LITR 280: World Literature: The Bible as Literature in the Land of Israel

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Description: This course will study key passages in the Hebrew Bible (Tanach) and the Christian New Testament in relation to the Biblical idea of the Land of the Israel and of the holiness of Jerusalem. There will be special emphasis on the importance of Jerusalem in both the Hebrew and Christian Bible. In studying key Biblical stories from Genesis, Exodus Samuel 1 and 2, the four Gospels and the book of Acts as well the poetry of the psalms and the prophets we will also consider both the Jewish and Christian religious-cultural sense of sacred places and sacred time. There will be special days dedicated to the experiential study of Jewish Sabbath observance and Christian observance of Sunday as the day of the Lord.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will practice and develop reading and analytical skills appropriate to the study of literature.
2. Students will improve their writing skills through practice.
3. Students will learn the practice of reading literary texts within their historical, cultural and religious contexts.
4. Students will increase their understanding of the complex relationship of literature to human experience

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Hebrew and Christian: Bible: Selections from Genesis, Exodus. Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Psalms, the four Gospels, Acts

Josephus Flavius: The Jewish War

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

6 Reading assignments (Short answers and paragraph-length questions on readings: 2 should be completed before the trip) 30% of grade)

Two two page papers: one on a character, one on a theme, one (20% of grade)

Cultural reflections (6): completed on Taskstream e-portofolio: pre-trip or pre-experience considerations, account of personal experience during cultural visit, post-experience reflections (30%)

Presentations during Shabbat and Sunday - - - in Jerusalem: two presentations ( 1939) 20%

Grading Scale: A= 93-100; A-= 90-92  B+=87-89 ; B=83-86; B-=80-82 C+=77=79;  C=73-7 C-=70-72; D+=67-69 D=60-65; F=59 and below

Loyola Policy Statement on Academic Integrity:

“The basic commitment of a university is to search for and to communicate the truth as it is honestly perceived.
The university could not accomplish its purpose in the absence of this demanding standard. To the extent that this standard is respected, a genuine learning community can exist. Students of this university are called upon to know, to respect, and to practice this standard of personal honesty.” For complete information on Loyola University Chicago policies on plagiarism and Academic Integrity please refer to: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml