LITR 280: World Literature: The Literature of the Bible in the Land of Israel
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Description: The course focuses on studying the Hebrew Bible and The New Testament from a literary perspective. Students will study key passages in the Hebrew Bible (Tanach) and the New Testament in relation to the Biblical idea of the Land of Israel and the Holiness of Jerusalem - as reflected in the lives of David and Jesus. Students will learn about both the Jewish and Christian religious and cultural sense of holy places and sacred time. The course program will include a special Jewish Sabbath experience program in which our academic program is integrated.

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 READINGS

_Tanach (Hebrew Bible)_

Genesis: 1-4  
Genesis: 18-22  
Genesis: 37-End  
Exodus: 1-6  
1 Samuel and 2 Samuel: All Chapters (Story of David)  
Amos: Chapters 2-3  
Isaiah: Chap 9, Chap 25, Chap 30, Chap 40, Chap 52, Chaps 60, 61, 63  
Ezekiel: Chap 37  
Jeremiah: Chaps 1-5  
Lamentations (of Jeremiah): All Chapters  
Psalms: From Jewish and Christian Liturgy

_New Testament: (Christian New Covenant)_

Acts: 21-End (Paul in Jerusalem and his Arrest and Trial)

_Special Readings Posted on Sakai:_

Josephus from "Jewish Antiquities" (Posted on Sakai)  
   Chapters 1-5: Beginnings, Patriarchs, Joseph, Moses, Exodus  
   Chapters 8-9: Saul and David  
   Chapters 13-14: Fall of the First Temple, Exile and Return  
   Chapters 18-19: The Time of Jesus  

Excerpts also from Josephus "The Jewish War" about the Fall of Jerusalem and the Fall of Masada.

_The Jewish Gospel of John_ (by Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg): Chapters 1-3, Chapters 9 and 10, Chapters 15-21
COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

Pre-Trip Quizzes based on Reading of Josephus Chapters, Basic Hebrew Lesson and Sabbath (10%)

Class Presentations for Jewish Sabbath Experience ("Davar Torah") and Catholic Christmas/Easter Homilies based on Passages in the Gospels: 20%

In-class quizzes (3) in Relation to the Following Excursions: 20%
   1. Qumran/Dead Sea/Eretz Bereisheit
   2. Jewish Old City Tour, Davidson Center and City of David Tour
   3. Nazareth Trip

Two Papers: 30%
   1. First Paper: On a Key Character: Due Mid-Program
   2. Second Paper: On a Theme such as “David or Jesus in Jerusalem” or “Comparison/Contrast of Two Characters.” Due by End of Program.

Suggested Characters: Joseph, Saul, David, Jeremiah, Jesus, John the Baptist, Mary, Mary Magdalen, Paul

Suggested Themes: Conflicts in the Bible; The Suffering of the Main Characters; Isaiah's Inspiration as Reflected in the Gospels; David and Jesus as Kings; Miracles in Exodus and in the Gospels; Miriam and Mary

Cultural reflections (4) - with Photos and Text: 20%
   Each is a 500-word exploration of the cultural and religious contexts in Jerusalem. Each should contain specific accounts of observations and personal experiences and reactions documented by personal photographs or images found online (at least 5 images). Models and samples will be posted.

1. My Favorite First Week Excursion: Dead Sea and Masada, Old City and Davidson Center, City of David
2. Shabbat Experience
3. Jesus in Nazareth in the Galilee Area
4. Post-Trip Reflection - Personal Reflections with Photos

Grading Scale: A= 93-100; A-= 90-92; B+=87-89; B=83-86; B-=80-82; C+=77-79; C=73-71; 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
Itinerary and Schedule of classes: Excursions and Site Visits; Subjects of Discussion; Quiz Dates

Tuesday, December 31:
All-Day Excursion South to Judean Desert Area: Qumran, Dead Sea and Bedouin Villages

Wednesday, January 1:
Quiz on Excursion South
Class Discussion of Jerusalem's Holiness to Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Genesis: 18-22/Gospel of John: Chapter 18/Quran 37
Site Visit to Jewish Quarter of Old City and Davidson Archeological Center
Group dinner at Hummus Bar in Jerusalem

Thursday, January 2:
Quiz on Old City Visit
Class Discussion of First Paper on a Character: Due Next Tuesday
Class Discussion of Josephus Chapters 8-9; Reading of Samuel 1: Saul and David, David and Goliath, Saul vs David
Site Visit to City of David

Friday, January 3:
Shabbat Experience Part One:
Site Visit to Mahane Yehudah Market,
Shabbat Walk to Kotel (Western Wall)
Teaching/Explanatory Jewish Sabbath Dinner at Lev Yerushalayim Hotel

Saturday, January 4:
Shabbat Experience Part Two:
Optional Morning Visit to Jerusalem Great Synagogue
Afternoon Student Davar Torah Presentations on Selected Parashot from Bereisheis/Genesis and Shmos/Exodus
Evening Free Time in Downtown Jerusalem

Sunday, January 5:
Students' Classroom Catholic Christmas or Easter Homily Presentations
Site Visit to Mount Olives, Gethsemane, Christian Quarter, Via Dolorosa and Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Monday, January 6:
All-Day Excursion North to Nazareth, Tsippori, Sea of Galilee Boat Tour

Tuesday, January 7:
Quiz on Excursion North
Class Discussion of Second Paper on a Theme: Due at End of J-Term (Next Monday at the Latest)
Classroom Readings: The Jewish Gospel of John: Chapters 9-10, Chapters 15-21: Gospel of John: Jesus in Jerusalem/
Jesus vs the "Ioudaioi" (Jews)
Site Visit (Late Afternoon) to the Israel Museum

Wednesday, January 8:
Class Discussion of Paul in Jerusalem
Class Discussion of Holocaust in Jewish and Christian History
Site Visit to Yad Vashem International Museum of the Shoah (Holocaust)

Thursday, January 9:
Morning - Conclusion to Course
Site Visit to Israeli Parliament: The Knesset and Chagall's Fresco on the Past, Present and Future of the Jewish People