

ENG-2720: SURVEY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: ENG-2720 : Survey of Biblical Literature

Board of Trustees:

June 2020

Academic Term:

Fall 2021

Subject Code

ENG - English

Course Number:

2720

Title:

Survey of Biblical Literature

Catalog Description:

Critical analysis of selected books of the Bible with emphasis on those works that have been particularly influential in Western literary tradition.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1020 College Composition II, or ENG-102H Honors College Composition II, or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze rhetorical and literary devices by genre in Biblical literature.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Define the features of and departures from literary genres in the Bible.
2. Analyze methods of characterization, plot development, and intertextuality.
3. Analyze rhetorical and literary schemes and tropes across the Bible.
4. Compare translations of Biblical texts.

Course Outcome(s):

Interpret Biblical texts in their original context as examples of ancient Near Eastern and Greek literature and culture.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Apply type scene and archetypal analysis to Biblical characters and plots in the Old and New Testaments.
2. Identify features of oral literature in Biblical narratives and the gospels.
3. Identify features of Near Eastern poetry in the Bible.
4. Identify the original historical context of Old and New Testament texts.
5. Analyze the characterizations of male and female characters in the Bible with respect to ancient Near Eastern and Greek culture and values.
6. Compare Biblical texts with similar texts from ancient Near Eastern and Greek literature.
7. Analyze New Testament texts as sites of conflict with the early Christian communities.

Course Outcome(s):

Write about Biblical literature from a critical and historically informed perspective.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Interpret Biblical texts in terms of their original cultural and historical context.
2. Find and evaluate academic sources on historical and scholarly interpretations of selected Biblical texts.
3. Evaluate contemporary interpretations of Biblical texts, which may include uses of Biblical texts in poetry, music, film, and other types of art.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Participation in class lectures and discussions
2. Journal responses
3. Analytical essays, e.g., translation comparisons and Psalm analyses
4. Research papers
5. Quizzes and objective tests
6. Essay examinations

Course Content Outline:

1. The Bible as an anthology of literature
 - a. Genres of literature found in the Old and New Testaments
 - b. Organization of the Bible
 - c. Composite authorship and oral composition
 - d. Formation of the Biblical canons
 - e. History of translations of the Bible
 - f. History of Biblical manuscripts
2. Historical background of the Old Testament
 - a. The Bronze Age
 - b. Ancient Egypt and Israel
 - c. Invasions of the Assyrians and Babylonians
 - d. The destruction of Solomon's Temple and the end of the Davidic dynasty
 - e. The Babylonian exile
 - f. Alexander the Great and Hellenization
3. Common literary and rhetorical devices in Biblical narratives
 - a. Metaphor
 - b. Simile
 - c. Symbol
 - d. Allegory
 - e. Parataxis
 - f. Parallelism
 - g. Repetition
 - h. Hyperbole

- i. Irony
 - j. Satire
 - k. Puns
 - l. Other forms of wordplay
- 4. Type scene and archetypal analysis of characters and plots
 - a. The barren woman
 - b. The hero
 - c. The journey
 - d. Calling of the prophet/annunciation
 - e. Epiphany
 - f. The man and woman at the well
- 5. Features of oral literature in the Bible
 - a. Type scene
 - b. Envelope structure
 - c. Parallelism
 - d. Repetition
 - e. Epithet
 - f. Intercalation or sandwich
- 6. Major and minor literary genres in the Bible
 - a. Narrative
 - b. Poetry
 - c. History
 - d. Prophecy
 - e. Law
 - f. Wisdom
 - g. Letter
 - h. Gospel
 - i. Apocalyptic
 - j. Proverb
 - k. Parable
 - l. Etiology
 - m. Covenant
 - n. Historical recital
 - o. Others
- 7. Biblical narratives in Genesis in the Old Testament
 - a. Creation stories and their parallels in ancient Near Eastern literature
 - b. Narratives of the Flood
 - c. Narratives of the patriarchs
 - i. Abraham
 - ii. Isaac
 - iii. Jacob
 - d. Narrative of Joseph and his brothers and their Near Eastern sources
- 8. Biblical history in the Old Testament
 - a. Moses and the Exodus
 - b. Judges, prophets and the first kings of Israel (Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings)
 - c. Heroic women in history
 - i. Ruth
 - ii. Esther
 - iii. Judith
- 9. Biblical legal literature in the Old Testament
 - a. Covenants
 - i. Noah
 - ii. Abraham
 - iii. Moses and the 10 Commandments
 - b. Legal codes in Exodus and Leviticus and the Near East
- 10. Biblical poetry in the Old Testament
 - a. Psalms
 - b. Song of Songs

- c. The major literary prophets
 - i. Isaiah
 - ii. Jeremiah
 - iii. Ezekiel
- d. Victory songs
- e. Hymns
- 11. Biblical prophecy
 - a. The literary prophets
 - i. Isaiah
 - ii. Jeremiah
 - iii. Ezekiel
 - b. Jonah as the anti-prophet
- 12. Wisdom literature and the ancient Near East
 - a. Job
 - b. Ecclesiastes
 - c. Proverbs
- 13. History background of the New Testament
 - a. Hellenization
 - b. The Seleucid and Ptolemaic kings
 - c. The Maccabean revolt
 - d. The Hasmonean kings
 - e. The Roman Empire
 - f. The Jewish-Roman wars
- 14. Greek rhetoric and Pauline and pseudo-Pauline letters
 - a. Greek rhetoric in Paul's letters
 - b. Selected chapters of Acts
 - c. Selected pseudo-Pauline or other letters (e.g., Ephesians, James)
 - d. Early Christian communities as sites of conflict
- 15. Synoptic Gospels
 - a. Gospels as reflections of the audiences of their respective Christian communities
 - b. Two-Source Hypothesis and Q
 - c. Infancy narratives
 - d. Imagery and motifs
 - e. Parables
 - f. Passion narratives
 - g. Features of oral literature
 - h. Similarities and differences between narratives common to the gospels
 - i. Mark as the first gospel and Mattian/Lucan variations
- 16. Gospel of John
 - a. Similarities and differences between John and the synoptic gospels
 - b. Distinctive imagery
 - c. Motifs
 - d. Characters in John
- 17. Apocalyptic literature in the Old and New Testaments and its distinctive rhetoric, language, and imagery/motifs
 - a. The Book of Daniel
 - b. The Book of Revelation

Resources

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011.

Alter, Robert. *The Book of the Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*. New York: Norton, 2007.

Alter, Robert. *Genesis: Translation and Commentary*. New York: Norton, 1996.

Alter, Robert, and Frank Kermode, eds. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1987.

Berlin, Adele, and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. *The Jewish Study Bible*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2014.

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1997.

Coogan, Michael D. and Cynthia R. Chapman. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2017.

Coogan, Michael D., and Marc Brettler, Carol Newsom, Pheme Perkins, eds. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*. 5th ed. Oxford UP, 2018.

Crossway Bibles. *ESV Study Bible*. 1st. Crossway, 2008.

Frye, Northrup. *The Great Code: The Bible and Literature*. New York: Mariner, 2002.

Gabel, John, et al. *The Bible as Literature: An Introduction*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2006.

Hayes, Christine. *Introduction to the Bible*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2012.

Levine, Amy-Jill. *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. New York: HarperOne, 2014.

Levine, Amy-Jill, and Marc Z. Brettler, eds. *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2017.

Martin, Dale B. *New Testament History and Literature*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2012.

McReynolds, Paul R. *Word Study Greek-English New Testament*. 3rd ed. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1999.

Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.

Resources Other

Bible Gateway (online)

Open Yale Courses: Introduction to the Old Testament with Christine Hayes (online)

Open Yale Courses: Introduction to the New Testament History and Literature with Dale B. Martin (online)

The Text This Week: Art Index (online)

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMAH

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