NEJS 110b Syllabus Fall 2015

Déjà lu: Parallel Passages in the Hebrew Bible

Instructor: Bronson Brown-deVost
Lown 311 - Office Hours: Monday 3–5 and by appointment

Course Description

The Hebrew Bible contains a substantial amount of parallel passages—passages which contain the same, or nearly the same, text. While the direction of textual transmission from one passage to another is not always clear, the differences between parallel texts, whether small or large, can often reveal reactions to contemporary events, along with changing concerns, beliefs, and ideals. The book of Chronicles presents a particularly rich source of literary parallels, sharing great amounts of narrative with Samuel-Kings, and also containing parallels with genealogies in Genesis, hymns found in Psalms, and even prophetic material. We will read selections from the Hebrew Bible (primarily from Chronicles) along with their parallels in order to better understand this phenomenon.

Course Objectives

By examining parallel texts in the Hebrew Bible we will gain greater insight into:

- modern methods of textual criticism
- ancient conceptions of literary sources
- how sources were reformulated and reworked
- how the language of sources was updated
- ancient and modern attitudes concerning source attribution and citation
- rereading of texts

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation (20%): Each student will be required to read Hebrew text in class and to contribute to class discussion.
2. Each student will prepare a 15 minute presentation (40%) related in some way to parallel passages in the Hebrew Bible. This presentation will then be turned into a final paper (40%). Students will meet with me in the first week of October to discuss and decide upon a topic for their paper. By the first week in November, they will send me an introductory and a closing paragraph for the presentation along with an outline and a bibliography. The papers will all be presented some time before the Thanksgiving break; students will be graded on both the content and the delivery of their paper. The paper will then be reworked into a form more suitable for print, and perhaps also address some of the comments received from me and the other students. The final paper will be due on the final day of class.
3. Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

Required Texts

1. Adrian Schenker, *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1998.

Recommended Texts

1. A. Graeme Auld, *Kings without Privilege: David and Moses in the Story of the Bible's Kings*, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1994.
2. Sara Japhet, *I and II Chronicles: A Commentary*, The Old Testament Library, Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993.
3. Isaac Kalimi, *The Reshaping Of Ancient Israelite History In Chronicles*, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2005.
4. Steven L. McKenzie, *The Chronicler's Use of the Deuteronomistic History*, Harvard Semitic Monographs 33, Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1985.
5. Raymond F. Person, *The Deuteronomic History and the Book of Chronicles: Scribal Works in an Oral World,* Ancient Israel and its Literature 6, Atlanta: SBL, 2010.

Other Readings will be available online via Latte or on reserve at the library. Students should also consult the Anchor Bible (Gary Knoppers) and Hermeneia (Ralph Klein) commentaries.

Policies

Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that it is not necessarily possible to provide accommodations retroactively.

Absences: Regular attendance will be necessary for successful progress through this course. Thus, students will be afforded only two absences for legitimate, but undocumented, reasons. In the event of an absence, the student is responsible for

arranging a time during office hours to catch up on the missed class material. Excused absences may be granted at the discretion of the instructor, all reasonable documented absences will be respected, though special arrangements will need to be made in the event of any extended leave from the course.

Passes: Each student will be afforded two in class passes. This means that the student may come to class but will not be required to participate, nor will that class be counted towards the class participation grade.

Academic Integrity: You will be expected to abide by the terms of academic integrity outlined in Section 4 of the Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (available at http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/sdc/rr/). This means that you are expected to cite the sources for all work that is not your own original contribution to scholarship. If you have questions about plagiarism or academic standards of originality, please see me. Violations of the University standards will be referred to the Office of Student Development and Conduct and could result in failure of the course.

Course Structure

The class units will be organized on the Latte website. I will update the unit dates as we work through the course so that we will be able to take as much time as necessary to cover each one. Each unit consists of one or more primary texts and their parallel(s) along with several secondary readings. Students should be prepared to read each primary text and its parallel(s) at the start of the unit and should work through the secondary readings as quickly as possible in order to better engage in discussions related to the primary texts.

Course Units

Unit 1: Introduction to Textual Criticism

I Samuel 2:8 = Psalm 113:7–8

2 Samuel 22 = Psalm 18

Unit 2: Parallel Liturgies

1 Chronicles 16 = Psalm 105:1–15, 96:1–13, 107:1, 106:47–48

also see: 8 = Isa 12:4; 25 = Psalm 48:2; 29 = Psalm 29:2;

32= Psalm 98:7

Unit 3: Parallel Rituals

2 Chronicles 35 = 2 Kings 23:21–28

Unit 4: Parallel Genealogies

1 Chronicles 1–2 = Genesis 10:2–8, 13–18, 22–29; 25:12–16, 1–4; 36:10–14,

20–28, 31–43; 35:23–26; 38:7; Ruth 4:18–22;

Matthew 1:3–6; Luke 3:31–33

Unit 5: Parallel Prophecies

2 Chronicles 36 = Jeremiah 52 = Jeremiah 39:1-10 = 2 Kings 24:18-25 =

(2 Chronicles 36:22-23 = Ezra 1:1-2); See also Daniel 9;

Zechariah 7; Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10

Unit 6: Parallel Histories

1 Chronicles 21 = 2 Samuel 24

1 Chronicles 29– 2 Chronicles 1 = 1 Kings 1–5:15

2 Chronicles 6–9 = 1 Kings 8:12–11:43

2 Chronicles 33 = 1 Kings 21