

**ARCH/RELB 440 THE BOOK OF JUDGES
ENGL 445 BIBLICAL LITERATURE
JUDGES AND JESUS STUDY TOUR
JULY 2017**

Instructors

Douglas R. Clark, PhD
Professor of Archaeology and Hebrew Bible, La Sierra University
dclark@lasierra.edu

Kendra Haloviak Valentine, PhD
Professor of New Testament Studies, La Sierra University
khalovia@lasierra.edu

Beverly Beem, PhD
Professor of English, Walla Walla University
Beverly.beem@wallawalla.edu

Course Description

An interdisciplinary approach to the Book of Judges, designed for an on-site study of the geographical regions and archaeological sites connected with the biblical text and its ancient Near Eastern contexts. The course is designed to model various scholarly methods in the study of a biblical text, including historical, literary, theological, archaeological, and anthropological approaches.

Prerequisite: At least one class in literature and one in religion (preferably biblical studies), or permission of the instructor.

ENGL 445 Biblical Literature (4): An introduction to the reading of the Bible from the standpoint of a literary critic, with consideration of the influence of the Bible on literature. Required for Seventh-day Adventist Secondary Teacher Credential.

Prerequisites: ENGL 113 or ENGL 124

Additional Requirements: 4 units at the 200-level in English

Textbooks

Bible. NRSV or other recent, major translation.

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books.

King, Philip and Stager, Lawrence. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox.

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*. Anchor/Doubleday.

Trible, Phyllis. *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality*. Minneapolis: Fortress.

Trible, Phyllis. *Texts of Terror*. Minneapolis: Fortress.

Yee, Gale. *Judges and Method*. Minneapolis: Fortress.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who take this course will:

- understand the Book of Judges and the characters portrayed in this story collection
- understand the varied contexts (geographical, social, historical, cultural, etc.) in which the stories of the Judges were born and nurtured
- understand the various disciplines used to approach a biblical narrative (biblical studies, theological analysis, literary analysis, archaeological and anthropological analysis, historical analysis, and devotional approaches)
- develop a holistic sense about this story in its context in biblical history

Course Requirements

- Attendance and participation in all study tour activities and classes
- Study Tour Journal
- Daily readings, assignments, and activities, as assigned
- Report on archaeological or geographical sites, as assigned
- Research Project, due two weeks after the study tour ends

Grades

Grades are based on an accumulation of points. Letter grades are assigned using the following scale as a general guideline. We reserve the right to be more generous:

A = 94-100%	B+ = 88-89%	C+ = 78-79%	D+ = 68-69%
A- = 90-93%	B = 84-87%	C = 74-77%	D = 64-67%
	B- = 80-83%	C- = 70-73%	D- = 60-63%

Logistics

Technical Equipment—All students are required to have the following:

- A computer with wireless
- A campus email account
- BLACKBOARD
- A Dropbox account

Assignments Given:

Specific assignments will be available in BLACKBOARD. Additional information for daily assignments, site reports, and the research project will be available in the desktop Dropbox.

Assignments Submitted:

Assignments will be submitted to the BLACKBOARD dropbox folder by the date and time due.

Local Travel Arrangements:

Local travel logistics, including time of departure, will be announced verbally and in email announcements. Students are to be at the place of departure ten minutes before the departure time, so that we can be loaded on the bus and depart on time.

Textbooks: An e-reader is highly recommended to carry textbooks and any other reading material.

Itinerary and Course Assignments

The first few days will be spent in studying the structure, contexts, and themes in the Book of Judges. This overview will help you put the stories and passages we study in their proper place in the Book. The sites we visit are not necessarily in the chronological order of the book, but are clustered according to the geographical order of a day's journey. The itinerary is attached along with a reference to the stories connected with the site. There may be some variation on the days scheduled. Be alert to announcements of changes in times and schedules. Readings will be assigned to enhance the understanding of the sites and the texts.

Site Reports

Students will be asked to research specific sites and present an oral report to tour members on how to read each site, how it relates to the Biblical text, and how the study of the site has helped us to understand the material and cultural world of the ancient Near East. Reference material for the sites will be available in the Dropbox. Notes for the oral reports are to be submitted to the instructors in BLACKBOARD.

Study Tour Journal

Students are asked to keep a Study Tour Journal, incorporating personal responses to the experience of travelling in a different culture as well as substantive material in the course of study. Journal material can include encounters with and observations of people, sites and sights, new ideas, new understandings of life as it is lived in the Middle East now and life as it was lived in the Iron Age, the time of the Judges. It is possible to keep course and lecture notes here, but they may also be kept elsewhere. The purpose of this journal is to record your experience of travel and to put in written form what you are seeing, hearing, tasting, feeling, and smelling during this month of time travel. You may keep this journal in electronic format, but be sure to carry a journal with you to capture notes and observations as they come. The professors will ask to see your journal(s) at least twice during the study tour, at the mid-point and at the end.

Research Project

Students are asked to select some aspect of the Book of Judges and its setting for an extended research project. In addition to the textbooks, resources are available in Dropbox files and in the ACOR library, as well as online sources. Choose your topic in consultation with the

professors during the first week of the study tour. Preliminary research and writing need to be done during the time of the study tour. The final paper can be submitted up to two weeks after the close of the study tour. The paper is to be 5-7 pages in length with a minimum of 10 bibliographic sources and written in correct bibliographic and manuscript style in the student's choice of Chicago, MLA, or APA. This Report is in lieu of the final exam.

Academic Integrity

Scholarly activity is marked by honesty, fairness and rigor. A scholar does not take credit for the work of others, does not take unfair advantage of others and does not perform acts which frustrate the scholarly efforts of others. A scholar does not tolerate dishonesty in others. The violation of any of these principles is academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes the giving, taking, or presenting of information or material by a student with the intent of unethically or fraudulently aiding oneself or another person on any work which is to be considered in the determination of a grade or the completion of academic requirements. More specific definitions are set out in the Academic Integrity Policy in the University Bulletin. The students and faculty of La Sierra University believe that the willingness of students to affirm and adhere to the essential values of honesty and integrity in all their academic endeavors is exemplified in the Academic Integrity statement:

I will act with integrity and responsibility in my activities as a La Sierra University student or faculty member. I will not participate in violations of academic integrity, including plagiarism, cheating, or fabricating information. I will not stand by when others do these things. I will follow the academic integrity policy.

The Academic Integrity Policy applies to this and every course at La Sierra University. Your signature on a test or assignment means that you have neither given nor received unauthorized aid and represents your commitment to honorable and trustworthy behavior that is in the spirit of academic integrity. It is permissible for you to share class notes and study in groups. Depending on the severity of the case, there is a range of consequences for academic dishonesty ranging from a lower grade on an assignment through expulsion from the University.

[Adapted to LSU from Rich Cooper, North Carolina State University]

If you want to learn more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit the following websites:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

<http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm>

See also the description of plagiarism and academic integrity by La Sierra University attached to the syllabus.

Welcome to the Course

The Book of Judges. That name may bring to mind stories of the Israelite Wild West—stories of Jael and her tent peg; Jephthah and his daughter; Gideon and the fleece, and Samson the county fair bell-ringer. Or it may just evoke a general fog of strange names and places and practices and gods which swirl together in the Israel that existed before David.

We will find in it most genres of biblical literature: story, poetry, saga, chronicle, political statement, fable, proverb, riddle, and history, and we will study these literary works in the historical context of the establishment of Israel. The interdisciplinary approaches we bring to the text will help us see these stories cohere as a carefully structured literary text illuminating the historical reality of this period in the life of ancient Israel.

Whatever your background with the book, your experience with the land and the literature will give you new insights into God's working in history and in the lives of the most unlikely of heroes.