

*Fall 2023 Literature Course
Asian Art Museum*

The Old Testament as Literature

Time: Sundays, Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov 5, 2023, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Place: Community Room, Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Avenue

This course will explore the literary features and resonances of the various genres of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, including history (the David story), myth (Genesis), prophecy (Isaiah and Jeremiah), love poetry (Song of Songs), and wisdom (Job and Ecclesiastes). Topics will include the beginning and end of the world, the complex psychology of biblical characters (including God), and the techniques of biblical literary style in poetry and prose. All readings are in English translation.

Instructor: Ronald Hendel

Norma and Frank Dabby Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Bible and Jewish Studies
University of California, Berkeley

Schedule:

Sept. 10	History: The David Story Read: 1 Samuel 16 -2 Samuel 19, 1 Kings 1-2
Sept. 24	Myth: Genesis 1-11 Read: Genesis 1-11
Oct. 8	Prophecy: Isaiah and Jeremiah Read: Isaiah 1-6, 9-14, 24-27, 40-48, 51 Jeremiah 1-10, 20, 26-31, 36-39, 42-43
Oct. 22	Love Poetry: Song of Songs Read: Song of Songs 1-8
Nov. 5	Wisdom: Job and Ecclesiastes Read: Job 1-31, 38-42 Ecclesiastes 1-12

Any translation of the Hebrew Bible is acceptable. My favorite (but expensive) is Robert Alter, *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary*. Other good translations with commentary are the HarperCollins Study Bible and the Jewish Study Bible.