

## PROSPECTUS

JWST 70970/80970/90970

### Refiguring Genesis: Interpreting the Jacob Cycle in Antiquity and the Present

May 23-27, 2022

**Instructor:** Judith H. Newman  
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**Prerequisites:** Some acquaintance with the Bible and its scholarly study is desirable but not necessary.

**Description of Content:** The Book of Genesis is a foundational text for Christianity and Judaism not only for its accounts of creation and the flood but for the divine promise made to Israel's ancestors, a theme that threads its way through the Pentateuch and far beyond. While the ancestor Abraham has received a lot of attention, others play an important role in Israel's story. The first part of the course will focus on a close reading of stories about ancestor Jacob and his family members, including his mother Rebekah and daughter Dinah (Gen 25-35), assessing different modern methods for interpretation. The second part of the course will consider reinterpretations of these figures in later literature to reveal both the vitality of scripture and its influence on the imaginations of early interpreters.

#### Class Procedures:

Short lectures, discussions, student presentations

#### Requirements:

MA/MDiv students:

1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. Two short response papers
3. One in-class presentation
4. Term paper (10-15pages)

Doctoral students:

- 1-3. are the same as above.
4. Term paper of 20-25 pages and to the degree possible, this should include consideration of the original languages.

**Texts:** (prices quoted from Amazon)

1. A Bible that includes the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical writings and the New Testament, preferably the NRSV, RSV, or New Jerusalem translation. *HarperCollins Study Bible* or **\*\*New Oxford Annotated NRSV with Apocrypha** are recommended. *The Oxford Jewish Study Bible* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. is another fine possibility, though it would need to be supplemented by a New Testament and Apocrypha.

**\*\*** (Does TCU library have this available online?) **\*\***

2. Ronald Hendel, ed., *Reading Genesis: Ten Methods* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) (no need to purchase because it is also available online through the TCU library).
3. James Charlesworth, ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha* (two volume set) \$43.79
  - ISBN-13 : 978-1598564891
4. Geza Vermes, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* 7<sup>th</sup> edition \$11.50
  - ISBN-13 : 978-0141197319

(Other assigned essays will be made available on the online course portal.)

**Grading Procedures:**

- Class Participation: 30%
- Response Papers: 30%
- Class Presentation: 10%
- Research Paper: 30%

**All prospectuses must be submitted as Word documents in electronic form to Kim Starkey at [k.j.starkey@tcu.edu](mailto:k.j.starkey@tcu.edu).**