

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POLITICAL SCIENCE 430Y/2021Y

**COMPARATIVE TOPICS IN JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH
POLITICAL THOUGHT**

WINTER SESSION 2017-2018

Professor C. Orwin (clifford.orwin@utoronto.ca)

Our theme this year will be leadership, as variously presented in the Hebraic, Hellenic, and modern traditions. We will explore it through a careful reading of the biblical Books of *Sh'mot* (Exodus), *Vayikra* (Leviticus), *Bamidbar* (Numbers), and *D'varim* (Deuteronomy), which relate the career of Moses as leader; the *Anabasis*, or *March Up Country*, which relates the career of Socrates' student Xenophon as leader; and Rousseau's *Political Economy*, which reinterprets the task of the modern state as primarily that of leadership. There will also be numerous required secondary readings.

A WARNING: CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE GRUELING AS THEY WILL RUN FOR THREE HOURS OR MORE. ALTHOUGH LISTED AS A 400-LEVEL COURSE, THIS COURSE IS A GRADUATE SEMINAR AND WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL.

OUR CLASS MOTTO IS THAT OF THE OREGON TRAIL: THE COWARDS NEVER STARTED, THE WEAK DIED ALONG THE WAY

**RECOMMENDED EDITION OF THE TORAH OR FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES,
AVAILABLE AT THE BOB MILLER BOOK ROOM.**

The Five Books of Moses. A Translation with Commentary by Robert Alter (New York: Norton, 2004).

**RECOMMENDED EDITION OF THE ANABASIS, ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE BOB
MILLER BOOK ROOM.**

Xenophon, *Anabasis of Cyrus*, translated and annotated by Wayne Ambler, with an introduction by Eric Buzzeti (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008).

**RECOMMENDED EDITION OF THE *POLITICAL ECONOMY*, OF WHICH I WILL
CIRCULATE AN ELECTRONIC FILE.**

Rousseau, *Discourse on Political Economy*, in Rousseau, *The Social Contract and other Later Political Writings*, edited by Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), 3-38.

REQUIRED SECONDARY READINGS ON THE TORAH.

THESE BOOKS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MATERIAL FROM BURGER) WILL BE ON TWO HOUR RESERVE IN THE SHORT TERM LOAN READING ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF ROBARTS LIBRARY. ADDITIONAL COPIES OF MOST OF THEM ARE AVAILABLE AT OTHER LIBRARIES IN THE U OF T SYSTEM.

Assmann, Jan. *Moses the Egyptian: the memory of Egypt in western monotheism*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1997. BS580 .M6 A79 1997. ***One of the most influential contemporary interpretations of Moses; its title suggests its thesis.***

Buber, Martin. *Moses: the Revelation and the Covenant*. New York : Harper & Row, 1958. BS580 .M6 B8 1958. ***A major work by the leading Jewish existentialist thinker.***

Burger, Ronna. "In the Wilderness: Moses as Lawgiver and Founder."

To view an oral presentation from 2008:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQ6978844mM>

To read a text from 2013:

<http://bibleandphilosophy.org/conference/2013/speaker.php?type=pres&id=1>

Professor Burger, who teaches philosophy at Tulane University in New Orleans, is one of my favorite people, equally accomplished in studying classical philosophy and the Torah.

Cassuto, Umberto Moshe David. *A Commentary on the Book of Exodus*. Transl. from the Hebrew by Israel Abrahams. Jerusalem: Hebrew University Press, 1967. BS1245.3 .C3 L3 ***Cassuto (1881-1951), an Italian rabbi who immigrated to the Land of Israel during the Yishuv period, was arguably the greatest Torah scholar of the 20th Century, who combined extraordinary learning with sensitivity as a reader.***

Freud, Sigmund. *Moses and Monotheism*, translated from the German by Katherine Jones. New York: Vintage Books, 1967. BS580 .M6 F713 1967. ***Certainly the most notorious modern interpretation of Moses.***

Walzer, Michael. *Exodus and Revolution*. New York: Basic Books, 1985. BS680 .E9 W35 1985.
Wildavsky, Aaron. *Moses as Political Leader*. Jerusalem: Shalem Press, 2005. BS580 .M6 W49 2005 SMC. ***The two most important political scientists to write on Moses.***

RECOMMENDED SECONDARY READINGS

THESE TITLES WILL ALSO BE ON TWO HOUR RESERVE IN THE SHORT TERM LOAN READING ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF ROBARTS LIBRARY.

De Grazia, Alfred. *God's Fire: Moses and the Management of Exodus*. Princeton, N.J.: Metron Publications, 1983. BS580 .M6 D457 1983. Another approach to Moses by a political scientist.

Findlay, James D. *From Prophet to Priest: The Characterization of Aaron in the Pentateuch*. Leuven: Peeters, 2017. BS580 .A23 F56 2017. ***Let's not forget Aaron, the more statesmanly of the brothers.***

Fox, Everett. *Now These are the Names: a New English Rendition of the Book of Exodus*, translated with commentary and notes. New York: Schocken Books, 1986. BS1243 .F69 1986

Goldstein, Elyse. *The women's Torah Commentary: New Insights from Women Rabbis on the 54 Weekly Torah Portions*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2000.

_____. *ReVisions : seeing Torah through a feminist lens*. Toronto: Key Porter Books, 1998. BS1199 .W7 G67 1998X. ***Goldstein is a leading feminist rabbi in Toronto.***

Gregory of Nyssa. *The Life of Moses*, translation, introd. and notes by Abraham J. Malherbe and Everett Ferguson; pref. by John Meyendorff. New York and Toronto: Paulist Press, 1978. BS580 .M6 G713. ***The leading patristic treatment of Moses.***

Kaminsky, Joel S., and Joel N. Lohr. *The Torah: a Beginner's Guide* (Oxford: Oneworld, 2011). BS1225.3 .K36 2011. ***A collaboration between a Jewish scholar and a Christian one, an introduction for the general reader which includes a chapter on each of the books.***

Kass, Leon R. *The beginning of wisdom: reading Genesis*. New York: Free Press, 2003. S1235.53 .K37 2003. ***You might want to consult this excellent book while reading the Joseph story with which we will begin.***

Leibowitz, Nehama. *Studies in Shemot: the Book of Exodus*, translated and adapted from the Hebrew by Aryeh Newman. Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, Dept. for Torah Education and Culture in the Diaspora, 1980; BS1245.3 L4413 V.PT.1, BS1245.3 .L4413 V.PT.2; *Studies in Vayikra (Leviticus)* BS1255.3 .L47 1980; *Studies in Bamidbar (Numbers)* BS1265.3 .L4513 1980; *Studies in Devarim (Deuteronomy)* BS1275.3 .L45 1980. ***Leibowitz is universally recognized as one of the leading recent interpreters of the Torah; she draws heavily on the Talmud and other Rabbinic sources.***

Plaut, W. Gunther, general editor. *The Torah: a Modern Commentary*, rev. ed. David E.S. Stein. New York: Union for Reform Judaism, 2005. BS1225.3 .P55 2005. ***Rabbi Plaut (1912-2012) was one of Toronto's most beloved and respected Rabbis, and not only a great preacher but a great scholar. This is the standard Reform Jewish commentary on the Torah: as general editor, Rabbi Plaut kept Genesis and Exodus for himself. This edition includes Hebrew and English texts of the Torah as well of the Haftarot, the passages from elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible traditionally read along with them each week.***

von Rad, Gerhard. *Moses*; translated by Stephen Neill; foreword by Walter Brueggemann; edited by K.C. Hanson. Cambridge: James Clarke & Co, 2012. ***Rad, who published this book in German ca. 1960, was the best known Protestant interpreter of Moses in the 20th Century.***

Sarna, Nahum M, general editor. *The JPS Torah Commentary: the Traditional Hebrew Text with the New JPS Translation*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 5 vols., 1989-c1996. BS1225.3 .J67 1989. ***The commentaries, by leading scholars (a different one for each volume: Sarna himself does Exodus) summarize the existing scholarship as well as adding to it.***

____. *Exploring Exodus: the Heritage of Biblical Israel*. New York: Schocken Books, 1987.

Walzer, Michael. *In God's Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012. BS1199 .P6 W35 2012X. I will also circulate my reply to Walzer, which I delivered at an encounter with him at Princeton in the summer of 2013.

Zornberg, Avivah Gottlieb. *Moses: a Human Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016. BS580 .M6 Z67 2016. By one of the most influential and provocative of current scholars of the Hebrew Bible, an attempt at a biography of Moses. (Go figure!)

WE WILL ALSO CONSIDER SOME QURANIC MATERIALS ON MOSES (ARABIC MOUSA), DRAWN FROM THE QURAN ITSELF AND FROM COMMENTARIES. STAND BY FOR THESE. NEEDLESS TO SAY MUSLIMS FOLLOWED MUHAMMAD HIMSELF IN TAKING A KEEN INTEREST IN MOSES AS THE PROTOTYPICAL WARRIOR/PROPHET.

STUDENTS BOTH GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE WILL BE EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECONDARY LITERATURE IN WRITING THEIR ESSAYS AND TAKE HOME EXAMS.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKING SCHEME

POL 430Y (the undergraduate course). Two essays of 2750 words each, due Friday, October 6, and March 30; a take-home midterm exam (to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, December 1, due at 11 AM on Monday, December 4); a take-home final exam (to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, March 23, due at 11 AM on Monday, March 26). Each of the fall term assignments will count for 15% of the final mark, each of the spring term assignments will count for 30%, and attendance and participation will count for 10%.

POL 2021Y (the graduate course). Three essays, on topics of the student's own devising, due October 13, January 12, and April 18; a take-home exam (to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, March 23, due at 11 AM on Monday, March 26; each assignment worth a fourth of the final mark. Essays must not exceed 5000 words and will not be read beyond the 5000th word. (There will be a much lower word limit for the take-home exam.)

There will be no seminar meeting on October 3 so students will be free that week to focus on their first essays and broaden their reading in the course.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS ELECTRONICALLY, THEREBY SPARING CANADA'S FORESTS.

N.B. In the graduate course as in the undergraduate one, no extensions will be granted on written work except for good cause. In keeping with Nietzsche's theory of punishment, however, according to which every crime has its price and punishment was originally nothing more than an exaction of that price (cf. *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay), extensions will be readily available to those willing to purchase them. The price will be 3 points, plus 2 additional points per day beginning with the first, off your mark for that assignment. (If you are one day late you will lose 5 points; two days late, 7; etc.). This proviso does not apply to take-home exams, which will not be accepted if late.

You are responsible for informing yourself of and abiding by the University's policies on plagiarism and other academic offenses. These are available at the Department of Political Science or from the instructor.

MR. ORWIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Thursdays, 4-6, at Carr Hall 312 (926-1300, ext. 3277) (Or by appointment.) Voice mail messages can be left at this number, or you can e-mail me at clifford.orwin@utoronto.ca.

