic credibility of the story
  - C. Miracles, historiography and literary style
  - D. The nature of prophecy and Yahwist understanding
  - E. The evolutionary reality of the Mosaic traditions
- XII. The Book of Joshua: the Tribes of Yahweh and the Period of the Conquest/Rebellion
- XIII. The Book of Judges
  - A. The period of the Settlement
  - B. Israel facing the external threat of Canaanite and Philistine domination -- Deborah as prophetess and military leader
  - C. Israel facing the internal threat of assimilation and acculturation -- the story of Samson and Delilah
- XIV. The Monarchy
  - A. The tradition from Samuel to Saul with emphasis on the literary characteristics of these figures as they interact
  - B. The beginnings of prophetic criticism of the monarchy
  - C. The advent of David, his rise and reign
  - D. The accession of Solomon
  - E. The transformation of Israel from an agrarian, egalitarian, tribal confederation to an urban, military aristocracy
- XV. The Monarchies of David and Solomon
- XVI. The Divided Kingdoms and the Rise of the Literary Prophets: (Elijah), Hosea, Amos and

## Isaiah

Through the Assyrian Invasion and the Destruction of Israel

XVII. The Nature and Content of Prophecy: Yahwist Social Criticism, the Yahwist Hermeneutic

XVIII. The Deuteronomists and the Reform of Josiah

XIX. The Babylonian Exile

XX. Yahwism vs. Zoroastrian Dualism

XXI. Isaiah and the Coming of Cyrus and the Persian Conquest

XXII. Job

XXIII. Ezra and Nehemiah--the Restoration of Judah and the Canonization of the Torah

XXIV. Yahwist Wisdom Literature: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and the Song of Solomon

XXV. The Jewish-Roman War

XXVI. The Mishnah and Rabbinic Judaism

XXVII. The Jewish Diaspora

### Assignment:

1. Weekly reading assignments of between 20-50 pages
2. One to three exegetical essays (explicating select biblical texts) using critical methods acquired in lecture and reading
3. One to three thematic essays which build a conceptual synthesis out of related narratives and aphorisms
4. Two to four exams of objective or essay or combined format
5. Final exam of objective or essay or combined format
6. Two to eight quizzes
7. Optional field trips and oral presentations

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Exegetical and thematic papers and essays

Writing  
40 - 80%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, true/false, matching items, completion, essay exams, text analysis

Exams  
20 - 50%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Classroom participation, optional oral presentations, reports on interviews, museum visits, or field trips

Other Category  
0 - 10%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of its Sacred Texts. Finkelstein, Israel and Silberman, Neil Asher. Touchstone. 2002 (classic)

A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. Collins, John J. Fortress Press. 2018

How The Bible Became Holy. Satlow, Michael L. Yale University Press. 2014 (classic)

The Invention of Judaism. Collins, John J. UC Press. 2017

The Invention of God. Thomas Römer, Trans. Geuss, Raymond. Harvard University Press. 2015 (classic)

## **OTHER REQUIRED ELEMENTS**

### **STUDENT PREPARATION**

Matric Assessment Required:	E	Requires English Assessment
Prerequisites-generate description:	NP	No Prerequisite
Advisories-generate description:	A	Auto-Generated Text
Prereq-provisional:	N	NO
Prereq/coreq-registration check:	N	No Prerequisite Rules Exist
Requires instructor signature:	N	Instructor's Signature Not Required

### **BASIC INFORMATION, HOURS/UNITS & REPEATABILITY**

Method of instruction:	02	Lecture
	71	Internet-Based, Simultaneous Interaction
	72	Internet-Based, Delayed Interaction
Area department:	HUMAN	Humanities and Religion
Division:	71	Language Arts & Academic Foundations
Special topic course:	N	Not a Special Topic Course
Program status:	1	Major Applicable Course
Repeatability:	00	Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Repeat group id:		

### **SCHEDULING**

Audit allowed:	N	Not Auditable
Open entry/exit:	N	Not Open Entry/Open Exit
Credit by exam:	N	Credit by examination not allowed
Budget code: Program:	0000	Unrestricted
Budget code: Activity:	4905	Humanities & Fine Arts

### **OTHER CODES**

Discipline:	Humanities OR Religious Studies	
Basic skills:	N	Not a Basic Skills Course
Level below transfer:	Y	Not Applicable
CVU/CVC status:	Y	Distance Ed, Not CVU/CVC Developed
Distance Ed Approved:	Y	<a href="#">Either online or hybrid, as determined by instructor</a>
Emergency Distance Ed Approved:	Y	<a href="#">Fully Online</a> <a href="#">Partially Online</a> <a href="#">Online with flexible in-person activities</a>
Credit for Prior Learning:	N	Agency Exam
	N	CBE
	N	Industry Credentials
	N	Portfolio
Non-credit category:	Y	Not Applicable, Credit Course
Classification:	Y	Liberal Arts and Sciences Courses
SAM classification:	E	Non-Occupational
TOP code:	1510.00	Religious Studies
Work-based learning:	N	Does Not Include Work-Based Learning

DSPS course:

N

Not a DSPS Course

In-service:

N

Not an in-Service Course