

Ancient Israel
Verbrugghe
Spring 2013

516:302
Armitage 225
MWF 11:15 AM – 12:10 PM

Syllabus

This course traces the history of Ancient Israel from its biblical beginnings (before 1200 BC) to the destruction of the Second Temple in AD 70 and the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt (AD 132–136). It concentrates on what the ancient sources have to tell us what happened and how the archaeological data help in assessing the accuracy of the ancient sources. In-class time will be spent offering a rational and reasoned judgment on the forces at work in the history of ancient Israel.

My home page is <http://crab.rutgers.edu/~verbrugg/>, which under courses for 516:302 has this syllabus and the URL to Sakai, given here: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>. At Sakai Rutgers, when you log in using your Rutgers user name and password, our course should appear along with any other courses you are enrolled in that also use Sakai. Click on our course (Ancient Israel 50:516:302:01 Sp 13). Here also you will find a copy of our syllabus as both an html file and a pdf file. Under resources, there are copies of Josephus' *Jewish War* and of Philo's *On Creation* as well as some Dead Sea Scroll documents.

My office is 200 in 429 Cooper; my office phone number is 225-6075; my internet e-mail address is Verbrugg@camden.rutgers.edu (please, put “Ancient Israel” in the heading to alert me). I will be available for questions or consultation each class day (MWF) during Office Hours from 7:15 to 8:45 AM. If these times are not convenient, arrangements can be made for a mutually agreed upon time for meeting.

Required Readings Available at the Bookstore:

Ancient Israel, edited by H. Shanks, 3rd ed. (ISBN 978-1-935-40-5) = Shanks
The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English, Geza Vermes, Revised edition (ISBN 978-0-141-19731-9)
The Jewish War Josephus ISBN 9780140444209 (available in a different translation also over the internet – <http://www.ccel.org/j/josephus/works/war-1.htm> and on Sakai).

Required Readings Available on Room Reserve at the Library

Mishnah, edited by Jacob Neusner, BM497.5E5N48 1988
Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, edited by Charlesworth, vols. 1 & 2, Alex BS1830.A3 1983, v.1 & v. 2

Other Required Readings

The Bible, both Jewish and Christian sacred literature (Tanach – what Christians call the Old Testament, Apocrypha, and New Testament): in whatever translation you like, but usually the more modern the translation, the easier to read and understand. There are a number of translations available over the internet, including the *Revised Standard*.

A Selection from Philo *On Creation*. (available over the internet and on Sakai)

Reference works that may be of help and interest:

Dar Bahat, *The Illustrated Atlas of Jerusalem* Ref G2239.J4B34 1990

Atlas of the Bible REF BS 630.R6 1985

Anchor Bible Dictionary Ref BS440.A54 1992

Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible REF BS440.R44 2000

Dictionary of the Bible REF BS440B73 1996

Mercer Dictionary of the Bible, ed. Watson E. Mills REF BS440.M429.1990

For individual books of the Bible, the Anchor series is by far the best, although other series, even those most assuredly written for sectarian interest, may contain matters of general interest and accuracy.

Helmut Koestner, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 2 vols. (1982) BS2410.K613 1982

Basis for the Determination of Final Grade:

There will be eight (8) quizzes, two (2) hourly examinations, a final examination, and a 3-5 page paper. There are **NO** make-up quizzes or examinations. This policy is easily VITIATED (If you don't know what *vitiated* means, please look it up in the dictionary.). If you are going to have to miss a quiz or examination when scheduled because of absolutely unavoidable circumstances, courtesy and I demand that you notify me beforehand or in an unforeseen and unforeseeable situation as soon as possible afterwards (NOT just the next time you happen to be in class) either in person, by phone, or by e-mail so that arrangements can be made. A number grade will be given for each quiz and examination. The average of the eight quizzes will count for 25% of the final grade, the average of the two hourly examinations will count 30% of the final grade, the paper will count 10% of the final grade, and the final examination will count 35%. The resulting figure will have the following letter grade correspondence:

100 – 90	= A
89 – 80	= B
79 – 70	= C
69 – 60	= D
59 – 0	= F

Class Policies:

Please feel free to use whatever means you want to help you in class: laptops for note-taking, recordings of lectures, or just plain note taking. The Power Point presentations in class are NOT available on Sakai.

Your in-class quizzes and in-class essays are to be your own work exclusively. Notes or prewritten work to be copied during in-class quizzes and in-class essays are not allowed. During in-class quizzes and essays, you should not use your phone or computer, nor should you disrupt the class by leaving and returning to your seat. Please, take care of bathroom necessities before or after class.

I expect the reading assignments to be done for the class day they are assigned. A good rule of thumb is that for every hour of class, two hours of preparation are necessary.

Although no grade is given for class attendance or participation, I expect everyone to attend and participate in class. Such attendance and participation should show good results on the quizzes and essay examinations

Schedule of meetings, assignments, and examinations

Jan. 23 (1 class)	Introduction to the Course
Jan. 25, 28, 30,	The Mythic Past: Literature, History and Archaeology Read <i>Genesis</i> , <i>Exodus</i> 1–22; <i>Deuteronomy</i> 32.48–34.12; <i>Josuah</i> ; and <i>Judges</i>

Feb. 1, 4, 6, 8 (7 classes)	Shanks 1–84
Jan. 28	<u>Last Day to DROP course without \$5.00 fee and without a grade of "W"</u>
Jan. 30	<u>Quiz</u> 1 on <i>Genesis, Exodus, and Deuteronomy</i> readings
Feb. 4	<u>Quiz</u> 2 on <i>Joshua and Judges</i>
Feb. 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, Mar. 1 (9 classes)	The Kingdom of Israel to the Destruction of the First Temple Read <i>Samuel 1 & 2; Kings 1 & 2; Isaiah 6.1–7.25, 36.1–39.8; Jeremiah 1.1–1.19, 19.1–20.18, 37.11–39.14</i> Shanks 85–208
Feb. 13	<u>Quiz</u> 3 on <i>Samuel 1 & 2</i>
Feb. 18	<u>First Hourly Examination</u>
Feb. 23	PURIM begins at Sunset
Feb. 25	<u>Quiz</u> 4 on <i>Kings 1 & 2</i> and the selections from <i>Isaiah</i> and <i>Jeremiah</i>
Mar. 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15 (6 classes)	Israel—Captive Read <i>Nehemiah; Ezra; Isaiah 43.1–45.25; Ezekiel 1.1–3.15, 37.1–37.14, 40.1–48.35</i> Shanks 209–235
Mar. 6 Week of Mar. 16-24	<u>Quiz</u> 5 on <i>Nehemiah, Ezra</i> , and the selections from <i>Isaiah</i> and <i>Ezekiel</i> SPRING BREAK
Mar. 25, 27, 29, Apr. 1, 3, 5 (6 classes)	Israel—Independent Read <i>Maccabees 1 & 2; Daniel; Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English</i> : pp. 1–90, 1QS (Community Rule) pp. 97–117, MMT=4Q394–9, pp. 221–229, 4Q521 pp. 412–413, 4Q174 pp. 525–6; <i>Josephus, Books 1 and 2</i> Shanks 237–285
Mar. 25	PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNSET
Mar. 29	GOOD FRIDAY
Apr. 1	<u>Quiz</u> 6 on <i>Maccabees, Daniel, Dead Sea Scrolls</i> selections, and <i>Josephus</i> readings
Apr. 5	<u>Second Hourly Examination</u>
Apr. 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24 (8 Classes)	Israel—Captive and Destroyed Read <i>Josephus, Books 5 and 6</i> . Shanks 287–323
Apr. 9	<u>Last day to drop a course with a "W" grade and \$5.00 fee</u>
Apr. 10	<u>Quiz</u> 7 on the readings from <i>Josephus</i>
Apr. 26, 29, May 1, 3, 6 (5 classes)	Israel—Survival Read <i>Mark; 1 Corinthians; Rosh Hashshanah 2.9</i> and all of <i>Abot (Avot)</i> from the <i>Mishnah; Philo, Selection on Creation</i> .
Apr. 29	<u>Quiz</u> 8 on readings from <i>Mark, 1 Corinthians, Mishnah</i> and <i>Philo</i>
May 3	<u>Paper Due</u>
May 7–8	Reading period
May 10, Friday, 9:00 A.M.	<u>Final Examination</u>