OBJECTIVES:
1. To introduce the academic study of the Bible
2. To acquaint students with the literature of the Bible in its ancient context.

TEXTBOOKS:
1. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, 3rd edition (available in the bookstore). You may use another version, but the NOAB will be used in class, and contains notes that are sometimes helpful.
3. “e-handouts” available on the Academic server: Acad_dept_pgm > Relig_Studies > McKenzie > Public > 101 handouts

REQUIREMENTS:
1. Come to class on time and with appropriate materials.
2. Read assignments for each class beforehand and come ready to discuss the reading.
3. Bring written assignments with you ready to turn in.

EVALUATION:
Final grades will be calculated by averaging writing assignments (20%), exams (2 X 25% = 50%), and the final (30%).

Attendance at every class is mandatory. Final grades will be reduced one-half letter for each absence beyond three regardless of the reason for the absence. After five absences, a student will normally be asked to withdraw from the course; after six, a student will normally receive a failing grade for the course.

Involvement in class means attentiveness and making meaningful contributions through comments and questions. Sleeping in class, holding individual conversations, and arriving late are disruptive, detract from the effectiveness of the class, and will have a negative impact on a student’s final grade. Students who disrupt class in these ways or who come unprepared or without proper materials may be asked to leave and will be counted absent.

Writing Assignments are given for most days. Students must complete them beforehand and have them ready to turn in at the beginning of class. They should be type-written and double-spaced. Assignments that are improperly formatted will receive an automatic two point penalty. Late assignments will not normally be accepted. Students who are absent should arrange to have their assignments turned in. A certain number (10-11) of these assignments will be collected and graded according to the amount of thought and preparation they reflect. Students are invited to make changes to their writing assignments during class. However, handwritten assignments will normally not be accepted.

Exams: There will be three exams including a final. The syllabus provides the study guide for all exams: identification questions are drawn from terms on the syllabus and those written on the board or discussed in class; essays come from daily topics. Students are responsible for discerning and assessing the relative importance of topics discussed daily.
CALENDAR:

Thurs. 8/26 - Introduction to the course
Write a paragraph relating your experience with the Bible and expressing what you anticipate about this course (in class).
Read Brown pp. 1-5, 36-39

Tues. 8/31 – Rules of thumb
Read Brown pp. 41-156 and NOAB, Essays, pp. 453-56
Write: Choose one rule of thumb that you consider especially important and write a paragraph explaining why you think it is important.

Thurs. 9/2 – Genre and Jonah
Read: The book of Jonah + e-handout: “0. Jonah and Genre”
Write: Make a list, with explanations, of the indications within Jonah that it was not intended to be read as history.
Terms: Nineveh, parody

HISTORY/HISTORY WRITING
Tues. 9/7 – Read Genesis 1:1-2:4a + Intro. to Genesis, NOAB, pp. 9-10 Hebrew Bible + e-handout: “1. History Writing in the Bible”
Write Explain how careful analysis of Genesis 1 indicates that it was written, in part, to support the keeping of Sabbath.
Terms: aetiology

Write on one of the following three topics: (1) make a list of differences between the story in Genesis 2 and the one in Genesis 1, (2) list and explain the aetiologies in the second creation story, (3) evaluate Zevit’s interpretation of the Garden story.
Terms: Documentary Hypothesis, Yahwist (J), Priestly writer (P),

Tues. 9/14 - Read Genesis 4-11 + e-handouts, “3. The Flood Story” and “4. Repopulating the Earth”
Write: Using the different names for God and similarities between Genesis 1 and Genesis 2-3 respectively, try to distinguish which parts of Genesis 6-9 are J and which are P.

Thurs. 9/16 - Read Genesis 12-22 + e-handouts, “5. Abram and Sarai in Egypt,” “6. Abraham and Lot” + “Isaac and Ishmael”
Write a list of the obstacles that Abraham faces in his quest for an heir and describe how each is overcome.
Terms: foundation tradition

Tues. 9/21 - Read Genesis 25:19-34; 27-33 + e-handout, “7. Esau and Jacob”
Write a list of the sons of Jacob by their mothers. Explain why scholars see the stories of Jacob as “eponymous”
Terms: eponymous tradition

Thurs. 9/23 – Read Exodus 1-15; 20; Deuteronomy 5
Write: Note and try to explain any inconsistencies you see in the story of Moses’ birth. Also choose one of the Ten Commandments and explain what it meant in its ancient context.
Terms: apodictic, casuistic
Tues. 9/28 - Exam

Write: Reflect on Rahab’s speech in Josh 2:8-12. Explain why you think these are Rahab’s real words or a composition of the author? What does the speech suggest about the character of Rahab? How does her bargain with the spies accord with God’s order to destroy the Canaanites?
Terms: Deuteronomistic History

Tues. 10/5 – Read Judges 1-12 + e-handout, “9. The Period of the Judges”

Thurs. 10/7 – Read 1 Samuel 8-12; 16-18; 24-31; 2 Samuel 1-4 + e-handouts “10. The Election of Saul” and 11. “Who was King David?”
Write a summary of the three different versions of how Saul becomes king in chapters 8-12 and explain how they have been tied together literally.
Terms: apology, messiah

Tues. 10/12 - Read: 1 Kings 1-2; 11-16; 21-22; 2 Kings 9-12; 17; 18-25 + e-handout, “12. The Royal Houses of Israel in the Book of Kings”
Write: Explain what the role of prophets in choosing and rejecting kings in the book of Kings indicates about the book’s composition.

PROPHECY
Write: Explain how the “Immanuel oracle” in Isaiah 7 addressed the historical circumstances surrounding the “Syro-Ephraimitic Crisis.”
Terms: Immanuel, Syro-Ephraimitic crisis, Aram

Tues. 10/19 – Fall recess

Thurs. 10/21 – Read Amos and Jeremiah 1; 7; 26 + e-handout, “13. Biblical Prophecy,” pp. 4-21
Write: Who was Micah? Explain why the elders of Jeremiah’s day quoted him.

WISDOM
Write: Explain how the overall view of theodicy in Job contrasts with that of the Prophets.
Terms: Wisdom, theodicy

Write: Point out passages within the reading that are in tension with each other.
Terms: Qoheleth

NOVELLAS
Tues. 11/2 – Read Ruth and Esther
Write: Briefly explain and illustrate the attitude(s) reflected in Ruth and Esther regarding non-Israelites.
Terms: universalism, levirate marriage, Purim

Thurs. 11/4 - Second exam
Tues. 11/9 - Read the Gospel of Mark including the introduction to it in the NOAB
Terms: Synoptics, two source theory, Q
Write: A one-page outline of the contents of Mark

Thurs. 11/11 - Read: Matthew 1-7 and Luke 1-4; 7; 10; 24; Acts 1-2; 8-11; 15 + e-handout, “15.NT Historiography”
Write: Explain how the beginnings of Luke and Acts accord with what we have learned about ancient history writing.
Terms: Samaritan, Gentile

Tues. 11/16 - Read John 1-11 + Intro. to John.
Write a list of the miracles done by Jesus in John. Why does John call them “signs?”

Thurs. 11/23 – Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, Atlanta
No class

Tues. 11/30 – 1 Corinthians
Read 1 Corinthians + e-handout “16.NT Letters,” pp. 25-32
Write a list of the problems in the church at Corinth that you can discern from Paul's responses to them in 1 Corinthians.

Thurs. 12/2 - Romans
Read Romans + e-handout “16.NT Letters,” pp. 33-42
Write

APOCALYPTIC
Tues. 12/7 - Read Revelation 1-4; 17-22 + the book of Daniel + e-handout, “17.Apocalyptic”
Write
Terms: apocalypse, apocalyptic literature

Thurs. 12/9 – Reading day

Fri. 12/10, 8:30 AM – Final exam, 2:00 section
Wed. 12/13, 1:00 PM – Final exam, 9:30 section
Tues. 12/14 Third exam
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-1500 BCE?</td>
<td>Patriarchs and Matriarchs: Abraham &amp; Sarah, Isaac &amp; Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, &amp; Leah</td>
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<tr>
<td>1220 BCE</td>
<td>Exodus from Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000 BCE</td>
<td>Beginning of King David’s reign</td>
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<td>925 BCE</td>
<td>Division of the kingdom, beginning of separate kingdoms of Israel and Judah</td>
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<tr>
<td>721 BCE</td>
<td>Fall of Israel to the Assyrians</td>
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<td>586 BCE</td>
<td>Fall of Judah to Babylonians, beginning of the Exile</td>
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<tr>
<td>539 BCE</td>
<td>Accession of Cyrus, beginning of Persian Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>538 BCE</td>
<td>End of Exile, first wave of captives return</td>
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<tr>
<td>520-515 BCE</td>
<td>Temple rebuilt</td>
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<td>333 BCE</td>
<td>Conquest of Palestine by Alexander, beginning of Hellenistic period</td>
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<td>164 BCE</td>
<td>Climax of Maccabean revolt</td>
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<td>63 BCE</td>
<td>Roman conquest of Judea</td>
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<td>4 BCE</td>
<td>Birth of Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 CE</td>
<td>Crucifixion of Jesus</td>
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