HEBREW BIBLE

Spring 2017

How did Sara react when Abraham decided to sacrifice Isaac?
Does God have a sense of humor?
Did David really slay Goliath?
Exactly what was Ruth doing when she “uncovered” Boaz’s feet?
Does God have a wife?

Prepare to be surprised by what’s actually inside the most influential document of Western civilization:

PHIL 3510.001
BLB 060 / Tu-Th, 12:30-1:50 PM

The Hebrew Bible or Hebrew Scriptures (known to Christians as the Old Testament) is one of the foundational books of both western literature and world culture, and serves as the basis for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In this course, we will survey the biblical literature, acquaint students with the critical methods for the study of the Bible, situate the Bible within the writings and culture of the ancient Near East, and explore the artistic and religious heritage of ancient Israel. We will deal with questions of translation, prose, poetry, law, structure, and meaning – what the biblical text meant to its ancient readers, and what meanings it has today - but also with historical, sociological, and archaeological issues useful to the reader’s fuller understanding. All texts will be in English translation.

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Geoffrey Dennis M.HL has contributed over twenty entries to the Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception (DeGruyter, 2010-2015), as well as having published articles on biblical interpretation in major journals.