

JEWISH STUDIES COURSES FOR SPRING 2009

(HP) JWST 10R: The Bible: Ancient and Modern Perspectives

Deena Grant

TR 9:35-11:00 and 11:10-12:35

Various genres of biblical literature and teachings are studied against the background of contemporary Near Eastern civilizations and in light of the findings of modern biblical research and archaeology.

Prerequisites & Course Notes:

(Formerly JWST 10 (LT) *The Bible: Ancient and Modern Perspectives.*)

(HP) JWST 11R: Judaic Perspectives on the Hebrew Bible

Rabbi Meir Mitelman

TR 12:45-2:10

An examination of Jewish Biblical interpretation from antiquity to the present with special focus on continuities and contrasts in exegetical method. Starting with an examination of "inner biblical exegesis," the course proceeds to scrutinize major forms of Jewish biblical interpretation from the period of the great Rabbinic sages in late antiquity, to Eastern centers of Medieval Jewish scholarship (e.g., Babylon, Islamic Spain), to the emergence of Western European forms of interpretation in the Renaissance to the period of Jewish Enlightenment, to the present.

Prerequisites & Course Notes:

(Formerly JWST11 (LT) *Judaic Perspectives on the Hebrew Bible.*)

(HP) JWST 13R Fact or Fiction: Rabbis Interpret the Bible

Deena Grant

TR 2:20-3:45

This course is a comparative literary study of the various interpretations of the Bible with special reference to the Greek translation (Septuagint) and Aramaic translation (Targum) and the commentaries that are based on the rabbinic tradition.

Prerequisites & Course Notes:

(Formerly JWST13 (LT) *The Bible and Its Interpretation Through the Ages.*)

First Year Seminars: Only first-year students are permitted to enroll.

(HP) JWST 014S: Devotional Literatures of Jews and Muslims

Hussein Rashid

TR 9:35-11:00

Devotional literature reflects both core religious beliefs and the culture in which it is written. By virtue of these two elements, literature allows us to understand the relationship between culture and religion over time and place. In addition,

comparison between the devotional literatures of Jews and Muslims allows us to better comprehend the convergences and divergences of these two Abrahamic faiths. We will cover a breadth of material, starting with scripture and ending with the internet as a site of devotional writing.