

School of Theology and Ministry
Seattle University
901 12th Avenue, PO Box 222000
Seattle, WA 98122-1090

Fall 2010

Course Information

STMM 593; 3 credits
Thursdays, 5:55-8:45 pm,
HUNT 100

Instructor Information

Erica L. Martin, PhD
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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 3:00-3:45 by
appointment, additionally as needed

Texts and Materials

Required Books:

- *The Jewish Study Bible: featuring The Jewish Publication Society TANAKH Translation* Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler and Michael Fishbane eds.
Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Yair Zakovitch, *“And You Shall Tell Your Son...” The Concept of the Exodus in the Bible*. Magnes Press, 1991.
- Michael Strassfeld, *Jewish Holidays*. Harper Paperbacks (July 15, 1993)
- Yakov Azriel, *In the Shadow of a Burning Bush: Poems on Exodus*. Time Being Books, 2008.

Additional Required Materials

- Reading assignments not found in the required books will be placed on the ANGEL course website for students to download. These readings are clearly marked in the syllabus.
- Supplemental texts will be provided in class by the instructor.

Course Description

This course examines Exodus as a book of the Hebrew Bible, and “Exodus” as a fundamental concept of Jewish identity. We will cover the entire book of Exodus (or *Shemot* “Names” as it is called in Hebrew) and discuss its place in the Hebrew canon, issues in its interpretation and exegetical tradition. Additionally, we will engage the influence of Exodus and Moses traditions on the shaping of Jewish Holidays, liturgy, and group identity. Exploring both ancient Jewish texts and modern Jewish poetry, we will endeavor to discern the shape and scope of the Exodus tradition its background, authority, and importance.

Course Goals and Objectives

- This course aims to facilitate understanding of the Biblical book of Exodus/ *Shemot*, its composition, arrangement and place in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- This course will develop students' knowledge of the history of interpretation of Exodus and Moses traditions.
- This course will expand students' awareness of Jewish biblical interpretation, prayer, ritual and liturgy.

The above course goals and objectives will be achieved through a number of means. Students will read and complete a written reflection on the week's readings before arriving in class. This reflection will be posted in a Discussion Forum on the class ANGEL website. Students will read and respond to one another's posts. The instructor will often deliver short lectures providing background information and focusing the group on the subject at hand. Students will work in both small and large groups discussing questions raised by the readings and lectures. Often, the class will engage in experiential components designed to introduce students to Jewish prayer and liturgy.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will improve in their ability to read scriptural texts critically.

Assessment of Learning Outcome number 1 will be conducted on the basis of the students' critical interaction with scriptural texts in the course of class sessions and the student's use of scriptural texts in the Final Paper.

2. Students will increase in awareness of their own social location/ assumptions/ hermeneutics as they engage the text in their own lives, their communities, and the larger world.

Assessment of Learning Outcome number 2 will be conducted on the basis of the student's weekly Reflection Assignments and ability to articulate an awareness of their own social location/ assumptions/ hermeneutics as they engage texts in the Final Paper.

Course Requirements

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Failure to attend does not exempt students from assignment deadlines, and may result in a lower grade. If an absence is unavoidable, advance notification is essential to arrange for an alternative route to make up the course material. In the case of an emergency which causes an absence, contact the instructor as early as possible. Non-attendance will negatively affect the student's Class Participation score, discussed below.

Reading Assignments

The syllabus lists reading assignments pertinent to the week's topic. Readings are taken from the Required Books and a small number of pdf files found on the class ANGEL site.

Reflection Assignments

Each week students will submit a SHORT (1-2 page) Reflection Assignment, in which you critically and thoughtfully engage the week's assigned readings. This assignment is designed to provide an opportunity for students to think deeply about the assigned readings before class begins and arrive prepared to engage in lively and critical discussion of the materials. Students will choose one of the questions regarding the week's materials posted on the Discussion Forum and write a 1-2 page (roughly 400-500 word) response, to be posted by Friday evening. Students will then read the posts of the other class members and respond substantively to at least two of them by Sunday evening.

These assignments will be graded on a standard scale: an on-time assignment (both post and minimum of two responses submitted by the deadlines above) receives 10 points. A late assignment receives 5 points. A missed assignment receives 0 points.

Final Paper

The Final Paper is due in class on **November 22**. This paper is to be 8-10 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, in a 12 point Times New Roman font with standard margins, notated in Chicago Manual style (Turabian). Each student will be asked to speak or write to the class regarding the topic and findings of their paper. The specifics of the Final Paper will be discussed in class. The final paper will be graded according to the following criteria: a. on-time submission; b. adherence to style guidelines (including length, format and notation); c. conformity with the goals of the assignment as laid out in the paper assignment sheet and in class; d. use of materials, concepts and strategies covered in the class; e. overall quality of written work (strong thesis statement, clear structure of paper body, clear delivery of ideas and information, conclusion, etc.)

Class Participation

Having completed the weekly reading and writing assignment, please come to class prepared to engage in active and thoughtful discussion of the week's materials.

Each week I ask that you bring the following materials with you to class:

1. The Jewish Study Bible (see Required Books).
2. The book containing required reading due that class session (unless the reading is a pdf on the ANGEL site, you will not be required to print these).
3. Often I will ask you to print short *handouts* off of the ANGEL website and bring them to class.

Class participation is evaluated not only on its quantity but also its quality. In addition to attendance at each class session, arrival with the proper materials, and focused engagement in small and large group class discussion, it is essential that each individual is treated respectfully and their ideas and comments civilly considered. Disagreement is unavoidable, and discussion of disagreement is beneficial, but must always be conducted with the utmost care and consideration. This applies both to online and in-class discussion.

Grading Weight and Scale

Reflection Assignments	40% of final grade
Final Paper	40% of final grade
Class Participation	20% of final grade

Seattle University uses the following system of grading to indicate the level of individual student achievement. Each letter grade has a quality point value assigned for the grade achieved. Graduate students are expected to maintain a B (3.0) average. The quality point value is assigned to each letter grade as follows:

A	4.0 Superior Performance
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0 Good Performance
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0 Minimal Performance in courses applicable to graduate degree (<i>STM students must repeat STMM 553 and certain required courses.</i>)
C-	1.7 Courses graded C- or below will not count toward graduate degree or certificate
D+	1.3
D	1.0 Poor Performance
D-	0.7
F	0.0 Failing

Policies

Attendance: Please refer to “Course Requirements,” above.

Deadlines: Late work will be penalized unless explicit arrangements have been made between student and instructor.

Academic Honesty: The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook.

Disability: If you have, or think you have, a disability (including an “invisible disability” such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments:

Sept. 27 Class Topic: Introductions; Review of Syllabus; Sukkot

Reading Assignment:

- None

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Sukkot Blessings/ Shehechyanu* [ANGEL]

Oct. 4 Class Topic: Exodus and its Place in the Hebrew Bible

Reading Assignment:

- *Shemot*, Exodus 1:1-6:1
- Jewish Holidays p. 1-4; 125-148
- Azriel p. 17-48

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Shma; Mi SheBerach* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, in which you critically and thoughtfully engage the week's assigned readings. Choose one of the questions posted on the Discussion Forum and write a 1-2 page (roughly 400-500 word) response, to be posted by Friday evening. Read other class members' posts and respond substantively to at least two of them.

Oct. 11 Class Topic: Jewish Biblical Interpretation

Reading Assignment:

- *Va'era*, Exodus 6:2-9:35
- Zakovitch ch. 1 (and Introduction)
- Azriel p. 49-52

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Barchu* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

Oct. 18 Class Topic: Passover

Reading Assignment:

- *Bo*, Exodus 10:1-13:16
- Jewish Holidays p. 5-84
- Azriel p. 53-63

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Haggadah* [in class]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

Oct. 25 Class Topic: Inner-Biblical Exegesis; Miriam

Reading Assignment:

- *Be-shallah*, Exodus 13:17-17:16
- Zakovich ch. 2
- Azriel p. 64-74

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Mi Chamocha* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

Nov. 1 Class Topic: Shabbat

Reading Assignment:

- *Yitro*, Exodus 18:1-20:23
- Excerpt from Judith Shulevitz, *The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time*. Random House, 2010. [ANGEL]
- Azriel p. 75-94

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Lecha Dodi* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

Nov. 8 Class Topic: Temple and Purity

Reading Assignment:

- *Mishpatim*, Exodus 21:1-24:18 and *Terumah*, Exodus 25:1-27:19
- Excerpt from Marc Zvi Brettler, *How to Read the Bible*. Oxford University Press, 2005. [ANGEL]
- Azriel p. 95-100

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Havdalah* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

Nov. 15 Class Topic: The Exodus Myth

Readings Assignment:

- *Tetsavveh*, Exodus 27:20-30:10 and *Ki Tissa*, Exodus 30:11-34:35
- Zakovitch ch. 3
- Azriel p. 101-110

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Kol Nidre/ Ashamnu* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

Nov. 22 Class Topic: Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur

Reading Assignment:

- *Vayachel*, Exodus 35:1-38:20
- Jewish Holidays p. 85-124

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Unetanneh Tokef* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

***** Final Papers Due *****

Nov. 29 Class Topic: Synthesis and Conclusion

Reading Assignment:

- *Pekudei*, Exodus 38:21-40:38
- Azriel p. 111-112

Jewish Prayers/Blessings:

- *Kaddish* [ANGEL]

Writing Assignment: Reflection Assignment, see details listed under Sept 27.

Class schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.