

ENG 271-001: The Bible as Literature

Time/Location: TR 2:00-3:15pm

Professor: Tikva Meroz-Aharoni

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Office Hours: TR 12:30- 1:30pm

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Course Description

This course investigates selections from the Old and New Testaments in English as literary and cultural documents of great significance and literary achievement. Emphasis is on the careful analysis of literary forms and themes within a broadly historical and non-denominational context. This particular section of ENG 271 will look at contemporary Hebrew cultural texts that use the Old and New Testaments as inspiration. Many writers use images, metaphors, characters, expression, and incidents from ancient sources as literary devices. Not only will we analyze the modern, but we will also study the source material itself such as the Akedah and Biblical heroes (e.g. Abel, Saul, and Rachel). We will reference religious cultural productions such as plays, short stories, poems, works of art, and films that may be read in light of a literary understanding of the biblical texts they rely on. We will use works written by scholars such as Robert Alter and Meir Sternberg. ENG Module Credit will be given for the Fall 2014 section of ENG 271 upon petition. Contact the ENG Director of Undergraduate Studies for details.

Texts

All of the required texts for this course will be available electronically through our course's Blackboard page. This means that you will need to have reliable internet and access to Blackboard. While all texts are available online, you are still responsible for printing and bringing copies of the readings to class in order to fully participate in discussions and in-class activities.

Course Components

Research Paper Rough Draft (November 7) 30%

Presentations (November 18 and 23) 20%

Final Research Paper (December 9) 50%

** All due dates listed here are tentative and will be changed only in the best interest of students. Any change in due date will be announced in class.*

Course Policies

Excused/ Unexcused Absences: If you miss class for an excused absence, it is your responsibility to contact me to find out what you missed in class and turn in any assignments due that day. See definitions of excused absences in the current edition of *Student Right and*

Responsibilities available on the web at <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>. No absence can be designated “excused” until documentation has been provided and verified. Absences due to minor conditions (lack of transportation, slight discomfort, conflict with an appointment, etc.) are considered unexcused, as are absences for registration. To receive an excused absence for a sponsored University activity (such as intercollegiate athletics), documentation must be provided in advance. The University Senate sets a limit on total absences—*both excused and unexcused*—at 1/5th of the total class meetings.

Plagiarism

Part II of Student Rights and Responsibilities states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. See section 6.3.1; online at

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/Section%20VI.pdf>

In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission. When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or another source, including the Internet. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Plagiarism also includes using someone else's work during an oral presentation without properly citing that work in the form of an oral footnote.

Whenever you use outside sources or information, you must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how you have employed them. If the words of someone else are used, you must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Plagiarism also includes making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phrasing intact. However, nothing in these rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

You may discuss assignments among yourselves or with me or a tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by you, and you alone unless the assignment has been designed to be conducted with a partner or small group of classmates. All work submitted must be new, original work; you may not submit work you have produced for another purpose or class, including a previous English course.

Academic Accommodations Due to Disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource

Center. The accommodations begin when I receive the letter and cannot be retroactively applied to previous assignments, exams or other activities, so please make sure you provide me with a letter as soon as possible. The Disability Resource Center can be found in Room 2, Alumni Gym, or by phone (257-2754), and email (jkarnes@email.uky.edu).

Daily Schedule

While the schedule below includes all primary documents for the days listed, it does not include everything to be read for a given day, so it is important that you be in class. Secondary articles will appear on Blackboard as the semester advances.

8.27 Introduction

Eve Knew by Mosha Dor Genesis 3: 2-26

9.2-9.4

“Eve and Abel” and “Written in Pencil in a Sealed Railway-Car” by Dan Pagis/ Genesis 4:1-3

9.9

Brothers-- “Abel and Cain” by Dan Pagis/ Genesis 4: 1-16

9.11-9.16

“And my Brother Said Nothing” by Amir Gilboa

9.18-9.23

“November 73” by Dan Pagis/ Exodus 20:7

9.25-9.30

“Isaac” by Amir Gilboa/ Genesis 21: 1-14

10.2-10.7

“Like Rachel” by Dahlia Ravikovitch/ Genesis 35:16-32, Genesis 29:31-33

10.9

“Rachel” by Rachel

10.14

“The Face of Joshua” by Amir Gilboa/ Joshua 1: 1-10

** The Daily Schedule for the remaining courses will be posted as the semester continues.*